

# THE PSALMS

## BOOK ONE

*The Way of the Righteous and the Wicked*  
1 Blessed is the man<sup>1</sup>  
who<sup>2</sup> walks not in<sup>3</sup> the counsel of the  
wicked,

6 "As for me, I have<sup>7</sup> set my King  
on<sup>8</sup> Zion, my<sup>9</sup> holy hill."

# MUSING ON GOD'S MUSIC

AN 8-WEEK STUDY ON HOW THE PSALMS FIT TOGETHER

nor stands in<sup>1</sup> the way of sinners,  
nor<sup>2</sup> sits in<sup>3</sup> the seat of scoffers;  
but his<sup>4</sup> delight is in the law of the  
LORD,<sup>5</sup> and he will meditate on his  
law day and  
night.  
3 He is like<sup>4</sup> a tree  
planted by<sup>5</sup> streams of water  
that yields its fruit in its season,  
and its<sup>6</sup> leaf does not wither.  
4 In all that he does, he prospers.  
The wicked are not so,  
but are like<sup>7</sup> chaff that the wind  
drives away.

7 I will tell of the deeds of the LORD  
The LORD said to me, "You are my  
father, O LORD, and I will not  
deny you my heritage,<sup>2</sup> the nations  
and the ends of the earth your  
inheritance."  
9 You shall<sup>1</sup> break<sup>2</sup> them with  
the rod, and scatter them like<sup>3</sup> chaff  
on the day of your anger.

4 I<sup>1</sup> cried aloud to the LORD,<sup>2</sup>  
and he<sup>3</sup> answered me from his<sup>4</sup> holy  
hill. 495

6 I<sup>1</sup> lay down and wept,<sup>2</sup>  
I<sup>3</sup> took up a lute and wept,<sup>4</sup>  
and I<sup>5</sup> will not be afraid,<sup>6</sup>  
because<sup>7</sup> the LORD sustains  
me.  
8 Many thousands  
of people  
who have<sup>9</sup> set themselves against me  
all around.

495  
8 In peace I will both<sup>1</sup> lie down  
and for you alone, O LORD, make  
my<sup>2</sup> bed.  
'dwell in safety.

*Lead Me in Your Righteousness*  
5 TO THE CHOIRMASTER: FOR THE FLUTE  
A PSALM OF DAVID.

1 Give ear to my words, O LORD;  
consider my<sup>2</sup> groaning.  
2 Give attention to the sound of my  
cry, for<sup>3</sup> to you do I pray,  
O LORD, in<sup>4</sup> the morning you hear my  
voice;

3 O LORD, in<sup>4</sup> the morning I prepare a sacrifice  
for you,<sup>5</sup> and<sup>6</sup> watch  
in the morning you hear my  
voice.

4 For you are not a God who delights in  
wickedness;  
5 The<sup>6</sup> boastful shall not<sup>7</sup> stand before  
your eyes;

6 You destroy those who speak<sup>7</sup> lies;  
the LORD abhors<sup>8</sup> the bloodthirsty  
and deceitful man.

7 But I, through the abundance of your  
steadfast love,  
will enter your house.  
I will<sup>2</sup> bow down<sup>3</sup> toward your  
temple  
in the  
morning.

5 Therefore the wicked<sup>1</sup> will not stand in  
the judgment,  
nor sinners in<sup>2</sup> the congregation of  
the righteous;  
6 for the LORD<sup>7</sup> knows<sup>8</sup> the way of the  
righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

10 Now therefore, O kings, be wise;  
be warned, O rulers of the earth;  
11 Serve the LORD with<sup>2</sup> fear,  
and<sup>3</sup> rejoice with<sup>4</sup> trembling.  
12 Kiss<sup>5</sup> the Son of God,  
lest he<sup>6</sup> be angry, and you perish in the  
wrath,  
for his<sup>7</sup> wrath is quickly kindled.  
13 Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

7 "Arise, O LORD!  
Save me, O my God!  
For you<sup>2</sup> strike all my enemies on the  
cheek;  
you<sup>3</sup> break the teeth of the wicked.  
8 Salvation belongs<sup>9</sup> to the LORD;  
he<sup>10</sup> will save you from your people!"  
Selah

4 TO THE CHOIRMASTER: WITH STRINGED  
INSTRUMENTS. A PSALM OF DAVID.

1 Answer me when I call, O God of my  
righteousness!  
You have<sup>2</sup> given me relief when I was  
in distress.  
Be gracious to me and hear my  
prayer!

2 O men,<sup>1</sup> how long shall my honor be  
turned into shame?  
How long will you love vain words  
and seek after<sup>2</sup> lies?  
3 But know that the LORD has  
heard<sup>4</sup> the godly for his  
prayer.

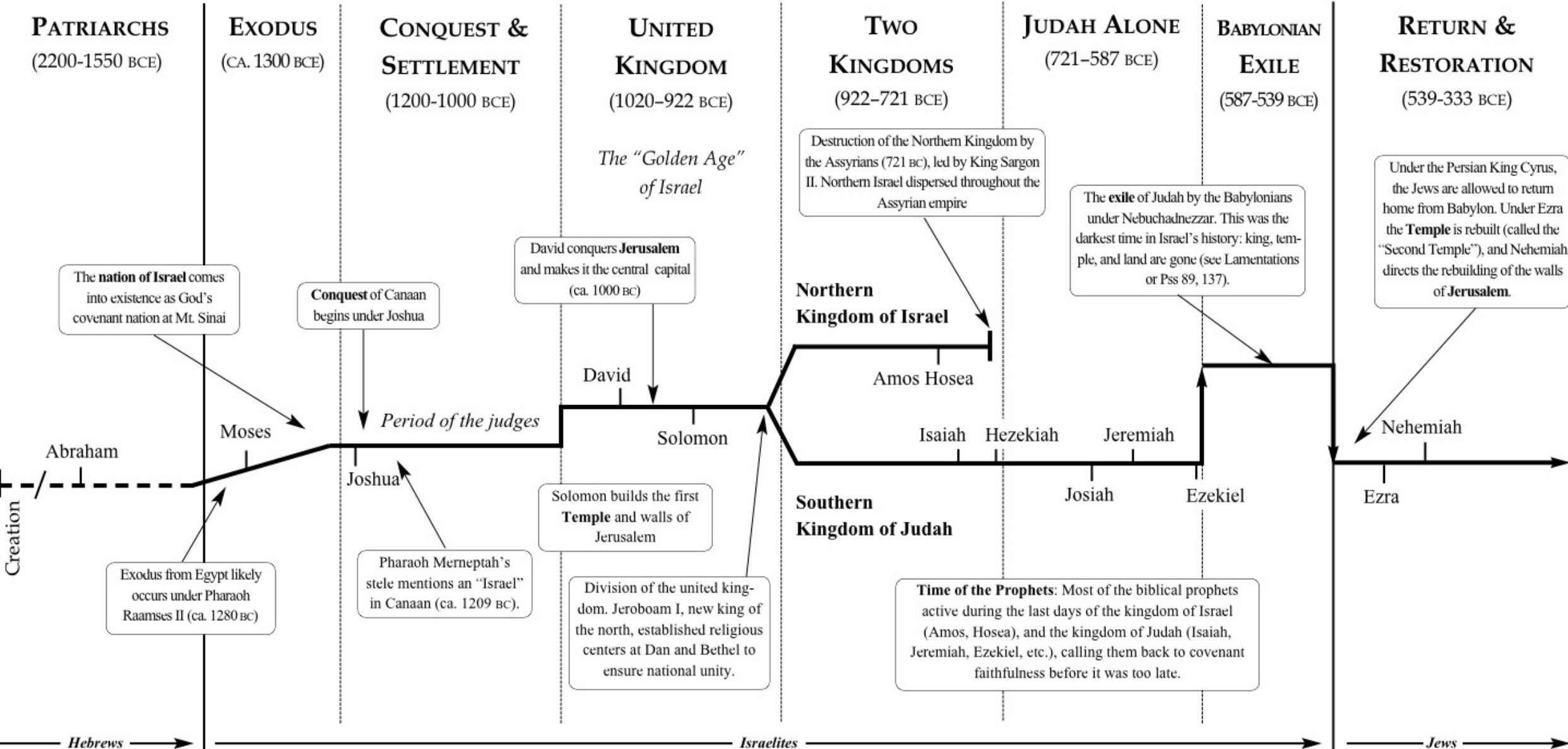
7 But I, through the abundance of your  
steadfast love,  
will enter your house.  
I will<sup>2</sup> bow down<sup>3</sup> toward your  
temple  
in the  
morning.

*The Reign of the LORD's Anointed*  
2 "Why do<sup>1</sup> the nations rage<sup>2</sup>  
and the peoples plot in vain?  
The kings of the earth set themselves,  
and the rulers take counsel together,  
against the LORD and against his  
Anointed, saying,  
3 "Let us<sup>4</sup> burst their bonds apart  
and cast away their cords from us."

3 O LORD, how many are my foes!  
Many are<sup>2</sup> rising against me;  
many are saying of my soul,  
"There is no salvation for him in God."  
4 But you, O LORD, are<sup>5</sup> a shield<sup>6</sup> about me,  
my glory, and<sup>7</sup> the lifter of my head."  
Selah

4 He who<sup>1</sup> sits in the heavens<sup>2</sup> laughs;  
the Lord holds them in derision.  
5 Then he will speak<sup>6</sup> in  
his wrath,  
and he will be angry  
against them.

# The Old Testament Story†



Psalm 15	Psalm 30	Psalm 45	Psalm 60	Psalm 75	Psalm 90	Psalm 105	Psalm 120	Psalm 135	Psalm 150
Psalm 14	Psalm 29	Psalm 44	Psalm 59	Psalm 74	Psalm 89	Psalm 104	Psalm 119	Psalm 134	Psalm 149
Psalm 13	Psalm 28	Psalm 43	Psalm 58	Psalm 73	Psalm 88	Psalm 103	Psalm 118	Psalm 133	Psalm 148
Psalm 12	Psalm 27	Psalm 42	Psalm 57	Psalm 72	Psalm 87	Psalm 102	Psalm 117	Psalm 132	Psalm 147
Psalm 11	Psalm 26	Psalm 41	Psalm 56	Psalm 71	Psalm 86	Psalm 101	Psalm 116	Psalm 131	Psalm 146
Psalm 10	Psalm 25	Psalm 40	Psalm 55	Psalm 70	Psalm 85	Psalm 100	Psalm 115	Psalm 130	Psalm 145
Psalm 9	Psalm 24	Psalm 39	Psalm 54	Psalm 69	Psalm 84	Psalm 99	Psalm 114	Psalm 129	Psalm 144
Psalm 8	Psalm 23	Psalm 38	Psalm 53	Psalm 68	Psalm 83	Psalm 98	Psalm 113	Psalm 128	Psalm 143
Psalm 7	Psalm 22	Psalm 37	Psalm 52	Psalm 67	Psalm 82	Psalm 97	Psalm 112	Psalm 127	Psalm 142
Psalm 6	Psalm 21	Psalm 36	Psalm 51	Psalm 66	Psalm 81	Psalm 96	Psalm 111	Psalm 126	Psalm 141
Psalm 5	Psalm 20	Psalm 35	Psalm 50	Psalm 65	Psalm 80	Psalm 95	Psalm 110	Psalm 125	Psalm 140
Psalm 4	Psalm 19	Psalm 34	Psalm 49	Psalm 64	Psalm 79	Psalm 94	Psalm 109	Psalm 124	Psalm 139
Psalm 3	Psalm 18	Psalm 33	Psalm 48	Psalm 63	Psalm 78	Psalm 93	Psalm 108	Psalm 123	Psalm 138
Psalm 2	Psalm 17	Psalm 32	Psalm 47	Psalm 62	Psalm 77	Psalm 92	Psalm 107	Psalm 122	Psalm 137
Psalm 1	Psalm 16	Psalm 31	Psalm 46	Psalm 61	Psalm 76	Psalm 91	Psalm 106	Psalm 121	Psalm 136

Kings of Judah	Bible	Good/Bad	Kings of Israel	Bible	All Bad			
Rehoboam	1 Kings 11-14	BAD	Jeroboam I	1 Kings 12-14	BAD			
Abijam	1 Kings 14-15	BAD	Nadab	1 Kings 15	BAD			
Asa	1 Kings 15	Good	Baasha	1 Kings 15-16	BAD			
			Elah	1 Kings 16	BAD			
			Zimri	1 Kings 16	BAD			
			Omri	1 Kings 16	BAD			
			Ahab	1 Kings 16	BAD			
			Ahaziah	1 Kings 22	BAD			
Jehoshaphat	1 Kings 22	Good	Jehoram	2 Kings 1	BAD			
Jehoram	2 Kings 8	BAD	Jehu	2 Kings 3-9	MIXED			
Ahaziah	2 Kings 8-9	BAD	Jehoahaz	2 Kings 9-10	BAD			
Athaliah	2 Kings 11	BAD						
Joash	2 Kings 11-12	Good	Jehoash	2 Kings 13-14	BAD			
Amaziah	2 Kings 14	Good	Jeroboam II	2 Kings 14	BAD			
Azariah	2 Kings 15	Good	Zechariah	2 Kings 14-15	BAD			
Jotham	2 Kings 15	Good	Shallum	2 Kings 15	BAD			
			Menahem	2 Kings 15	BAD			
			Pekahiah	2 Kings 15	BAD			
Ahaziah	2 Kings 16	BAD	Hoshea	2 Kings 15-17	BAD			
Hezekiah	2 Kings 18-20	Good	Assyrian Captivity - No return					
Manasseh	2 Kings 21	BAD						
Amon	2 Kings 21	BAD						
Josiah	2 Kings 21-23	Good						
Jehoahaz	2 Kings 23	BAD						
Jehoiakim	2 Kings 23	BAD						
Johoiachin	2 Kings 24	BAD						
Zedekiah	2 Kings 24-25	BAD						
Babylonian Captivity - 70 years								

## ***IMPORTANT POINTS: MOVEMENT III***

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1. We have seen much lament and confession in Movements I and II, but Movement III (Psalms 73–89) is certainly the darkest movement of the Psalter. There is only one psalm by God's Anointed, David, in this movement. David is missing. His only psalm is Psalm 86, and it is a dark lament.
2. Movement III poetically portrays the destruction of Israel and Judah and brings into question whether God has abandoned his covenant with David.
3. Most of the psalms in Movement III are corporate and focus on devastation by pagan nations. The movement contains a notable lack of trust and hope, instead filled with fear, anxiety, and uncertainty.

## ***IMPORTANT POINTS: MOVEMENT IV***

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1. Movement IV of the Psalter is a key turning point for the unfolding of the Davidic Covenant in the canonical flow of the five movements, and it is consequently important for the formation of a biblical conception of blessedness under God's rule, especially when it appears as if God's promises to his Anointed have failed. This movement is all about reaffirming the foundational principles first introduced in Psalms 1 and 2 that form a proper image of blessedness:
  - [1] The Lord reigns. [2] The Lord has determined the destiny of the wicked and the righteous.  
[3] Take refuge in the Lord.
2. Moses is a major focus of this movement. He begins the movement, he is referenced three times in the final psalm (Ps 106:16, 23, 32), and he appears three more times in between (99:6, 103:7, 05:26).
3. David's name never appears in the movement—the focus is more on reaffirming that Yahweh reigns so that God's people have confidence that he will keep his promises to his Anointed.

## ***IMPORTANT POINTS: MOVEMENT V***

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1. The key refrain of thanksgiving from 1 Chronicles 16 permeates Movement V, appearing 32 times. Throughout the Old Testament, this refrain is always associated with the establishment of God's temple in David's Royal City. In the imagination of any Israelite, this refrain would signal a confident anticipation of the David covenant fulfilled—the rule of God's Anointed in union with the rule of Yahweh.
2. Psalm 110 is one of the most quoted psalms in the New Testament, because it is a very important prophetic psalm about the promised fulfillment of God's covenant with David.
3. And yet, God's promise has not yet fully come to pass. Purification for sins is finished. Jesus is now seated at Yahweh's right hand, and he intercedes for his people as the great High Priest (Heb 6:12), but the victory promised in Movement V is still future even for us.



THOUGHTS OR  
REFLECTIONS

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