

PSALMS – Themes & Topics

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION..... 2
BOOK 1 THEMES: Psalms 1-41 3
BOOK 2 THEMES: Psalms 42-72..... 4
BOOK 3 THEMES: Psalms 73-89..... 4
BOOK 4 THEMES: Psalms 90-106 5
BOOK 5 THEMES: Psalms 107-150 5
TOPICAL ARRANGEMENT OF PSALMS 6
Messianic Psalms 6
Man 7
The Worldly And The Wicked 7
Man's Relationship to God 7
The Church..... 7
Divine Attributes..... 7
Israel's Experiences 7

PSALMS – Themes & Topics

INTRODUCTION

Psalms is composed of five books of prayer, praise and prophesy inspired by God to be written as songs and poems so man can learn to pour out his heart before God, just as God has poured Himself out for man. The Psalms represent man in a right relationship with God, and many of the expressions in psalms are the very expressions of Messiah Jesus whose Spirit was in the writers producing the Psalms as the very Word of God ... the very Word of Jesus. The Psalms are also the Divinely Inspired in-depth expressions of the saints ... God's Holy, Chosen and Sanctified people ... uttered in prayer, praise, and song. Psalms express man's urgent calling, yearning, moaning, murmuring, complaining, shouting, declaring, crying, craving, appeals and pleas to our LORD GOD. Man must learn to honestly bare all before God without pretense ... in distress or joy ... confusion or confidence ... righteousness or evil ... with all our hopes, desires, fears, longings and aspirations laid down upon our private alter as our personal sacrifice to God.

Psalms are poetry and song. Unlike Western poetic music, Psalms do not contain rhyme and meter but parallelism of some form. Poetic lines contain two, sometimes three, balanced segments where the second segment is shorter than the first and repeats, contrasts or completes the first segment.

Psalms also vary in design. Nine are alphabetical where each stanza begins with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet (Psalms 9, 10, 25, 34, 37, 111, 112, 119, and 145) and most begin with a superscription at the beginning. The superscription may designate one or more of the following: the composer, occasion, who it is for, how it is to be accompanied, and what kind of Psalm it is. The authorship of many of the Psalms is uncertain though it is probable that in some cases the name affixed to the superscription may refer to the *Collector*, rather than the *Author*. The following is a conjectural list of authors taken from the various versions of the Scriptures. Psalms attributed to David, 73; to Sons of Korah, 11; to Asaph, 12; to Heman, 1; to Ethan, 1; to Solomon, 2; to Moses, 1; to Haggai, 1; to Zechariah, 1; to Hezekiah, number doubtful; to Ezra, 1; the remainder anonymous.

Each Psalm has a theme it develops. Sometimes the theme will be stated at the very beginning while other times it may be found in the center of the Psalm. The theme is developed in accordance to the author's design for the Psalm. This outline summarizes the themes as I believe them to be, but in no circumstance should you see this as an absolute. You should seek to discover the theme for yourself and how it is developed.

Some Psalms, like Psalm 78, 105, and 106 give insights into the history of Israel; some are Messianic and point to Christ as King (Psalms 2, 45, 72, 110, 132:11); As our Suffering Messiah (Psalms 22, 41, 55:12-14, 69:20-21); Our Resurrected Hope (Psalm 16) and Ascension to Life (Psalms 68:18.) God is the central focus of all the Psalms. Look for insights in learning how God is revealing Himself to us, His created image and likeness, and make special note of all occurrences where God discloses how He wants to be worshipped and adored, by what names and titles He calls Himself, what attributes God applies to Himself, and how man is to respond to God.

PSALMS – Themes & Topics

Turn to Psalms when you are distressed, confused, afraid, hurting or just need someone to talk to. God is here for you and ready to comfort, correct or console you. There is a great deal of practical value, Godly Wisdom and Spiritual Understanding to Psalms. Blessed is the man who walks in the counsel of the LORD and meditates in His law day and night. Be blessed in your reading and study of the book of Psalms!

BOOK 1 THEMES: Psalms 1-41

- Psalm 1: Road to Blessings, Psalm of Psalms
- Psalm 2: Vanity of the Nations Who Oppose the LORD
- Psalm 3: Refuge in the LORD
- Psalm 4: Faithfulness of God's Grace to His People
- Psalm 5: Prayerfully Seeking Refuge
- Psalm 6: Grace to the Repentant
- Psalm 7: Refuge to the Repentant
- Psalm 8: Majesty of Messiah
- Psalm 9: Just Judgment of the LORD
- Psalm 10: The Wicked Afflict & Oppress the Godly
- Psalm 11: When Tested, Seek Refuge in the LORD
- Psalm 12: Godliness Preserved & Refined in Fire
- Psalm 13: Perseverance of the Saints
- Psalm 14: Restoration of the Saints
- Psalm 15: Integrity of the Saints
- Psalm 16: Preservation of the Saints
- Psalm 17: Ultimate Justice for the Saints
- Psalm 18: Deliverance of God
- Psalm 19: Revelation of God Seen in Creation & His Word
- Psalm 20: Intervention of God
- Psalm 21: Victory in God
- Psalm 22: Propitiation (Deliverance) in the Suffering's of Messiah Jesus
- Psalm 23: The LORD is My Shepherd
- Psalm 24: All Creation Awaits the King of Glory
- Psalm 25: Relationship of the LORD with His People
- Psalm 26: The Sanctified Walk in the LORD
- Psalm 27: The LORD is My Light & My Salvation
- Psalm 28: The LORD is My Strength & My Shield
- Psalm 29: Ascribe to the Voice of the LORD God Almighty
- Psalm 30: Extol the LORD in Praise
- Psalm 31: Take Refuge in the LORD, My Rock and My Fortress
- Psalm 32: Forgiveness in Repentance & Confession
- Psalm 33: Thanksgiving and Praise from God's People
- Psalm 34: Magnify & Exalt the LORD
- Psalm 35: The LORD Will Avenge His Faithful Oppressed
- Psalm 36: God's Judgment Vindicates the Godly
- Psalm 37: Be Still – Fret Not the Evildoers
- Psalm 38: Conviction from God Yields Confession & Repentance
- Psalm 39: Conviction from God Yields Self Control and Truth
- Psalm 40: Conviction from God Yields Perseverance
- Psalm 41: Betrayal in Death Yields Resurrection to Life

PSALMS – Themes & Topics

BOOK 2 THEMES: Psalms 42-72

- Psalm 42: Desperately Seeking God
- Psalm 43: Led by God's Light and Truth
- Psalm 44: God's Dealings with His People
- Psalm 45: The Bride of Messiah is Made Ready
- Psalm 46: Cease Striving and Know That I Am God
- Psalm 47: Rejoice! LORD GOD Reigns
- Psalm 48: Great is The LORD and Greatly to be Praised
- Psalm 49: Fear Not – LORD GOD is Redeemer
- Psalm 50: God is Sovereign Over All Creation
- Psalm 51: Gracious God Forgives the Penitent Soul
- Psalm 52: Evil Perishes but Godliness Eternally Reigns
- Psalm 53: Foolishness of the Godless
- Psalm 54: The LORD Sustains His People
- Psalm 55: Cast Your Anguish of Betrayal Upon The LORD
- Psalm 56: Gracious God Redeems Your Captive Heart
- Psalm 57: Gracious God is Refuge from the Treacherous
- Psalm 58: Unrighteous Judges Judged by Righteous God
- Psalm 59: Gracious God is Deliverance from the Treacherous
- Psalm 60: Sovereign God Refines His People
- Psalm 61: Almighty God Hears Our Plea for Refuge
- Psalm 62: In Silence Trust God, Our Rock of Salvation
- Psalm 63: Parched Lives Yearning for God's Eternal Water
- Psalm 64: The Righteous Preserved and Protected from Treacherous Schemers
- Psalm 65: Awesome God Our Righteous Savior
- Psalm 66: Praise Awesome God, Refiner of Our Souls
- Psalm 67: Gracious God Blesses His Creation
- Psalm 68: Exalt Holy Father God, Judge, Savior and King
- Psalm 69: Salvation from the Depths of Despair and Distress
- Psalm 70: Plea for Hasty Deliverance
- Psalm 71: LORD GOD is My Rock, Refuge and Fortress
- Psalm 72: Righteous Rule of Messiah Endures Forever

BOOK 3 THEMES: Psalms 73-89

- Psalm 73: Seek Godliness and Not the Prosperity of the Wicked Who Perish
- Psalm 74: Sovereign God Chastens His Redeemed
- Psalm 75: Praise Sovereign God, Judge of All Creation
- Psalm 76: Majestic God Judges All Creation
- Psalm 77: Reminisce the Righteous Judgments of God
- Psalm 78: God's Historical Insights With Israel, Part 1
- Psalm 79: God Chastens and Refines His People
- Psalm 80: A Plea for Restoration
- Psalm 81: Rejoice in Obedience to God
- Psalm 82: God Judges the Judges
- Psalm 83: Lay Low the Exalted Conspirators of God
- Psalm 84: Yearn to Sojourn in the Household of God
- Psalm 85: Revival and Restoration in God

PSALMS – Themes & Topics

- Psalm 86: Yearn to Learn the Ways of the LORD
- Psalm 87: Zion, the Holy City of God
- Psalm 88: Cease My Chastening and Restore Me to Your Light
- Psalm 89: Who is Like the LORD, Anointed, Faithful and True?

BOOK 4 THEMES: *Psalms 90-106*

- Psalm 90: Reveal Yourself O God for We Are Fleeting Dust
- Psalm 91: Abide in Almighty God, My Refuge, Fortress and Trust
- Psalm 92: Our Joy and Hope of Eternal Rest is the Most High God
- Psalm 93: Sovereign LORD, Majestic and Mighty
- Psalm 94: LORD GOD of Righteous Vengeance
- Psalm 95: Sing Joyful Praise to the LORD, Shepherd of Our Souls
- Psalm 96: Sing to the Glorious LORD, Our Soon Coming Judge
- Psalm 97: Rejoice and be Glad for Our Sovereign LORD Returns in Glory
- Psalm 98: Sing a Joyful New Song to Our Coming Judge and Savior
- Psalm 99: Sovereign LORD Returns to Establish Justice & Righteousness
- Psalm 100: Joyful Thanks to LORD GOD, Our Loving Creator and Shepherd
- Psalm 101: Walk in the Way of the LORD as We Await His Return
- Psalm 102: The LORD Hears the Groaning of His People
- Psalm 103: Man Withers, but the Loving Kindness of the LORD Endures Forever
- Psalm 104: Bless God for His Majestic Creation
- Psalm 105: God's Historical Insights with Israel, Part 2
- Psalm 106: God's Historical Insights with Israel, Part 3

BOOK 5 THEMES: *Psalms 107-150*

- Psalm 107: Our Redeemer's Lovingkindness to the Wise
- Psalm 108: God's Overwhelming Lovingkindness
- Psalm 109: A Plea to the LORD for Justice and Lovingkindness
- Psalm 110: Ordained Pre-eminence of Messiah Jesus
- Psalm 111: Praise the Awesome and Eternal Works of the LORD
- Psalm 112: Blessings to Those Who Revere and Delight in the LORD
- Psalm 113: Praiseworthy, Blessed and Glorious is the LORD
- Psalm 114: Revere the Awesome LORD
- Psalm 115: Trust the LORD to Deliver What Idols Cannot
- Psalm 116: Revere He Who Hears
- Psalm 117: Praise the LORD's Eternal Loving-kindness and Truth
- Psalm 118: Trust the Eternal Lovingkindness of the Chief Cornerstone
- Psalm 119: The Word of the LORD Permeates His Faithful Followers
- Psalm 120: Plea for Deliverance from War
- Psalm 121: LORD GOD Creator is Guardian of My Soul
- Psalm 122: Yearn for Jerusalem, the House of the LORD
- Psalm 123: I Lift My Eyes to My Gracious LORD
- Psalm 124: The LORD Creator God Sustains Us
- Psalm 125: The LORD Abides With Those Who Trust Him
- Psalm 126: The LORD Redeems His Captive People to Zion
- Psalm 127: All is Vanity Apart from the LORD

PSALMS – Themes & Topics

- Psalm 128: Home Sweet Home for Those Who Fear the LORD
Psalm 129: The LORD Lifts us High Above Our Enemies
Psalm 130: Hope Anchored in the LORD Waits Patiently
Psalm 131: Contentment is in the LORD Alone
Psalm 132: From the Seed of David Does the Mighty One Dwell
Psalm 133: Joyful Blessings to Believers Who Dwell in Unity
Psalm 134: Blessings to All You Servants of the LORD
Psalm 135: Praise the LORD in Truth All You His Servants
Psalm 136: Give Thanks for the Eternal Lovingkindness of the LORD
Psalm 137: Yearning for Zion in the Midst of Babylon
Psalm 138: The Exalted LORD's Lovingkindness Lifts Up the Humble
Psalm 139: Predestined Faithfulness of God's Elect
Psalm 140: The LORD Rescues Preserves & Protects Those Afflicted by Evil & Violence
Psalm 141: The LORD Rescues Preserves & Protects from Inclinations for Evil & Violence
Psalm 142: Bare All Without Pretense When Seeking Divine Intervention
Psalm 143: Yearn Forgiveness, Deliverance & Learning the Ways of the LORD
Psalm 144: The LORD Prepares His Servants for Warfare
Psalm 145: Extol the Gracious, Merciful LORD for All His Glorious Attributes
Psalm 146: Praise Our Creator & Sustainer While We Still Have Being
Psalm 147: It is Becoming for Man to Praise the Divine Attributes and Intervention of the LORD
Psalm 148: Praise the LORD All You men and Creation
Psalm 149: All you his People Praise Your LORD, Creator and King
Psalm 150: All Creation praise the LORD With Music, Song and Dance

TOPICAL ARRANGEMENT OF PSALMS

One hundred and fifty spiritual songs and poems used by the church in all ages in worship and devotional exercises. It was used as the hymn book of the second temple. The Predominant Themes are Prayer and Praise, but the Psalms cover a great variety of human experiences. They are quoted more frequently in the New Testament than any other book, except Isaiah. They are often called the Psalms of David because he was the author of a large number of them. Each Psalm is arranged under some **topic** which appears prominently in it.

Messianic Psalms

- 1) Christ, as King (Ps 2, 45, 72, 110, 132)
- 2) The Sufferings of (Ps 22, 41, 55:12-14, 69:20-21)
- 3) The Resurrection of (Ps 16)
- 4) The Ascension of (Ps 68:18)
- 5) The Majesty of (Ps 8)

PSALMS – Themes & Topics

Man

- 1) Exaltation of (Ps 8)
- 2) Sinfulness of, (Ps 10, 14, 36, 55, 59) and many others

The Worldly And The Wicked

- 1) Contrasted with the godly (Ps 1, 4, 5)
- 2) The delay of the punishment of (Ps 10)
- 3) The prosperity of (Ps 37, 73)
- 4) The fate of (Ps 9, 11)
- 5) Trust in riches (Ps 49)

Man's Relationship to God

- 1) Penitence (Ps 25, 38, 51, 130)
- 2) Obedience (Ps 78, 81)
- 3) Pardon (Ps 32)
- 4) Conversion (Ps 40)
- 5) Consecration (Ps 116)
- 6) Trust (Ps 3, 16, 20, 23, 27, 31, 34, 42, 61, 62, 71, 91, 121)
- 7) Teachability (Ps 25, 44)
- 8) Aspiration (Ps 42, 63, 84, 86, 143)
- 9) Prayer (Ps 55, 70, 77, 85, 86, 142, 143)
- 10) Praise (Ps 96, 98, 100, 103, 107, 136, 145, 148, 149, 150)
- 11) Worship (Ps 43, 84, 100, 122, 132)
- 12) Affliction (Ps 6, 13, 22, 69, 79, 88, 102)
- 13) Vanity of life (Ps 39, 49, 90)
- 14) Home and Homesickness (Ps 127, 128, 137)

The Church

- 1) Safety of (Ps 46)
- 2) Glory of (Ps 48, 87)
- 3) Preparation and Correction of (Ps 45, 60, 74, 79, 88)
- 3) Love for (Ps 84, 122)
- 4) Unity in (Ps 133)
- 5) The Word of God (Ps 19, 119)
- 6) Missionary (Ps 67, 72, 96, 98)
- 7) Duty of Rulers (Ps 82, 101)

Divine Attributes

- 1) Wisdom, Majesty, and Power (Ps 18, 19, 29, 62, 66, 89, 93, 97, 99, 118, 147)
- 2) Mercy (Ps 32, 85, 136)
- 3) Infinite Knowledge (Ps 139)
- 4) Creative Power (Ps 33, 89, 104)

Israel's Experiences

- 1) Unbelief (Ps 78)
- 2) Desolation and Misery of (Ps 79, 80)
- 3) Backsliding of (Ps 81)
- 4) Divine Providence (Ps 105, 106, 114)