

July 24th 2005: Overview of OT: Book of Psalms

In our Overview.....Begin by giving you an idea of the structure....beautiful book

NOTES.....see straight away....

There is an order.....flows through the book of

Psalms::Thro→

150 separate songs...written and then grouped together....over a period of poss 1000yrs

You see

There are five distinct volumes or books.....**each** one ends with a closing doxology

As you look at your notes....you will see that they are grouped under different authors

But are not chronological

Some see a connection between the five books of the Psalms

And the five books of Moses.....Pentateuch.....First Five

So:→

Book	Book 1 (1-41)	Book 2 (42-72)	Book 3 (73-89)	Book 4 (90-106)	Book 5 (107-150)
Chief Author	David	David/Korah	Asaph	Anonymous	David/ Anonymous
Number of Psalms	41	31	17	17	44
Basic Content	Songs of worship	Hymns of National Interest	Hymns of National Interest	Anthems of Praise	Anthems of Praise
Topical Likeness to Pentateuch	<u>Genesis: Man and Creation</u>	<u>Exodus: Deliverance and Redemption</u>	<u>Leviticus: Worship and Sanctuary</u>	<u>Numbers: Wilderness and Wandering</u>	<u>Deuteronomy Scripture and Praise</u>
Closing Doxology	41:13	72:18-19	89:52	106:48	150:1-6
Possible Compiler	David	Hezekiah or Josiah	Hezekiah or Josiah	Ezra or Nehemiah	Ezra or Nehemiah
Possible Dates of Compilation	c.1020—970 B.C.	c.970-610 B.C.	c. 970-610 B.C.	Until c. 430 B.C.	Until c.430 B.C.
Span of Authorship	→ About	1000 years	(c. 1410--	--430 B.C.)	←

So there is an order in the arrangement of the Psalms in their separate volumes.

Many of the Psalms can also be grouped into different types

So you have:→

1. **Individual Lament Psalms:** Directly addressed to God with a petition to rescue or defend.
(Psalms 3—7;12;13;22—28;35;38—40;42;43;51;54—57;59;61;63;64;69—71; 86;88;102;109;120;130;140—143)
2. **Communal Lament Psalms:** The Nation not the individual makes the lament.
(Psalms 44;60;74;79—80;83;85;90;123)
3. **Individual Thanksgiving Psalms:** (Psalms 18;30;32;34;40;41;66;106;116;138)
Psalmist publicly acknowledges God's activity on His behalf. >>>Thanking God for what He has done....or expressing confidence in what God will do
4. **Communal Thanksgiving Psalms:** (Psalms 124;129)
Acknowledgement is made by the Nation rather than the individual
5. **General Praise Psalms:** The Psalmist attempts to magnify the name of God and boast about His greatness.
These Psalms revolve around the word Praise.
(Psalms 8;19;29;103;104;139;148;150)
6. **Descriptive Praise Psalms:** These praise God for His attributes and acts.
(Psalms 33;36;105;111;113;117;135;136;146;147)
7. **Enthronement Psalms:** These describe Yaweh's sovereign reign over all.
Some anticipate the Kingdom rule of Christ
(Psalms 47;93;96—99)
8. **Pilgrimage Songs:** Also known as Songs of Zion, they were sung by Pilgrims travelling up to Jerusalem for the feasts.
3 Annual feasts of Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles
(Psalms 43;46;48;76;84;87;120—134)
9. **Royal Psalms:** The reign of the earthly king and the heavenly King are portrayed in most of these psalms. (Psalms 2;18;20;21;45;72;89;101;110;132;144)
10. **Wisdom and Teaching Psalms:** The reader is instructed and encouraged in the way of righteousness. (Psalms 1;37;119)

One of the main characteristics of the Psalms.....is their honesty

The Psalmist tells God exactly what He feels.....Even when he feels that God has let him down

This honesty extends to a bluntness.....comes to speaking of his/...Nation's enemies
And at times these Psalms may come across as too harsh

Listed are the *Psalms that include a curse called down on one's enemies are:*
7;35;40;55;58;59;69;79;109;137;139;144

Need to remember is

1. **They call for Divine Justice.....rather than human vengeance**
2. **They ask God to punish the Wicked in order to vindicate His own righteousness**
3. **They condemn sin ...and in Hebrew thought the sinner and the sin were inseparable**

Another important point.....so many of the Psalms relate in some way to Jesus
The book of....quoted more times in NT.....than any other book...
And our Lord often quoted from it

It was used by the Apostles to confirm their messages.....
Singing of....regular part of the worship.....

On the back of your notes.....find a list of Prophecies found in.....fulfilled in Jesus

The final thought I want to leave.....

Is the need for us to Praise the Lord.....which is what the Psalms are all about

Psalm 145 emphasises the need for us who know the Lord to Praise Him

V21 says.....

Such Praise is particularly found in telling others about the wonderful acts of our God

V4.....

V 10-12.....

This is a message we need both to hear.....but also to act on

Just to share with others.....the things for which we are thankful
Is to truly praise God...and honour His love for us

(from p763...750 illustrations)

As we read through the Psalms.....we will find many reasons to worship and praise

But then let us take the joy in our hearts.....the thankfulness
And seek to spread it into the lives of others.....who need it so much