

Introduction: The book of Psalms is the longest book in the Bible with 150 chapters. It is beautifully poetic in style and sets forth not only beautiful words of comfort and condemnation for God’s enemies but more importantly points directly to the promised Savior (Luke 24:44) Psalms are really songs that were originally sung in the worship of God’s Old Testament people, Israel. About half were written by King David, the sweet singer of songs. They cover a wide range of areas but especially focus on the coming Savior. They are quoted about 80 times in the New Testament. Luther said that if he had to be left with one book of the Bible, he would choose the Psalms. The Psalms are a treasure-trove for the Christian. Worthy to be a part of daily Bible reading!

1. **Titles** – Most of the Psalms have a superscription or title at the beginning. These often identify the author as in “Of David” or “Of Moses”. At times they may indicate when they were normally used, e.g., “A song of ascents” (Psalm 130), may have been used as worshippers made their way to the temple mount for the religious festivals. They may mark the occasion, “When he (David) feigned insanity before Abimelech...” (Psalm 34). Or they may indicate literary or musical terms, “...a maskil” (Psalm 42) – terms of uncertain use for us today.

- a. 116 Psalms with superscriptions
- b. 34 Psalms with no superscription – “Orphan Psalms”

2. **Authors in the superscriptions**

- a. Moses – Psalm 90
- b. David – 73 Psalms including Psalms 3-9, 11=32, 34-41, etc.
- c. Solomon – Psalm 72, 127
- d. Asaph (from Levi/Gershon – about 1,000 B.C.) - 12 includes (Psalm 50, 73-83)
- e. Sons of Korah (from Levi/Kohath – about 1,000 B.C.) – 11 includes Psalms 42, 44-49, 84, 85, 87, 88
- f. Others – Heman (88), & Ethan (89)

3. **Poetic Form – Parallelism – 3 basic types**

- a. *Synonymous* –The two parts of the verse use different words but have the same thought. (Psalm 2:4) “The One enthroned in heaven” is the same as “The Lord”. He “laughs” at his enemies. He “scoffs”.
- b. *Antithetic* – The two parts have opposite meanings. There is contrast. (Psalm 1:6) Contrast between “the way of the righteous” (believers) and “the way of the wicked” (unbelievers). The Lord “watches over” or cares for believers but unbelievers “will perish”.
- c. *Synthetic* – The second part advances the thought in the first part. (Psalm 16:2) David writes, “ I said to the Lord...” Then he says, “You are my Lord” and then explains what make him so special - that apart from the Lord he has “no good thing”. This Lord is the giver of all that is Good!

4. **Types of Psalms**

- a. *Messianic* (Speak directly of the Messiah or the Christ that the “Anointed one” – coming Savior)
 1. Psalm 2, 8, 16, 22, 23, 24, 40, 41, 45, 47, 68, 69, 72, 87, 89, 110, 118
 2. Notice all the times these are quoted in the New Testament
- b. *Didactic* (Teaching Psalms - they set forth the teachings or doctrines of the Bible.) For example:
 1. Of Godly/Ungodly men – Psalms 1, 14, 15, 53
 2. Of God’s Word – Psalms 19, 119
 3. Of the Shortness of Life – Psalms 39, 49, 90
- c. *Comfort* Psalms
 1. Especially Psalms 4, 37, 91, 121
 2. Others – Psalms 23, 32, 51, etc.
- d. *Supplicatory* Psalms (Prayer Psalms)
 1. Psalms 3, 6, 38, 137, 143
 2. There is an *overlap with the Penitential Psalms that pray for forgiveness*
Psalms 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143

e. *Thanksgiving Psalms*

1. Psalms 103, 104, 136, 145-150
2. The Hallel (Hallelujah Psalms – hallelujah means “praise “jah” or Jehovah God)
 - a. The Great Hallel – Psalm 136
 - b. Hallel of the Great Feast or Passover – Psalms 113-118 (Sung each year.)

f. *Imprecatory Psalms* (Prayers that God would come in judgment on his enemies.)

1. Reflect a righteous zeal for the Glory of God, not revenge,
 - e.g., Psalm 55:15 “Let death take my enemies by surprise...”
2. Many TODAY deny that these are from God. They say, ‘They don’t sound very Christian!’
3. Psalms 35, 40(verses 14,15), 55, 56, 58-59, 69, 79, 83, 109, 137, 139 (esp. verses 19-22)

5. *The Psalms Quoted in the New Testament*

Jesus frequently quoted the Psalms. Through his explanation of the Psalms and the other God-inspired writers of scripture in the New Testament we gain a better understanding of the meaning of the Psalms. The Psalms are quoted or referred to close to 80 times in the New Testament. Below is a list of the New Testament quotes/references taken from the Psalms. When you read a Psalm use this list to better understand its meaning in God’s plan of salvation.

<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Referenced in:</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Referenced in:</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Reference in:</u>
2:1-2	Acts 4:25-26	69:9	Romans 15:12	118:22-23	Mark 12:10-11
2:7	Acts 13:33	69:22-23	Romans 11:9-10	118:25-26	Matthew 21:9
	Hebrews 1:5	69:25	Acts 1:20		Mark 11:9-10
	Hebrews 5:5	78:2	Matthews 13:35		John 12:13
4:4	Ephesians 4:26	78:24	John 6:31	118:26	Matthew 23:39
5:9	Romans 3:13	82:6	John 10:31		Luke 13:35
8:2	Matthew 21:16 LXX*	89:20	Acts 13:22		Luke 19:38
8:4-6	Hebrews 2:6-8 LXX	91:11-12	Matthew 4:6	132:11	Acts 2:30
8:6	I Corinthians 15:27		Luke 4:10-11	140:3	Romans 3:13
10:7	Romans 3:14	94:11	I Corinthians 3:20		
14:1-3	Romans 3:10-12	95:7-8	Hebrews 3:15		
16:8-11	Acts 2:25-28		Hebrews 4:7		
16:10	Acts 2:31	95:7-11	Hebrews 3:7-11	*LXX – A quote taken from	the common Greek translation at the time of Christ.
16:10	Acts 13:35 LXX	95:11	Hebrews 4:3,5		
18:49	Romans 15:9	102:25-27	Hebrews 1:10-12		
19:4	Romans 10:18	104:4	Hebrews 1:7		
22:1	Matthew 27:46	109:8	Acts 1:20		
	Mark 15:34	110:1	Matthew 22:44		
22:18	John 19:24		Matthew 26:64		
22:22	Hebrews 2:12		Mark 12:36		
24:1	I Corinthians 10:26		Mark 14:62		
31:5	Luke 23:46		Luke 20:42-43		
32:1-2	Romans 4:7,8		Luke 22:69		
34:12-16	I Peter 3:10-12		Acts 2:34-35		
35:19	John 15:25		Hebrews 1:13		
36:1	Romans 3:18	110:4	Hebrews 5:6,10		
40:6-8	Hebrews 10:5-7		Hebrews 7:17,21		
41:9	John 13:18	112:9	II Corinthians 9:9		
44:22	Romans 8:36	116:10	II Corinthians 4:13		
45:6-7	Hebrews 1:8,9	117:1	Romans 15:11		
51:4	Romans 3:4	118:6	Hebrews 13:6		
53:1-3	Romans 3:10-12	118:22	Luke 20:17		
68:18	Ephesians 4:8		Acts 4:11		
69:4	John 15:25		I Peter 2:7		
69:9	John 2:17	118:22-23	Matthew 21:42		