

PSALMS

PURPOSE: Spiritual songs have an important place in worship. They are as important as prayer and praise. Our body and spirit play an important role in attaining the true meaning of worship. The purpose is to provide poetry for the expression of praise, worship and confession

Memory verses: Psalms 19:14 & 145:21

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditations of my heart, be acceptable in thy spirit, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.

My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord and let all flesh glory His Holy name forever and ever.

INTRODUCTION

This is the song book of the Israelites. Prayer and praise are the main topics of this book. This book is the contribution of Israel's golden age rulers King David and Solomon. Out of 286 Old Testament quotes appearing in the New Testament, 186 are from Psalms, followed secondly by the book of Isaiah. The Psalms used in Israelite temples and synagogues are also invaluable to New Testament worshippers. This belongs in the third section of the Hebrew Bible (Kethubim, writings or songs). Among these are the books of poetry – Job, Psalms, and Proverbs. In addition, Songs of Solomon, Ruth Ecclesiastes, Lamentations and Esther belong to Scrolls or Megilloth. Other sections in the Bible are 1. Torah—the five books written by Moses, also known as Pentateuch (The Law) 2. Neviim, books of prophets.

String instruments were more commonly used. Wind instruments, the flute and trumpet and percussion instruments such as drums were also used.

Liber Psalmorum is the Latin word for Psalms – meaning book of songs. The word Psalterium is derived from psalter meaning collection of songs. There are equivalent portions in New Testament as well. (1 Corinthians 14:2, Ephesian 5:19, Colossian 3:16)

AUTHOR

73 of 150 Psalms are directly attributed to the “sweet singer of Israel”. The New Testament ascribes two of the anonymous Psalms (Psalms 2 and 95) to David-(see Acts 4:25 and Hebrews 4:7)

12- Asaph’s: 50, 73-83

12- Son of Korah: 42-49

2- Solomon’s: 72,127

1-Moses:90

1-Ethan:89

50- Authors unknown. Since these 50 psalms are followed by David’s psalms, they are assumed to have been authored by David. Generally, psalms are known to be associated with David.

Some psalms were penned before David and Solomon’s birth, some before exile, and some others are related to the exile period. Most of the Psalms however were authored by David. David may have revised and expanded some of the earlier ones, since after all he was a poet and a singer. David is more famous as an author of Psalms than as a King. David’s reign was a golden age for arts and music. He was a spirit filled singer, a harpist, and a poet. David is believed to be the psalmist.

PERIOD OF WRITING: From the time of Moses to exile (1410 to 430)

CHRIST IN PSALMS:

The depiction of Christ has an important place in the book of psalms. Most of the psalms were written thousand of years before Christ. Most of them partially mention Christ. Psalms which depict a shadow of Christ are known as Messianic Psalms (2,8,16,22,45,72. 89, 110, 118). These Psalms can be divided as follows:

1. Typical Messianic (Similar to Messianic Psalms): 34:20, 69:4,9

2. Typical Prophetic: Mentions contemporary events but gives prophecies applicable only to Christ. Psalms 22
3. Indirectly Messianic: These Psalms mentions a king to come. It is referring to David's house, but complete fulfilment came through Christ (Psalms 2,45,72)
4. Purely Prophetic: Not suitable for the sons of David, but suitable only for Christ
5. Enthronement: Lord's reign, way of rule, and glory fulfilled only in Christ.

Messianic prophecy in Psalms & the fulfilment in New Testament

Psalms	New Testament
1. 1 You are my son. 2: 7	Acts: 13: 33, Mathew 3:17
2. Put all things under his feet. 8:6	Hebrews 2:6-10
3. Hell or bodily corruption has no authority over him. 16:10	Acts: 2: 27, Mark16:6-7
4. Forsaken by God. 22:1	Matthew 27:46
5. Laughed at or Scorned 22:7,8	Matthew 27:43, Luke 23:35
6. Hands and feet pierced 22:16	John20:25, 27
7. Cast lots for Garments 22:18	Matthew 27:35-36, John 19:24
8. Bones not broken 34:20	John 19:32, 33, 36
9. False Witnesses will rise up 35:11	Mark 14:57
10. Wrongfully rejoice over him 35:19.	John 15:26
11. Doing the will of God 40:7	Hebrews 10:7
12. Betrayed by friends 41:9	Luke 22:47, John 13:18
13. Eternal Throne 45:6	Hebrews 1:8
14. Ascended on high 68:18	Mark 16:19
15. Zeal about God's house 69:9	John 2:17
16. Gave Gall and vinegar	Mathew 27:34, 48

to drink 69:21

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 17. Praying for enemies 109:4 | Luke 23:34 |
| 18. Betrayer will be replaced 109:8 | Acts 1:20 |
| 19. Make enemies his footstool 110:1 | Matthew 22:34 |
| 20. Priest forever after the order of
Melchizedek 110:4 | Hebrew 5:6, 7:17 |
| 21. Cornerstone 118:22 | Matthew 21:42 |
| 22. Come in the name of the Lord 118:26 | Matthew 21:9 |

Many psalms were an inspiration to Jesus. Even at his time of death, he recited Psalms (22:1, 31:5). Resurrected Christ also recited Psalms to his disciples (Matthew 27:46, Luke 23:46; 24:44)

MAIN TOPIC: Praise and worship in any circumstance

Observations about the book:

Psalms are divided into five sections. This separation is in both Hebrew and Greek. It is similar to the five books of Moses.

Book 1: 1-41

Book 2: 42-72

Book 3: 73-89

Book 4: 90-106

Book 5: 107-150

Some of these are messianic psalms. Some are historic and some are confessional, and some others are supplications. Some are Hallel (praise and thanksgiving) songs while others are hallelujah (praise) songs. Psalm 119 is the longest and 117 the shortest. Psalm 118 is the middle chapter of the entire Bible and the middle verse is 118:8.

POETIC NATURE

Based on their content, psalms are named as follows.

1. Mizmor - Sung with instruments. 57 psalms have this title.

2. Shir means Song- Common name for hymns. 30 psalms have this title.
3. Muskin: Means meditational- 13 Psalms have this title.
4. Michtam: Golden Psalm, precious, beautiful, elegant and meaningful - 6 Psalms have this title.
5. Shiggaion: means Song of frenzied or emotionally disturbed. – 7 Psalms have this title.
6. Nehiloth – means Prayer – 5 Psalms have this title.

55 psalms are titled to the director of music. They oversee the music in the temple. There were leaders among temple musicians. They were believed to have gathered songs and sung during the worship.

Selah is mentioned 71 times in psalms. Selah pauses the music and gives the worshippers time to think about the message in the music.

Musical Notes in Psalms

- 1 Gittith (8, 81, 84)
- 2 Jeduthun (62, 77)
- 3 Death of the son (9)
- 4 Doe of the morning (22)
- 5 Tune of the Lilies (45, 69)
- 6 Tune of a Dove of a distant oaks (56)
- 7 Tune of “do not destroy” (57, 58, 59, and 75)

Some psalms make mention of musical instruments – lyre, flute, lute. Song of the ascension psalms 120 to 134, may be sung while climbing up the steps of the Tabernacle. It is also believed that these Psalms are sung when the exiles were returning from Babylon and pilgrims were going up to the temple on the mountain.

Hallel songs (Hebrew ‘Praise and thanksgiving’) were sung before and after Passover 113-118. Jesus may have sung Psalm 118 after Passover. (Matt 26:30)

Hallelujah songs 146-150 – song begins and ends with the word hallelujah

Alphabet psalm: 9, 10, 25, 34, 37, 11, 112, 119, and 145 (patterned after Hebrew alphabet).

