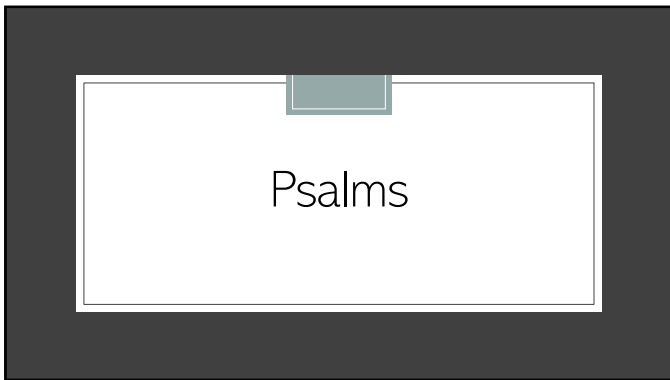
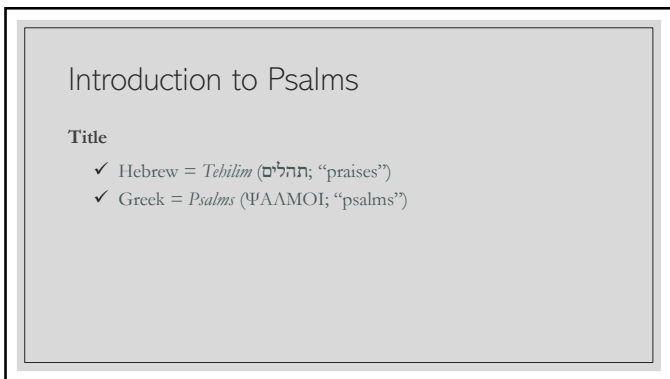


1



2



3

Introduction to Psalms

WHO—Authorship

- ✓ David (91x; 1–2, 3–9, 10, 11–32, 33, 34–41, 51–65, 68–70, 71, 86, 93, 95 [cf. 11cb 4:7], 96–100, 101, 103, 104 [cf. LXX], 105–106, 108–110, 116–117, 119, 122, 124, 131, 133, 138–145)
- ✓ Solomon (7x; 72, 92, 111–112, 127, 128, 132)
- ✓ Asaph (12x; 50, 73–83)
- ✓ Sons of Korah (11x; 42, 43–46, 47, 48–49, 84–85, 87)
- ✓ Moses (2x; 90, 91)
- ✓ Nehemiah (2x; 123, 130)
- ✓ Samuel (1x; 94)
- ✓ Hezekiah (1x; 66)
- ✓ Heman (1x; 88)
- ✓ Ethan (1x; 89)
- ✓ Unknown in Exile (20x; 67, 102, 107, 114–115, 118, 120–121, 125–126, 129, 134–137, 146–150)
- ✓ Unknown (1x; 113 [Hannah's prayer?])

4

Introduction to Psalms

WHO—Audience

- ✓ To God for Israel:
 - ❖ Wandering in the Wilderness (90–91)
 - ❖ Period of the Judges (94, 113)
 - ❖ During the United Monarchy of David and Solomon (1–45, 49, 51–65, 68–73, 78, 82, 84, 86, 92–93, 95–101, 103–106, 108–112, 116–117, 119, 122, 124, 127–128, 131–133, 138–145)
 - ❖ During the Divided Monarchy (46–48, 50, 66, 75–76, 80–81, 83, 87–89)
 - ❖ During Exile (67, 74, 77, 79, 85, 102, 107, 114–115, 118, 120–121, 123, 125–126, 129–130, 134–137, 146–150)

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Introduction to Psalms

WHEN

- ✓ Approximately 1410 BC (Ps 90) – 455 BC (Ps 150)
- ✓ Spanning from the end of the Wilderness Wanderings to the completion of the second Temple under Nehemiah.
- ✓ Most of the Psalms' events happen concurrently with the composition; however, some psalms recount as far back as creation (Ps 74), and some psalms look forward to the Millennial Kingdom (Ps 2)

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Introduction to Psalms

WHERE

- ✓ Mostly Jerusalem, but other locations include:
 - ❖ Wilderness (e.g., Ps 90–91)
 - ❖ Babylon (e.g., exilic psalms)
 - ❖ Shiloh (e.g., Ps 113)
 - ❖ Ramah (e.g., Ps 94)
- ✓ The historical setting varies from psalm to psalm. However, nearly all the psalms are either in a kingdom setting for Israel or looking forward to a kingdom setting.

7

Introduction to Psalms

WHY

To praise Yahweh as the true King of Israel who will usher in His Kingdom through His Servant David—a future Messiah that all the nations will worship.

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Introduction to Psalms

HOW—Terminology and Themes

- ✓ Praise (i.e. the name of the book; 5:5; 10:3; 18:3; 22:3, 22, 23, 25, 26; 33:1 ... 145:1, 2, 3, 21; 146:1, (2x), 2, 10; 147:1, etc.)
- ✓ Kingdom (or King; 18:50; 24:7, 8, 9, 10; 33:16; 45:9, 11, 13, 14, 15; 47:2, 7; 48; etc.)
- ✓ Fear of the Lord (2:11; 5:7; 19:9; 34:8, 10 (2x), 12; 111:10, etc.)
- ✓ Salvation (3:2, 7, 9; 6:4; 9:14; 18:2, 3, 27, 35, 41, 46, 50; 20:5, 6 (2x), 9; 21:1, 5; 22:1, 21, etc.)
- ✓ Selah (3:2, 4, 8; 4:2, 4; 7:5; 9:16, 20; 20:3; 21:2; 24:6, 10, etc.)
 - ❖ Probably a climactic moment in music to pause the lyrics for deep contemplation

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Introduction to Psalms

HOW—Terminology and Themes

- ✓ Thirtle's Theory on the Psalms
 - ❖ See Habakkuk 3:19
 - ❖ Only limited to Psalm Titles
 - ❖ Most authorship is correctly assigned
 - Exceptions are some Sons of Korah psalms—authorship shifts to previous psalm (Ps 44:0; 45:0; 46:0; 47:0; **88:0**)
 - ❖ Musical instrumentation is usually reassigned

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Introduction to Psalms

HOW—Literary Structure

- ✓ Book 1 (1–41) = Genesis, defining the King (**WHO**)
- ✓ Book 2 (42–72) = Exodus, defining the Kingdom (**WHAT**)
- ✓ Book 3 (73–89) = Leviticus, the King's Purity (**HOW**)
- ✓ Book 4 (90–106) = Numbers, the Exile of the Kingdom (**WHEN**)
- ✓ Book 5 (107–150) = Deuteronomy, the Return of the Kingdom (**WHY**)

Each book ends with a refrain of praise
(41:13; 72:19–20; 89:52; 106:48; 150:6b)

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Introduction to Psalms

Categories of Psalms

- ✓ Lament
 - ❖ Corporate (e.g., Ps 94)
 - ❖ Individual
 - ❖ Penitential (e.g., Ps 32, 51, 90)
 - ❖ Imprecatory (Ps 109)

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Introduction to Psalms

Imprecatory Psalms

- ✓ “Imprecation” (or “imprecatory prayer”) = a spoken curse
 - ❖ Evil emotions?
 - ❖ Old Covenant only?
 - ❖ Expression of Divine Curse (Gen 12:3)?
 - ❖ Appropriately uttered only by Christ (and His followers; e.g., Rev 6)

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Introduction to Psalms

Categories of Psalms

- ✓ Praise
 - ❖ Individual and/or corporate
- ✓ Wisdom
 - ❖ Written in proverbial language (e.g., Ps 37, 127)
 - ❖ Often include blessing for following God’s law (Ps 1, 19, 119)

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Introduction to Psalms

Categories of Psalms

- ✓ Thanksgiving
 - ❖ Not just internal gratitude, but public acknowledgement
- ✓ Remembrance
 - ❖ God’s work in the past (Ps 77, 78, 105)
- ✓ Trust
 - ❖ Offer praise with emphasis on trustworthiness of God (e.g., Ps 27)

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Introduction to Psalms

Categories of Psalms

- ✓ Royal
 - ❖ Celebrate the rule of God as King
 - ❖ Contain allusions to pomp and circumstance (Ps 45, 110)
 - ❖ Clear messianic overtones anticipating Christ (Ps 2)
- ✓ Messianic
 - ❖ Most popular ones (Ps 2, 8, 16, 22, 24, 40, 41, 45, 68, 69, 72, 89, 91, 102, 110, 118). Often quotes in the NT.

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