

**Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia**

**Bible Study - October 6, 2022**

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**Title: An Introduction To The Book of Psalms - Part I**

**I. Introduction**

A. It has been and continues to be a great joy for many Christians to enjoy and find comfort, peace, and encouragement in the Book of Psalms.

B. This study session will provide you with perhaps some additional insight into the beauty, majesty, and depth of Hebrew poetry contained in the Psalms. To the extent possible, it will not be my intent to present this study in a technical manner. However, there will be some information that will be technical, but every attempt will be made to ensure that the information is plain and easy to understand.

C. My prayer is that you will develop a deeper appreciation for this beloved book inspired by Almighty God and recorded for our learning and application, because - "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God (i.e., God-breathed), and is profitable for doctrine (teaching), for reproof (rebuking those in sin), for correction (of those in error), for instruction in righteousness (training in righteousness):" (2 Timothy 3:16).

**II. Title of The Book**

A. There are a variety of songs, laments, and praises in the Book of Psalms. The Jews referred to it as "The Book of Praises," while the Septuagint (the name commonly applied to the Greek version of the Old Testament and abbreviated LXX (70), entitled it "The

Book of Psalms" (from a Greek word indicating songs sung to the accompaniment of stringed instruments). This book was the hymnal of the Jewish people.

### **III. Authorship and Date**

A. The superscriptions (part of the Hebrew text before the first verse in English) name six authors.

#### **AUTHORSHIP OF THE PSALMS**

Moses	Psalm 90
David	73 Psalms
Asaph	Psalms 50, 73-83
Solomon	Psalms 72, 127
Korahites	Psalm 42-49, 84, 85, 87, 88
Ethan	Psalm 89

B. The oldest Psalm, Psalm 90, was written by Moses but there is a difference of opinion among theologians and biblical scholars on the exact timeframes for the other Psalms. Some suggest that the majority of the Psalms were written during the times of David and Solomon (tenth century B.C.). Others believe that the remaining Psalms are postexilic, or written over a period of about one thousand years (1400-400 B.C.). Regardless of the timeframe, we are blessed to have the wonderful collection of Psalms.

### **IV. Purpose of the Psalms**

A. David expressed the purpose of the psalms when he

instituted hymns in Israel. Listen to what David did, as recorded in 1 Chronicles 16:4 - **"And he appointed certain of the Levites to minister before the ark of the Lord, and to record, and to thank and praise the Lord God of Israel:"**

B. The Book of Psalms is a record of petitions (or laments), thanksgiving, and praise to God by His people. Consequently, this Book has brought comfort, encouragement, and blessings to God's people throughout the ages. Every human emotion is covered in these hymns of aspiration to God.

## V. Structure of The Psalms

A. The Book of Psalms is arranged in five books.

### Outline of Psalms

Book I	Psalms 1-41
Book II	Psalms 42-72
Book III	Psalms 73-89
Book IV	Psalms 90-106
Book V	Psalms 107-150

B. Each of the first four books concludes with a doxology, while Psalm 150 serves in its entirety as both a doxology for the fifth book and an appropriate conclusion to the whole collection of Psalms.

## VI. The Nature of Hebrew Poetry

A. Unlike much Western poetry, Hebrew poetry is **not** based on rhyme or meter, but on rhythm and parallelism. The rhythm is not achieved by a balanced number of accented and unaccented syllables, but by **tonal stress or accent on important words**.

C. Meter is the basic rhythmic structure of a line within a work of poetry. Meter consists of two components: (1) The number of syllables, and (2) A pattern of emphasis on those syllables.

D. A line of poetry can be broken into "feet," which are individual units within a line of poetry. A foot of poetry has a specific number of syllables and a specific pattern of emphasis.

E. In parallelism, the poet states an idea in the first line, then reinforces it by various means in the succeeding line or lines. The most common type of parallelism is synonymous parallelism. There are however four types of parallelism used in Hebrew poetry.  
//Please stay with me as I attempt to lay this out in a quite simple and understandable manner.//

F. Parallelism in Hebrew Poetry:

1. **Synonymous Parallelism** - this is where the second line essentially repeats the idea of the first line (**Psalm 3:1**)
2. **Antithetic Parallelism** - the second line contains an **idea opposite** to that in the first line (**Psalm 1:6**).
3. **Synthetic Parallelism** - the second and succeeding lines add to or develop the idea of the first line (**Psalm 1:1-2**).
4. **Emblematic Parallelism** - the second line elevates the thought of the first line, often using a simile (**Psalm 42:1**).

**Definition:** Simile is a figure of speech comparing two unlike things that is often introduced by the words **like** or **as**. Here are some common uses in English:

- As innocent as a lamb
- As tough as nails
- As cool as a cucumber
- As cold as ice

**Note:** In Hebrew Poetry, parallelism is not restricted to two lines but may extend to strophes (i.e., smaller units of a few lines) and stanzas (longer units).

## **VII. Summary**

A. My prayer is that this brief introduction to the Book of Psalms will encourage you as you continue to read, study, and meditate upon the Word of God.

B. In follow-on lessons, we will discuss and examine the Classification of the Psalms, Imprecatory Psalms, the Titles or Superscriptions in the Psalms, and rejoice together as we delve deeper into the Word of God.

C. May the Lord continue to bless and keep you as His Word becomes even more real in your life.

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It is once again interactive time. Please complete the following passages by filling in the blank spaces. As usual, each passage has been taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible.

"Lord, who shall \_\_\_\_\_ in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy \_\_\_\_\_ hill? He that \_\_\_\_\_, and worketh \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ the truth in his \_\_\_\_\_."

[Psalm 15:1-2]

"Thou wilt shew me the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_: in thy \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ of joy; at thy \_\_\_\_\_ hand there are \_\_\_\_\_ for evermore."

[Psalm 16:11]

"I will \_\_\_\_\_ thee, O Lord, my \_\_\_\_\_. The Lord is my \_\_\_\_\_, and my \_\_\_\_\_, and my \_\_\_\_\_; my God, my strength, in whom I will \_\_\_\_\_; my buckler and the horn of my \_\_\_\_\_, and my high \_\_\_\_\_. I will call upon the Lord, who is \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_; so shall I be saved from mine \_\_\_\_\_."

[Psalm 18:1-3]

"O God, thou are my God, \_\_\_\_\_ will I \_\_\_\_\_ thee: my soul \_\_\_\_\_ for thee, my flesh \_\_\_\_\_ for thee in a dry and \_\_\_\_\_ land, where no water is; To see thy \_\_\_\_\_ and thy \_\_\_\_\_, so as I have seen thee in the \_\_\_\_\_. Because thy \_\_\_\_\_ is better than \_\_\_\_\_, my lips shall \_\_\_\_\_ thee."

[Psalm 63:1-3]

"Whom have I in \_\_\_\_\_ but thee? and there is \_\_\_\_\_ upon earth that I \_\_\_\_\_ beside thee. My flesh and my heart \_\_\_\_\_; but God is the \_\_\_\_\_ of my heart, and my \_\_\_\_\_ for ever."

[Psalm 73:25-26]

"Surely his \_\_\_\_\_ is nigh them that \_\_\_\_\_ him; that \_\_\_\_\_ may dwell in our land. Mercy and \_\_\_\_\_ are met together; \_\_\_\_\_ and peace have \_\_\_\_\_ each other."

[Psalm 85:9-10]

"But thou, O Lord, art a God full of \_\_\_\_\_, and gracious, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ in mercy and \_\_\_\_\_."

[Psalm 86:15]

"For who in the \_\_\_\_\_ can be \_\_\_\_\_ unto the Lord? who among the sons of the \_\_\_\_\_ can be \_\_\_\_\_ unto the Lord? God is \_\_\_\_\_ to be feared in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the saints, and to be had in \_\_\_\_\_ of all them that are about him."

[Psalm 89:6-7]

Thank you for being a part of another study session and I pray that you have been blessed.

Jude 3

Pastor Austin