

# The Book of Psalms

## Overview

<b>Name</b>	From the Hebrew Word <i>Tehelim</i> , meaning “to sing or pluck.”
<b>Purpose</b>	Worship. Psalms functions like a hymnal
<b>Significance</b>	The Law of God flows from the mountain down. The Psalms flows from the valley up. It's God's people worshipping amid life. That's why the book relates to us so well.

## Types

<b>Praise</b>	<p>God-Centered Praise. Movement from General Revelation to Special Revelation (ex: Psalm 19:1-4, 7-8)</p> <p><sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. <sup>2</sup> Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. <sup>3</sup> They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. <sup>4</sup> Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world...<sup>7</sup> The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. <sup>8</sup> The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.</p>
<b>Lament</b>	<p>Trading Joy for Sorrow. The Writer Experiences Trouble and Turns to the Lord for Aid (ex: Psalm 22:1-3)</p> <p><sup>1</sup> My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? <sup>2</sup> My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest. <sup>3</sup> Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises.</p>
<b>Wisdom</b>	<p>What It Means to Be Blessed. Most Often Structured as a Contrast Between the Blessed and the Cursed (ex: Psalm 1:1-2, 4)</p> <p><sup>1</sup> Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, <sup>2</sup> but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. <sup>4</sup> Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.</p>
<b>Messianic (Kingship)</b>	<p>Extols the Lord as King and Messiah. Often Prophetic (ex: Psalm 22:1, 16-18)</p> <p><sup>1</sup> My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? <sup>16</sup> Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet. <sup>17</sup> All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. <sup>18</sup> They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garments.</p>

<b>Confidence</b>	Complete Trust in God in a Difficult Situation. The Writer Often What Will Happen in the Situation (ex: Psalm 23:4).  4Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
<b>Confession</b>	Confession of Sin AND Redemption. Moves From Brokenness Because of Sin to Redemption By Grace (ex: Psalm 51:1-2, 16-18)  1Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions. 2Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin...16You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. 17My sacrifice, O God, is <sup>[b]</sup> a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise. 18May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem.
<b>Remembrance</b>	What God Has Done In the Past. What We've Done in the Past (not always positive). These Look at the Past to Get Going in the Right Direction in the Present in Anticipation for the Future (ex: Psalm 106:6-7; 47-48)  6We have sinned, even as our ancestors did; we have done wrong and acted wickedly. 7When our ancestors were in Egypt, they gave no thought to your miracles; they did not remember your many kindnesses, and they rebelled by the sea, the Red Sea...47Save us, Lord our God, and gather us from the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise. 48Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the Lord.
<b>Thanksgiving</b>	The Dominate Feature of This Type of Psalm is Gratitude for God Answering A Request. It Often Features Deliverance (ex: Psalm 18:1-2, 6).  1I love you, Lord, my strength. 2The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield <sup>[b]</sup> and the horn <sup>[c]</sup> of my salvation, my stronghold. In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears.

### Structure

	Book 1	Book 2	Book 3	Book 4	Book 5
	Psalm 1-41	Psalm 42-72	Psalm 73-89	Psalm 90-106	Psalm 107-150
<b>Read With</b>	Genesis	Exodus	Leviticus	Numbers	Deuteronomy
<b>Themes</b>	Creation, Covenant, Humanity	Deliverance	Sanctuary Sacrifice	Reign of God	Word of God
<b>Doxology</b>	Psalm 41:13	Psalm 72:18-19	Psalm 89:52	Psalm 106:48	Psalm 150
<b>Key Verse</b>	May the words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer ( <b>Psalm 19:14</b> )				