



STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK OF PSALMS

but now my eyes
Therefore I do myself
and repeat dust and ashes."

Epilogue
After the LORD had said these things to
Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "I am
angry with you and your two friends, be-
cause you have not spoken of me what is
right as my servant Job has. So now take

named Jemman, the second Keziah and the
third Keren-Happuch. Nowhere in all the
land were there found women as beautiful
as Job's daughters, and the father granted
them an inheritance along with their
brothers.

After this, Job lived a hundred and forty
years; he saw his children and the children
to the fourth generation. And some died,
old and full of years.

possession.
You will rule them with an iron
scepter;
you will dash them to pieces
pottery."

Therefore, you kings, be wise;
be warned, you rulers of the
earth.
Serve the LORD with fear
and rejoice with trembling.
Kiss the Son, lest he be angry
and you be destroyed in your
rebellion, for his wrath can flare up in a
moment. Blessed are all who take refuge
in him.

Psalm 3

A psalm of David. When he fled
from his son Absalom.

O LORD, how many are my foes!
How many rise up against
me!
Many are saying of me,
"God will not deliver him."
But you are a shield around
me, O LORD;
you bestow glory on me
from behind my head.
To the LORD I cry aloud,
and he answers me from
the hill of Zion.

I lie down and sleep;
I wake again, because the
LORD sustains me.
I will not fear the tens of
thousands drawn up against me on
the day of battle.

Psalms

BOOK I

Psalms 1-41

Psalm 1

Blessed is the man
who does not walk in the counsel of
the wicked
or stand in the way of
sinners
or sit in the seat of mockers,
but whose delight is in the law of the
LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and
night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of
water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither.
Whatever he does prospers.

Not so the wicked!
They are like chaff
that the wind blows away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand
in the assembly of the
righteous.

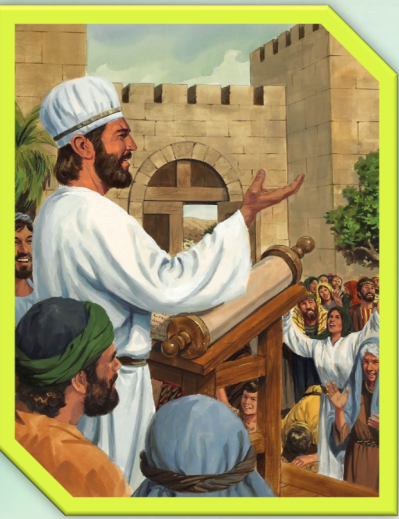
For the LORD watches over the
righteous,
but the way of the wicked will
perish.

[41] Hebrew *him a kesitah*; a kesitah was a unit of money of unknown weight and value.

thousand rage b2
then you f9 Or
in the Psalms; p
Glorious One

ORGANIZATION AND GENERAL THEME

The book of Psalms was compiled and organized by Ezra based on previous compilations (one of the most important was made in the time of King Hezekiah). Ezra organized the psalter into books. He also composed Psalm 119 in acrostic form, using various psalms composed by David.



BOOK	PSALMS	CONTENT	FEATURED PSALMS
I	1-41	Personal regrets. Most of the psalms in this section mention agents who are adversaries of the psalmist, identified as “my enemies.”	1, 2, 24
II	42-72	Most were composed during the reign of David. The enemy is also mentioned in many of the psalms in this section.	45, 48, 51, 54-64
III	73-89	Compilations of the sons of Asaph and Korah	78
IV	90-106	Compilation of psalms of praise (95-100)	90, 103-105
V	107-150	Collection of hallelujahs (111-117) and pilgrimage psalms (120-134)	107, 110, 119

TYPES OF PSALMS

Hymns	General hymns	8, 29, 33, 100, 103, 104, 111, 113, 114, 117, 135, 136, 145-150
	Historical hymns	78, 105
	Hymns of Zion	46, 48, 76, 87, 122
	Hymns of reign	47, 93, 96-99
Lamentations	Individual lamentations	3, 5, 6, 7, 12, 73, 71, 22, 25, 26, 28, 31, 35, 36, 38, 39, 43, 51, 54, 55-57, 59, 61, 63, 64, 69-71, 86, 88, 102, 109, 120, 130, 40-143
	Community lamentations	44, 60, 74, 77, 79, 80, 82, 83, 85, 90, 97, 106, 18, 123, 126, 137
Miscellaneous	Psalms of the King	2, 18, 20, 21, 45, 72, 89, 101, 110, 132, 144
	Individual Thanksgivings	9, 10, 30, 32, 34, 40, 41, 92, 107, 116, 138
	Community Thanksgivings	65-68, 118, 124
	Individual Trust Psalms	4, 11, 16, 23, 27, 62, 84, 91, 121, 131
	Trusted Community Psalms	115, 125, 129, 133
	Liturgies	15, 24, 134
	Prophetic Exhortations	14, 50, 52, 53, 58, 75, 81, 95
Didactic psalms	1, 19, 37, 49, 73, 112, 119, 127, 128, 139	

LITERARY TECHNIQUES OF HEBREW POETRY

Simile

Expression in which two different things are compared, often introduced by “to be like” (Ps. 1:3)

Anthropomorphism

Attributing human forms or attributes to a non-human being or thing, especially a deity (Ps. 18:8-10)

Metonymy

Using the name of an object or concept for that of another with which it is related (Ps. 2:5)

Synecdoche

A part is used for the whole or the whole for a part (Ps. 44:6)

Acrostic

The first letters of the initial words of each verse spell a word, or use the letters of the alphabet in order (Ps. 119)

Anaphora

Repetition of one or more words at the beginning of two or more verses (Ps. 136)

Ellipse

Sudden jump from one topic to another (Ps. 21:12)

Aposiopesis

Sudden interruption in the middle of a sentence (Ps. 6:3)

Erotesis

Rhetorical question (Ps. 106:2)