

## Psalms - Outline

**Author(s)**<sup>1</sup>: This book is a collection of psalms by a variety of authors, of whom only 8 authors are identified for 105 of the 150 psalms. The name for the book is taken from the Greek Septuagint name for the book *Ψαλμοί*, *Psalmoi*, *Ψαλτήριον*, *Psaltérion*. The Hebrew name is either *תהלים*, *tehillím*, “praises,” *סֵפֶר תהלים*, *sēpher tehillím*, “book of praises”.

- David (73), Asaph (12), the sons of Korah (11), Jeduthun (4), Solomon (2), Heman (1), Etan (1), Moses (1)

**Date:** Most, between 1000 to 450 BC.

**Occasion:** Some were written to commemorate events, some were laments, some just praises, some were teaching psalms, and some were to encourage worship of God.

**Summary:** Some of the themes from the Psalms are “The Lord reigns”, Creation, Salvation, Judgment, “God’s people”, and the king. Jesus quotes from the psalms and a few have messianic prophecies.

Group <sup>2</sup>	C	V	Description
Book 1			
The Righteous and the Wicked Contrasted	1	1-3	
		4-6	
The Reign of the LORD's Anointed	2	1-3	
		4-6	
		7-9	
		10-12	
Morning Prayer of Trust in God	3	1-2	
		3-6	
		7-8	
Evening Prayer of Trust in God	4	1	
		2-3	
		4-5	
		6-8	
Prayer for Protection from the Wicked	5	1-3	
		4-7	
		8-10	
		11-12	
Prayer for Mercy in Time of Trouble	6	1-3	
		4-5	
		6-7	
		8-10	
	7	1-2	

1 (Galan et al. 87-91; Orr “Psalms, Book of”)

2 (NASB) “Group” column from the headings in the NASB text.

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Group	C	V	Description
The LORD Implored to Defend the Psalmist against the Wicked		3-5	
		6-11	
		12-16	
		17	
The LORD's Glory and Man's Dignity	8	1-2	
		3-8	
		9	
A Psalm of Thanksgiving for God's Justice	9	1-2	
		3-6	
		7-10	
		11-16	
		17-20	
A prayer for the Overthrow of the Wicked	10	1-2	
		3-4	
		5-11	
		12-15	
		16-18	
The LORD a Refuge and Defense	11	1-3	
		4-7	
God, a Helper against the Treacherous	12	1-5	
		6-8	
Prayer for Help in Trouble	13	1-2	
		3-4	
		5-6	
Folly and Wickedness of Men	14	1-3	
		4-6	
		7	
Description of a Citizen of Zion	15	1-5	
The LORD the Psalmist's Portion in Life and Deliverer in Death	16	1-4	
		5-6	
		7-11	
Prayer for Protection	17	1-5	
		6-12	

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Group	C	V	Description
against		13-15	
The LORD Praised for Giving Deliverance	18	1-3	
		4-6	
		7-15	
		16-19	
		20-24	
		25-29	
		30-36	
		37-42	
		43-45	
		46-50	
The Works and the Words of God	19	1-6	
		7-14	
Prayer for Victory over Enemies	20	1-3	
		4-5	
		6-9	
Praise for Deliverance	21	1-6	
		7-13	
A Cry of Anguish and a Song of Praise	22	1-5	
		6-8	
		9-10	
		11-18	
		19-21	
		22-24	
		25-31	
The LORD, the Psalmist's Shepherd	23	1-3	
		4-6	
The King of Glory Entering Zion	24	1-6	
		7-10	
Prayer for Protection, Guidance and Pardon	25	1-3	
		4-7	
		8-11	
		12-15	

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Group	C	V	Description
		16-22	
Protestation of Integrity and Prayer for Protection	26	1-7	
		8-12	
A Psalm of Fearless Trust in God	27	1-3	
		4-6	
		7-10	
		11-14	
A Prayer for Help, and Praise for Its Answer	28	1-5	
		6-9	
The Voice of the LORD in the Storm	29	1-2	
		3-9	
		10-11	
Thanksgiving for Deliverance from Death	30	1-5	
		6-9	
		10-12	
A Psalm of Complaint and of Praise	31	1-5	
		6-8	
		9-13	
		14-18	
		19-22	
		23-24	
Blessedness of Forgiveness and of Trust in God	32	1-2	
		3-7	
		8-11	
Praise to the Creator and Preserver	33	1-5	A Call to worship God
		6-12	God's word is powerful: able to create the world & accomplishing His will in it
		13-17	God watches from heaven and is the only real source of strength
		18-22	God looks for faithful people, those who trust in Him
The LORD, a Provider and Deliverer	34	1-3	David's commitment to praise the Lord
		4-7	The Lord answers and protects those who seek Him
		8-14	A call to know the Lord and to live righteous lives
		15-18	The Lord is attentive to the righteous and those in need
		19-22	The Lord delivers and redeems

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Group	C	V	Description
Prayer for Rescue from Enemies	35	1-8	David's prayer to God for His defense and protection
		9-16	David's description of his accusers
		17-21	David urges God to delay no longer
		22-26	David asks God to make his enemies ashamed and humiliated
		27-28	David calls on his friends to rejoice in God's deliverance
Wickedness of Men and Lovingkindness of God	36	1-4	The wicked become foolish in their plans and disregard for God
		5-9	God's lovingkindness is immense and gives life to those who partake
		10-12	A prayer for God's continued lovingkindness
Security of Those Who Trust in the LORD, and Insecurity of the Wicked	37	1-6	
		7-11	
		12-15	
		16-22	
		23-26	
		27-34	
Prayer of a Suffering Penitent	38	1-8	
		9-12	
		13-22	
The Vanity of Life	39	1-6	A resolution to remain silent and a petition for God's wisdom
		7-11	An appeal for forgiveness and deliverance from God's chastening
		12-13	A humble cry to be heard by God
God Sustains His Servant	40	1-3	
		4-5	
		6-8	
		9-10	
		11-12	
		13-17	
The Psalmist in Sickness Complains of Enemies and False Friends	41	1-3	
		4-9	
		10-12	
		13	
Book 2			
Thirsting for God in Trouble and Exile	42	1-4	
		5-8	
		9-11	

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Group	C	V	Description
Prayer for Deliverance	43	1-2	
		3-4	
		5	
Former Deliverances and Present Troubles	44	1-3	
		4-8	
		9-16	
		17-19	
		20-26	
A Song Celebrating the King's Marriage	45	1-2	
		3-5	
		6-9	
		10-12	
		13-15	
		16-17	
God the Refuge of His People	46	1-3	
		4-7	
		8-11	
God the King of the Earth	47	1-4	
		5-9	
The Beauty and Glory of Zion	48	1-3	
		4-8	
		9-14	
The Folly of Trusting in Riches	49	1-4	A call for everyone to hear wisdom
		5-9	God's set redemption price for a soul is greater than anyone's wealth
		10-12	Men die and wealth becomes an inheritance
		13-15	Only God can redeem a soul and receive it
		16-20	Wealth is temporary: "You can't take it with you."
God the Judge of the Righteous and the Wicked	50	1-6	
		7-15	
		16-21	
		22-23	
A Contrite Sinner's Prayer for Pardon	51	1-4	
		5-9	
		10-13	
		14-17	
		18-19	

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Futility of Boastful Wickedness	52	1-4	
		5-7	
		8-9	
Folly and Wickedness of Men	53	1-3	
		4-6	
Prayer for Defense against Enemies	54	1-3	
		4-5	
		6-7	
Prayer for the Destruction of the Treacherous	55	1-3	David's Plea for God to hear prayers Concerning those who oppose
		4-8	David's physical condition suffers due to opposition
		9-11	The city is in turmoil as well
		12-15	David reveals the source of the opposition—A Friend and Companion
		16-21	David's resolve to Trust in God, who does not change
		22-23	David's call to others to trust in God
Supplication for Deliverance and Grateful Trust in God	56	1-7	David's commitment to trust in God when opposition comes
		8-13	David Thanks God for times of deliverance in the past and in the future to come
Prayer for Rescue from Persecutors	57	1-3	David's dependence on God's faithfulness and lovingkindness
		4-6	David's prayer for deliverance from enemies and God's exaltation
		7-11	David's commitment to praise the Lord to all
Prayer for the Punishment of the Wicked	58	1-5	David's condemnation of the unrighteous
		6-9	David's prayer for God to intervene
		10-11	The righteous will rejoice in God's deliverance
Prayer for Deliverance from Enemies	59	1-5	David's prayer of deliverance
		6-8	God's dominance over enemies
		9-15	David asks God to destroy so that all would know that God delivers
		16-17	David's promise to sing God's praises and faithfulness
Lament over Defeat in Battle, and Prayer for Help	60	1-5	David's plea in face of loss in battle and a plea for salvation
		6-8	God's response
		9-12	Prayer for God to lead in battle against Edom; God's deliverance is the only sure deliverance
Confidence in God's Protection	61	1-4	God's Shelter is sought
		5-8	God answers prayers, sustains life, and is worthy of daily praise
God Alone a Refuge from	62	1-2	God's Salvation is unshakable
		3-4	Enemies conspire against David

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Treachery and Oppressions		5-8	David's resolve to trust in God's deliverance and faithfulness
		9-10	All men are weighed equally before the Lord
		11-12	Both lovingkindness and justice reside with God
The Thirsting Soul Satisfied in God	63	1-5	
		6-8	
		9-11	
Prayer for Deliverance from Secret Enemies	64	1-6	
		7-10	
God's Abundant Favor to Earth and Man	65	1-4	
		5-8	
		9-13	
Praise for God's Mighty Deeds and for His Answer to Prayer	66	1-4	
		5-7	
		8-15	
		16-20	
The Nations Exhorted to Praise God	67	1-7	
The God of Sinai and of the Sanctuary	68	1-4	
		5-6	
		7-10	
		11-14	
		15-18	
		19-23	
		24-27	
		28-31	
		32-35	
A Cry of Distress and Imprecation on Adversaries	69	1-4	
		5-12	
		13-15	
		16-19	
		20-21	
		22-28	
		29-33	
		34-36	



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Group	C	V	Description
Prayer for Help against Persecutors	70	1-3	
		4-5	
Prayer of an Old Man for Deliverance	71	1-6	
		7-11	
		12-16	
		17-21	
		22-24	
The Reign of the Righteous King	72	1-4	
		5-7	
		8-11	
		12-15	
		16-17	
		18-19	
		20	
Book 3			
The End of the Wicked Contrasted with That of the Righteous	73	1-9	
		10-14	
		15-20	
		21-24	
		25-28	
An Appeal against the Devastation of the Land by the Enemy	74	1-11	
		12-17	
		18-21	
		22-23	
God Abases the Proud but Exalts the Righteous	75	1-5	
		6-8	
		9-10	
The Victorious Power of the God of Jacob	76	1-3	
		4-7	
		8-10	
		11-12	
Comfort in Trouble from Recalling God's Mighty Deeds	77	1-6	The psalmist pleads with God out of his sleepless remembering of times past
		7-10	Questioning whether God has changed
		11-15	Comfort is found in remembering the past works of God's faithfulness

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Group	C	V	Description
		16-20	All of creation speaks of God might shown in the exodus from Egypt
God's Guidance of His People in Spite of Their Unfaithfulness	78	1-4	A call to listen to instruction
		5-8	The need to instruct each generation to worship God
		9-16	The "sons of Ephraim" forgot God's deliverance
		17-20	They forgot God's provisions in the wilderness
		21-33	God provided manna and quails
		34-39	God allowed that generation to die in the wilderness for not trusting God to provide and deliver
		40-53	The people forgot God's victory over the Egyptian gods through the plagues and the Egyptian army in the sea
		54-64	The people turned again to worshipping idols
		65-72	God establishes the nation and David as His king
A Lament over the Destruction of Jerusalem, and Prayer for Help	79	1-7	A cry to God for the destruction of Jerusalem and its inhabitants
		8-13	A prayer to God for help and restoration so that praise can be heard again.
God Implored to Rescue His People from Their Calamities	80	1-3	God is called to save and restore Israel
		4-7	O Lord God of hosts, How long...?
		8-13	God's deliverance is being eaten away and being destroyed
		14-19	A promise of faithfulness for restoration
God's Goodness and Israel's Waywardness	81	1-5	A Call To Worship God
		6-10	God calls the people to worship only Him, because He rescued them from Egypt
		11-16	God let's people choose to worship Him or not
Unjust Judgments Rebuked	82	1-4	The rulers and false judges are called upon to "do the right thing" before God, who stands ready to make His judgment
		5-8	The rulers and false judges walk in darkness and will die in their sins unless they "wake up"
God Implored to Confound His Enemies	83	1-8	God urged to act on behalf of His people
		9-12	Remembering past victories
		13-18	God will be exalted in the victory over enemies
Longing for the Temple Worship	84	1-4	Praise for God's Temple and longing to worship in it
		5-7	Those who worship God are blessed
		8-12	God is called upon to hear prayers and bless our worship
Prayer for God's Mercy upon the Nations	85	1-3	Rejoicing over the return to the land
		4-7	A prayer for God to display His lovingkindness to His people
		8-13	Anticipation of God's favorable reply

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A Psalm of Supplication and Trust	86	1-10	David's prayer to God, who is merciful and hears
		11-13	David's commitment to worship God
		14-17	David's request to be exonerated before his enemies
The Privileges of Citizenship in Zion	87	1-7	God's favor bestowed on Jerusalem
A Petition to Be Saved from Death	88	1-9	The psalmist's feelings of separation from God
		10-12	The psalmist asks God to intervene on his behalf
		13-18	The psalmist despairs further of his seemingly unanswered prayers
The LORD's Covenant with David, and Israel's Afflictions	89	1-4	The psalmist declares God's faithfulness and His covenant with David
		5-10	The psalmist praises God and His greatness
		11-18	The psalmist declares the nature of God's reign
		19-29	God's commitment to David
		30-37	God's promise to keep His covenant
		38-45	The psalmist speaks of God's turning from keeping His covenant
		46-48	How long can a man live away from God
		49-51	The psalmist's desire to return to God's favor
		52	Bless the Lord!
Book 4			
God's Eternity and Man's Transitoriness	90	1-2	God's eternal existence and Creator nature
		3-6	God exists outside of time
		7-12	Man's life is short compared to God's eternal nature
		13-17	A prayer for God's continued lovingkindness
Security of the One Who Trusts in the LORD	91	1-4	
		5-10	
		11-13	
		14-16	
Praise for the LORD's Goodness	92	1-4	
		5-9	
		10-15	
The Majesty of the LORD	93	1-2	
		3-5	
The LORD Implored to Avenge His People	94	1-7	
		8-11	
		12-16	
		17-23	

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Group	C	V	Description
Praise to the LORD, and Warning against Unbelief	95	1-5	v1-2 – A call to worship the Lord v3-5 – Why? He is greater than all gods, The Creator of the Universe
		6-11	v6-7a – A call to worship the Lord v7b-11 – The Lord's call to not repeat the past
A Call to Worship The LORD the Righteous Judge	96	1-6	
		7-10	
		11-13	
The LORD's Power and Dominion	97	1-6	
		7-9	
		10-12	
A Call to Praise the LORD for His Righteousness	98	1-3	
		4-6	
		7-9	
Praise to the LORD for His Fidelity to Israel	99	1-5	
		6-9	
All Men Exhorted to Praise God	100	1-3	
		4-5	
The Psalmist's Profession of Uprightness	101	1-5	
		6-8	
Prayer of an Afflicted Man for Mercy on Himself and on Zion	102	1-7	
		8-11	
		12-17	
		18-22	
		23-28	
Praise for the LORD's Mercies	103	1-5	
		6-14	
		15-18	
		19-22	
The LORD's Care over All His Works	104	1-4	The Majesty of the Lord
		5-9	Seen in the Creation of the Earth
		10-13	Seen in the Provision of Nourishing Water
		14-17	Seen in the Provision of Food for Man and Beast
		18-23	Seen in the Daily Cycles of Creation
		24-26	Seen in the Seas and their Creatures, Small and Great
		27-30	Seen in Sustaining All Creatures by His Spirit

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Group	C	V	Description
		31-35	The Psalmist's Commitment to Worship the Lord
The LORD's Wonderful Works in Behalf of Israel	105	1-7	
		8-15	
		16-24	
		25-36	
		37-45	
Israel's Rebelliousness and the LORD's Deliverances	106	1-3	
		4-5	
		6-12	
		13-15	
		16-18	
		19-27	
		28-31	
		32-33	
		34-39	
		40-43	
		44-46	
		47-48	
Book 5			
The LORD Delivers Men from Manifold Troubles	107	1-3	
		4-9	
		10-16	
		17-22	
		23-32	
		33-38	
		39-43	
God Praised and Suppllicated	108	1-6	
		7-9	
		10-13	
Vengeance Invoked upon Adversaries	109	1-5	
		6-13	
		14-20	
		21-25	
		26-29	
		30-31	
	110	1-3	The King's rule is commissioned by God

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Group	C	V	Description
The LORD Gives Dominion to the King		4-7	The King is also a priest like Melchizedek and God will shatter His enemies and lift up His head
The LORD Praised for His Goodness	111	1-6	God's works and wonders extolled
		7-10	“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom”
Prosperity of the One Who Fears the LORD	112	1-6	The attributes of the “man who fears the Lord”
		7-9	He is steadfast and without fear
		10	The wicked will be vexed and they will be no more
The LORD Exalts the Humble	113	1-4	The greatness of God – above all – worthy of praise
		5-9	Yet, God raises up those who are humble
God's Deliverance of Israel from Egypt	114	1-2	
		3-6	
		7-8	
Heathen Idols Contrasted with the LORD	115	1-8	
		9-15	
		16-18	
Thanksgiving for Deliverance from Death	116	1-4	
		5-11	
		12-19	
A Psalm of Praise	117	1-2	
Thanksgiving for the LORD's Saving Goodness	118	1-4	
		5-9	
		10-14	
		15-18	
		19-21	
		22-29	
Meditations and Prayers Relating to the Law of God			
א Aleph	119	1-8	
ב Beth		9-16	
ג Gimel		17-24	
ד Daleth		25-32	
ה He		33-40	
ו Vav		41-48	

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Group	C	V	Description
ז Zayin		49-56	
ה Heth		57-64	My focus is to be on fulfilling God's commandments
ת Teth		65-72	Affliction reminds us of the goodness of God's word to teach and lead
י Yodh		73-80	God, our Creator, is the best source for instruction
כ Kaph		81-88	
ל Lamedh		89-96	
מ Mem		97-104	
נ Nun		105-112	God's Word Lights My Way
ס Samekh		113-120	
ע Ayin		121-128	
פ Pe		129-136	A desire for keeping and regret for not keeping God's commands
צ Tsadhe		137-144	God's righteousness displayed in His commandments
ק Qoph		145-152	Prayerful anticipation of God being near and His sure word
ר Resh		153-160	Contrast of Keeping God's Commands and Not Keeping Them
ש Shin		161-168	God's word leads people to salvation
ת Tav		169-176	Prayer for God's guidance through His word
Prayer for Deliverance from the Treacherous	120	1-4	A prayer for deliverance from those who speak deceitfully
		5-7	An appeal to return from living among enemies
The LORD the Keeper of Israel	121	1-4	
		5-8	
Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem	122	1-5	
		6-9	
Prayer for the LORD's Help	123	1-2	
		3-4	
Praise for Rescue from Enemies	124	1-5	
		6-8	
The LORD Surrounds His People	125	1-3	
		4-5	
	126	1-3	

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Thanksgiving for Return from Captivity		4-6	
Prosperity Comes from the LORD	127	1-2	
		3-5	
Blessedness of the Fear of the LORD	128	1-4	
		5-6	
Prayer for the Overthrow of Zion's Enemies	129	1-4	
		5-8	
Hope in the LORD's Forgiving Love	130	1-4	
		5-8	
Childlike Trust in the LORD	131	1-3	
Prayer for the LORD's Blessing upon the Sanctuary	132	1-5	
		6-9	
		10-12	
		13-18	
The Excellency of Brotherly Love	133	1-3	
Greetings of Night Watchers	134	1-3	
Praise the LORD's Wonderful Works, Vanity of idols	135	1-4	
		5-7	
		8-18	
		19-21	
Thanks for the LORD's Goodness to Israel	136	1-9	
		10-22	
		23-26	
An Experience of the Captivity	137	1-3	
		4-6	
		7-9	
Thanksgiving for the LORD's Favor	138	1-3	
		4-6	
		7-8	



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God's Omnipresence and Omniscience	139	1-6	
		7-12	
		13-16	
		17-18	
		19-22	
		23-24	
Prayer for Protection against the Wicked	140	1-3	
		4-5	
		6-8	
		9-11	
		12-13	
An Evening Prayer for Sanctification and Protection	141	1-4	
		5-7	
		8-10	
Prayer for Help in Trouble	142	1-4	
		5-7	
Prayer for Deliverance and Guidance	143	1-4	
		5-6	
		7-9	
		10-12	
Prayer for Rescue and Prosperity	144	1-4	
		5-8	
		9-11	
		12-15	
The LORD Extolled for His Greatness	145	1-7	
		8-14	
		15-17	
		18-21	
The LORD an Abundant Helper	146	1-7	
		8-10	
Praise for Jerusalem's Restoration and Prosperity	147	1-6	
		7-11	
		12-20	
The Whole Creation	148	1-6	
		7-12	

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Invoked to		13-14	
Israel Invoked to Praise the LORD	149	1-4	
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