

Information on the Psalms

Psalms, a definition: The word “Psalms” comes from the Greek word “psalmos,” which means “praise.” In Hebrew, the name of the book of Psalms is “Tehillim” which means “The Book of Praise.” Another Hebrew title for the Psalms is “Mizmor,” which means “to sing with a stringed instrument.”

Who wrote the Psalms?

Of the 150 Psalms, 102 have named authors, and 48 do not have authorship attributed to them. The breakdown of the 102 Psalms listing authorship is as follows:

- 73 were written by David
- 2 were written by Solomon
- 12 were written by the Sons of Korah
- 12 were written by Asaph
- 1 was written by Heman
- 1 was written by Ethan
- 1 was written by Moses

There are 7 types of Psalms:

1. Messianic Psalms (There are five types of Messianic Psalms)
 - A. Typically Messianic (features of the Psalm and verses are Messianic in nature. Psalms 41 & 69 are examples)
 - B. Typically-Prophetic Messianic (the Psalmist’s experience is hyperbolic of Christ’s real life experience. Psalm 22 is an example.)
 - C. Indirectly Messianic (The Psalm is directly descriptive of Israel’s contemporary king- usually David- but indirectly fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Psalms 2 & 72 are examples.)
 - D. Eschatological Messianic (A Psalm referring directly to the ushering in of YHWH’s future and eternal kingdom. Psalms 96-99 are examples.)
 - E. Purely Prophetic Messianic (The reference and meaning of the Psalm is solely for Jesus Christ and no other “type” or son of David. There is only one of these in the Psalter- Psalm 110.)
2. Lament Psalms (Psalms 6, 12, 13 & 142 are examples)
3. Acknowledgement Psalms (Psalms 30, 34, 41, & 116 are examples)
4. Descriptive Psalms of Praise (Psalms 33, 36, 105, 111, 113, 117, 135-36, & 146-47 are the group of Descriptive Psalms of Praise)
5. Royal Psalms (Psalms 2, 18, 20, 21, 45, 72, 89, 101, 110, & 145 are the group of Royal Psalms)
6. Enthronement Psalms (Psalms 48, 93, 96-99 are examples)
7. Pilgrimage Psalms (Psalms 42-3, 84, 120-134 are the Pilgrimage Psalms)