



## Summer In The Psalms Series – Lesson 1 " PSALMS AN OVERVIEW: GOD’S INSPIRED HYMNBOOK"

### 1. TITLE

“Psalms” comes from the Greek word meaning a song sung to a stringed instrument. The book is also called the Psalter.  
The Hebrew title, *Tehillim*, means “praises.”

### 2. ARRANGEMENT, AUTHORSHIP, DATE, FEATURES

The Psalms are arranged into five books:

Book 1 (Psalms 1-41)	Book 2 (Psalms 42-72)
Book 3 (Psalms 73-89)	Book 4 (Psalms 90-106)
Book 5 (Psalms 107-150)	

**Psalm** emphasizes stringed accompaniment (57 psalms have this title).

**Song** indicates a joyful melody (12 have this label, e.g., Ps. 46).

**Maskil** may refer to a contemplative or didactic psalm (13 have this label, Ps. 32).

**Miktam** is uncertain (six Psalms: 16, 56-60).

**Prayer** labels five psalms (Pss. 17, 86, 90, 102, 142).

**Praise**, Psalm 145 has the title.

### 3. HEBREW POETRY

#### A. Parallelism

Synonymous—The second line is similar to the first.

Synthetic—The second line takes up and develops further a thought begun in the first line.

Climatic—The second line takes up some words from the first line and adds to or completes them.

Emblematic—One line presents an image or metaphor which the other line clarifies or applies.

Antithetical—The second line contrasts with the first.

#### B. Figures of Speech

Psalm 18:7-15 describes the power of God as seen in a thunderstorm. Describes God in anthropomorphic terms.

#### C. Acrostics

Alphabetical psalms, where each verse begins with successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

### 4. THEMES

**A. The character of God** - Psa. 25:8, 10; 63:2-3

**B. The Kingdom of God** - Psa. 2, 96-99, 110

**C. The Messiah of God** - Psa. 2, 22, 45, 72, 110

**D. The Worship of God** - Psa. 5:11-12; 9:1-2; 5:7; 9:14; 84, 122

**E. The Experience of man** - Psa. 3, 7, 18, 34, 51-52, 54, 56, 57, 59, 60

### 5. MAIN LESSONS

**A. Praise is important.**

**B. Prayer is important.**

**C. Corporate worship is important.**

**D. Beauty and creativity are important.**

**Here are a few action points:**

1. Read the Psalms devotionally.
2. Memorize the Psalms.
3. Sing the Psalms.
4. Pray the Psalms.