# PSALMS – Themes & Topics

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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**

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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
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
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)
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)
4) Love for (Ps 84, 122)
5) Unity in (Ps 133)
6) The Word of God (Ps 19, 119)
7) Missionary (Ps 67, 72, 96, 98)
8) 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)