

A Longing for God Even when the Journey is Rough!

The OT is divided up into three parts:

1. The Law (Torah)
 - a. Pentateuch: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
2. The Prophets (Nevi'im)
 - a. Joshua, Judges, I & II Samuel, I & II Kings, Major and Minor prophets (excluding Daniel)
3. The Writings (Ketuvim)
 - a. Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, I & II Chronicles

In the Hebrew Bible the title of the Book of Psalms is

- *Seper Tehillim* (book of praises)
- or simply *Tehillim* (praises)

Tehillim comes from the same root word as **Hallelujah**: Praise the Lord.

The Greek word *Psalterion* originally referred to a stringed instrument, but later it came to mean also a 'collection of songs.' The Hebrew title defines the contents of the book...**praises to God**. The Greek and English titles define the form of the book as hymns (psalms) sung to the accompaniment of stringed instruments.

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

Psalm 84

- ¹ How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord Almighty!
- ² My soul yearns, even faints,
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh cry out
for the living God.
- ³ Even the sparrow has found a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may have her young—
a place near your altar,
Lord Almighty, my King and my God.
- ⁴ Blessed are those who dwell in your house;
they are ever praising you.
- ⁵ Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.
- ⁶ As they pass through the Valley of Baka,
they make it a place of springs;
the autumn rains also cover it with pools.
- ⁷ They go from strength to strength,
till each appears before God in Zion.

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⁸ Hear my prayer, Lord God Almighty;
listen to me, God of Jacob.

⁹ Look on our shield, O God;
look with favor on your anointed one.

¹⁰ Better is one day in your courts
than a thousand elsewhere;

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

¹¹ For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
the Lord bestows favor and honor;

no good thing does he withhold
from those whose walk is blameless.

¹² Lord Almighty,
blessed is the one who trusts in you.

I. A Desire to be in God's Presence

- a. A place of Beauty
- b. A place of Community
- c. A place of Worship and Sacrifice
- d. A place of Praise
- e. A place of Peace

II. Driven to Make the Journey

- a. The worshipper has the desire.
 - i. Hope is stirred along the way.
- b. God provides the strength.
 - i. He also brings refreshing.
- c. The journey ends with joy in God's presence.

III. A Prayer of Affirmation and Trust

- a. God listens when we pray!
- b. God's presence is better by far!

IV. Blessed is the Worshipper Who Seeks God!

- a. Praise fills their mouth.
- b. Strength fills their body.
- c. Faith and Joy fills their soul.