

# Psalms

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150 ancient Hebrew poems, songs, and prayers

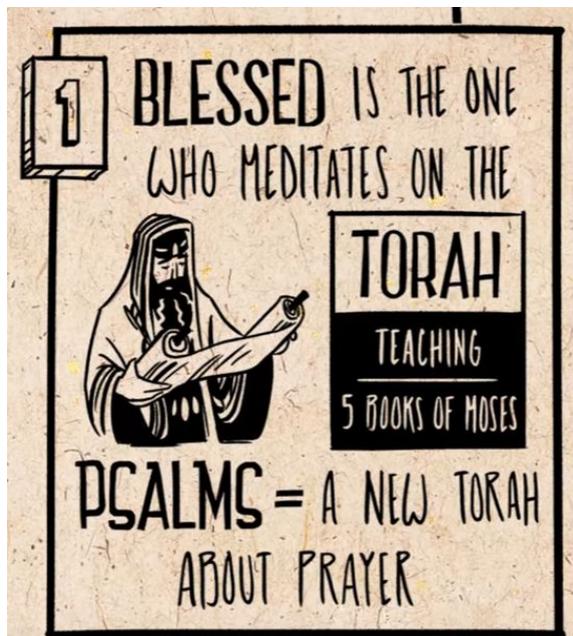
- David - 73
- Asaph ([Ps 50](#), [73-83](#)) - 12
- Sons of Korah ([Ps 42](#), [44-49](#), [84-85](#), [87](#)) - 11
- Heman ([Ps 88](#)) and Ethan ([Ps 89](#)) (worship leaders in the temple) - 2
- Solomon([Ps 72](#), [127](#)) and Moses ([Ps 90](#)) - 3
- Anonymous - 49 (nearly 1/3)

Many of these poems came to be used by the choirs that sang in Israel's temple.

The Book of Psalms not a hymn book; at some point after Israel's exile to Babylon the poems were gathered together and intentionally arranged into the book.

## **Introduction: Psalm 1 & 2**

- Stands outside of Book 1 as Ps 1 and 2 are anonymous
- How blessed is the one who meditates on the Torah



- Torah means teaching and references 5 books of Moses; Psalms teaches God's people to observe a life of prayer
- The book of Psalms is being offered as a New Torah that will teach a lifelong practice of prayer as they strive to live out God's commands given in the first Torah
- Purpose of the Psalms: Be the prayerbook of God's people who are striving to be faithful to the Torah and waiting for the Messianic Kingdom

The Prayer Book of God's People

- Ps 1: Ultimate vindication of the righteous

- Ps 2: God's choice and defense of Israelite king

## Book 1: Chapters 3-41



### Chapter 15-24

Two themes from Chapter 1 and 2 demonstrated here

- Chapter 15: Opens with Call to Covenant Faithfulness
  - Psalms 16-18
    - David depicted as a model of this faithfulness
    - David calls out to God to deliver him and elevation as king
  - Psalms 19 Torah
    - Dedicated to praising God for the Torah

- Psalms 20-23

- The David of the past has become an image of the messianic King of Future who will also call out to God, be delivered and given a kingdom over the nations

- Chapter 24: Closes with Call to Covenant Faithfulness

*“The Seam Psalm” 41:13 May the Lord God of Israel be blessed forever, amen, and amen.*

## Book 2: Chapters 42-72



### Chapters 42-43

- Two poems hope for a future return to the temple in Zion
- Image closely associated with the hope of the messianic kingdom

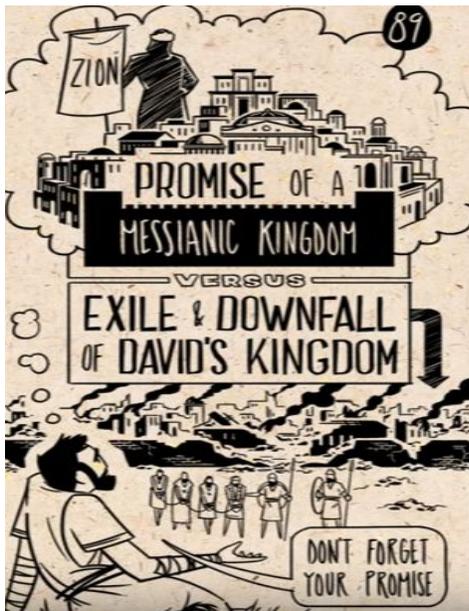
### Chapters 72

- Echoes the prophets:
  - Isaiah 11, 45, and 60
  - Zechariah 9

- Fulfillment of God’s Promise to Abraham” - to bring God’s blessing to all of the nations
  - Ps 72:17 = Gen 12:3 and 22:17

“The Seam Psalm” 72:18-19 May the Lord God of Israel be blessed forever, amen, and amen.

### **Book 3: Chapters 73-89**



- Concludes with a poem reflecting on God’s promise to David, but this time in light of Israel’s exile
  - The poet remembers how God said He would never abandon the line of David, but now he’s looking at Israel’s rebellion and its result in destruction and exile and the downfall of the line of David
  - The poet ends by never forgetting His Promise to David.

“The Seam Psalm” 89:51 May the Lord God of Israel be blessed forever, amen, and amen.

## **Book 4: Chapters 90-106**

Purpose: Designed to Respond to this crisis of exile;

Chapter 90:

Starts with a return to Israel's roots with the prayer of Moses (*Does what Moses had done at Mt. Sinai after the golden calf incident which is to call on God to show mercy*).



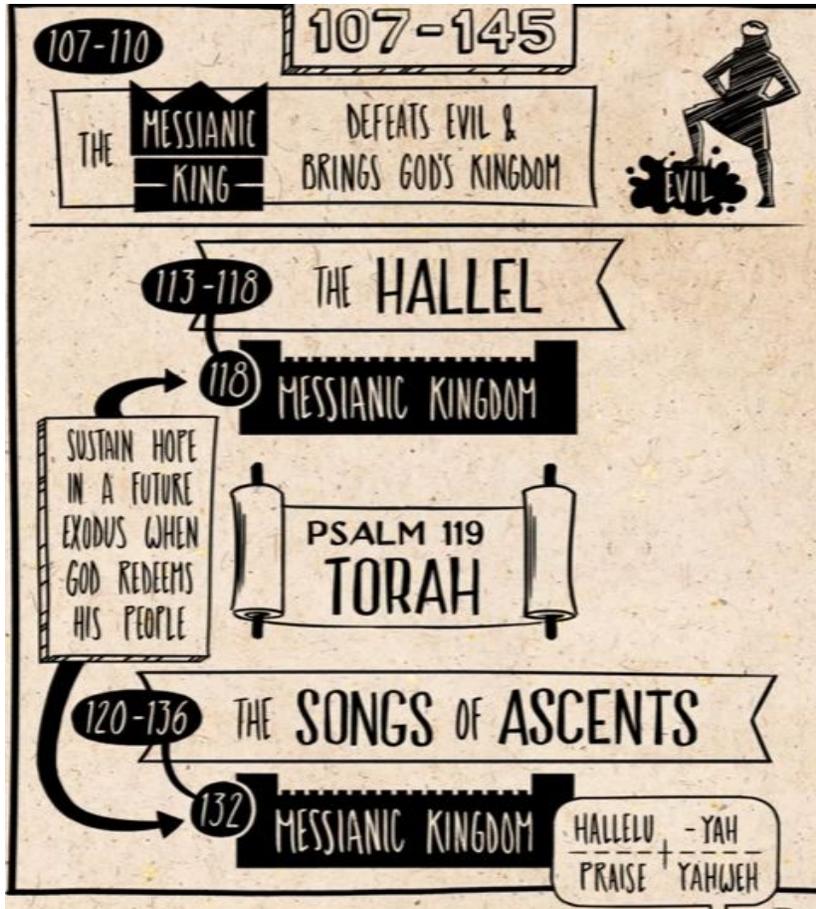
Chapters 93-99

Group of Poems that announce that the Lord, the God of Israel reigns as the true king of the world

- All creation: trees, mountains, rivers are all summoned to celebrate that future day when God will bring His justice and kingdom over all of the world

“The Seam Psalm” 106:48 May the Lord God of Israel be blessed forever, amen, and amen.

## **Book 5: Chapters 107-145**



Opens with a series of poems that affirm that God hears the cries of His people and will one day send the future King to defeat evil and bring God’s kingdom.

Chapters 113-118 The Hallel

Chapter 118 The future Messianic Kingdom

Sustain hope in a future Exodus when God Redeems His people

Psalm 119 Torah

- Longest poem in the Book
- Hebrew Alphabet poem
  - Each line begins with a new letter of the Hebrew alphabet

- Explores the wonder and gift of the Torah as God's Word to His people

Chapters 120-136 The Songs of Ascents

Chapter 132 The future Messianic Kingdom

Sustain hope in a future Exodus when God Redeems His people

## Psalm 146-150

### **5 Poem conclusion**

#### **Climactic praise to God**

begins and ends with Hallelujah

- Hallelujah: a command meaning Praise Yahweh

Psalm 148

Ps 148:14 "God has raised up a horn for His people"

- Horn: Metaphor of a bull's horn raised in victory; symbol for the messianic king and His victory over evil
- Same used in Hannah's song ([1 Samuel 2](#); [Psalm 132:17](#))

## Themes

Found in Ps. [1](#), [2](#), and [145](#)

- **Torah and Messiah**
- **Lament (Books 1-3)**
  - Prayers of pain, confusion, and anger
  - Draw attention to what's wrong in the world
  - Asks God to do something about it

There are a lot of these "How long o Lord?": An appropriate response to the evil that we see in our world.

- **Praise (Books 4-5)**
  - Prayers of Joy and Celebration
  - Draw attention to what's good in the world
  - Retell the story and thank God for it

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good"

- Praise poems outnumber lament poems
  - Shift from lament to praise
    - Profound and tells us about the nature of prayer
    - As we hope for the messianic kingdom, Psalms teach us that we are not to ignore the pain of our world and lives, but biblical faith is forward looking in hope to the future messianic kingdom .



<https://thebibleproject.com/product/psalms-poster/>