

**2019 Through the Bible Reading: Bible Study Support**

The Book of Psalms	
<p>Background (Who, what, why, when)</p>	<p>The book of Psalms cites numerous authors: David, Asaph, Sons of Korach, Solomon, Heman, Ethan and Moses. As such, the earliest Psalm dates at time of Moses and continue to the time of the Babylonian exile (1440 BC to 538 BC). The book of Psalms (aka Psalter) contains ancient Israel's favorite hymns and prayers, which were used in worship.</p> <p>Key themes in Psalms:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God, as Creator, is at the center of our lives, the history of Israel, and the entire creation</li> <li>2. God, as the Great King, is absolutely sovereign in charge and will not tolerate any world power that opposes or ignores him.</li> <li>3. God opposes the "proud" (those who rely on their own resources to work out their destiny, but helps those who seek refuge in Him)</li> <li>4. As the Great King, God is the ultimate executor of justice among humans and the Defender of the defenseless</li> <li>5. As the Great King, God has chosen the Israelites to be his servant people, his covenant partner and inheritance among the nations.</li> <li>6. As the Great King, God has chosen David and his dynasty to be his royal servants and representatives.</li> <li>7. As the Great King, God has also chosen Zion (Jerusalem, the City of David) as his earthly capital.</li> <li>8.</li> </ol> <p>The word "Psalms" ("Songs") comes from the Greek translation. The original Hebrew title was <i>tehillim</i> ("Praises"). The Psalter is a collection of songs formed over many centuries. Psalms 1 and 2 are the introduction to the entire Psalter and frame it as a book of instruction in faith and godliness.</p> <p>The book contains many different types of Psalms: hymns of thanksgiving, hymns of praise, hymns focused on Zion, Royal hymns, laments, individual prayers, communal prayers, instructional/wisdom poetry as well as liturgy for use during specific ceremonies.</p> <p>The genre of the Psalms is poetry, but the lines do not rhyme and the stanzas are not like those of modern hymns and poems. Hebrew poetry is different as it is built around segments and parallelisms. To the modern reader, the authors appear to repeat himself; however, in actuality they are simply adding more layers to their main point which is a Hebrew poetic device. Each line is a separate thought, but all the segments work together to convey the main idea. (In most translations - the first segment of a thought starts at the edge of the margin, following segments that are indented.)</p> <p>Outline: The book of Psalms is a collection that has been traditionally divided into five books:            Book One: Ps 1-41            Book Two: Ps 42-72            Book Three: Ps 73-89            Book Four: Ps 90-106            Book Five: 107-150</p> <p>Psalms of Asaph (Ps 50, 73-83)            Psalms of the Sons of Korah (Ps 42-49, 84, 85, 87, 88)            Songs of Ascents (Ps 120-134)</p>

	<p>Hallelujah Psalms (Ps 104-106, 111-117, 135, 146-150)</p>
Interesting Facts in Psalms	<p>David wrote at least seventy-five Psalms with seventy-three bearing his name.</p> <p>Psalms 120-134 are known as the “Songs of Ascents,” and were sung by Jewish pilgrims as they made their way “up” to Jerusalem for the annual feasts.</p> <p>Psalm 90 may be the oldest Psalm, written by Moses around 1450 B.C. before God’s call to liberate the Hebrew people from Egypt. About 1,000 years later, the last Psalm 137 was written.</p> <p>The key word in the Psalms is “praise” and appears 211 times compared with 129 occurrences in all the rest of Scripture combined.</p> <p>Psalm 88 is the only Psalm that ends without some sense of praise or hope in God.</p> <p>The word “<i>Selah</i>” appears seventy-one times throughout the Psalms; perhaps indicating that the reader should pause or call the congregation to respond or signal a musical interlude or some other musical notation.</p> <p>From ancient times, Psalm 95 has been used by God’s people as a call or guide to worship.</p> <p>During the Passover celebration, it became customary to recite Psalm 136 and Psalms 113-118. Jesus may well have recited these at the Last Supper.</p>
Reasonable Defense for the faith in Psalms	<p>The Psalms are also filled with prophetic references to the Messiah and are heavily quoted in the New Testament. Here are a number of key Messianic references:</p> <p><u>Christ spoken of in the third person:</u>  Ps 8:4b-8 referenced in Heb 2:5-10, 1 Cor 15:27  Ps 72:6-17 referenced in Heb 2:5-10, 1 Cor 15:27  Ps 89:3-4, 28-29, 34-36 referenced in Acts 2:30  Ps 109:6-19 referenced in Acts 1:16-20  Ps 132:11-12 referenced in Acts 2:30</p> <p><u>Christ addressed in the second person:</u>  Ps 45:6-7 referenced in Heb 1:8-9  Ps 102:25-27 referenced in Heb 1:101-12  Ps 110:1-7 referenced in Mt 22:43-45, Acts 2:33-35, Heb 1:13, 5:6-10, 6:20, 7:24</p> <p><u>Christ speaks in the first person:</u>  Ps 2:1-11 referenced in Acts 4:25-28, 13:33, Heb 1:5, 5:5  Ps 16:10 referenced in Acts 2:24-31, 13:35-37  Ps 22:1-31 referenced in Mt 27:35-46, Jn 19:23-25, Heb 2:12  Ps 40:6-8 referenced in Heb 10:5-10  Ps 69:25 referenced in Acts 1:16-20</p>
Memory Verse	<p>“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10NKJV).</p>
Practical Application to memory verse	<p>The heart is the center of our desires and our will. Unless God transforms our hearts, the changes in our lives will only be superficial. God doesn’t</p>

	honor or receive superficial servants. He wants to transform us from within so we can honor Him with our entire lives. While we cannot “change” ourselves, the Lord, our Creator, has the power to give us a new heart, the right heart, so we desire the right things.
Life Application from Biblical Themes in Psalms	Remember that God is the King and the only one we should turn to for help. Learn from the prayers and songs of David and others, who have gone before us, how to openly dialogue with God. Be encouraged that God listens, He will deliver and He will bring justice to this world.