

FIVE BOOKS OF THE PSALMS

This is an **introduction** to how the Psalms were collected and are structured.

1. The Psalms are a collection

2. A collection from at least Moses' time until the Exile

Psalm 90:title A Prayer of Moses the man of God.

Psalm 90:1 Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.

Psalm 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

Psalm 137:1 By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, When we remembered Zion. **Psalm 137:2** We hanged our harps Upon the willows in the midst thereof. **Psalm 137:3** For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; And they that wasted us required of us mirth, Saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. **Psalm 137:4** How shall we sing the LORD's song In a strange land?

3. A collection centered around / upon David as author, collector & organizer.

2 Samuel 23:1 Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, And the man who was raised up on high, The anointed of the God of Jacob, And the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, **2 Samuel 23:2** The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, And his word was in my tongue.

1 Chronicles 15:16 And David spake to the chief of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers with instruments of musick, psalteries and harps and cymbals, sounding, by lifting up the voice with joy. **1 Chronicles 15:17** So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel; and of his brethren, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of the sons of Merari their brethren, Ethan the son of Kushaiah; **1 Chronicles 15:18** And with them their brethren of the second degree, Zechariah, Ben, and Jaaziel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Unni, Eliab, and Benaiah, and Maaseiah, and Mattithiah, and Eliphelah, and Mikneiah, and Obed-edom, and Jeiel, the porters.

1 Chronicles 16:1 So they brought the ark of God, and set it in the midst of the tent that David had pitched for it: and they offered burnt sacrifices and peace offerings before God. **1 Chronicles 16:2** And when David had made an end of offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD. **1 Chronicles 16:3** And he dealt to every one of Israel, both man and woman, to every one a loaf of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine.

1 Chronicles 16:4 And he appointed certain of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, and to record, and to thank and praise the LORD God of Israel: **1 Chronicles 16:5** Asaph the chief, and next to him Zechariah, Jeiel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Mattithiah, and Eliab, and Benaiah, and Obed-edom: and Jeiel with psalteries and with harps; but Asaph made a sound with cymbals; **1 Chronicles 16:6** Benaiah also and Jahaziel the priests with trumpets continually before the ark of the covenant of God. **1 Chronicles 16:7** Then on that day David delivered first this psalm to thank the LORD into the hand of Asaph and his brethren.

1 Chronicles 23:1 So when David was old and full of days, he made Solomon his son king over Israel. **1 Chronicles 23:2** And he gathered together all the princes of Israel, with the priests and the Levites. **1 Chronicles 23:3** Now the Levites were numbered from the age of thirty years and upward: and their number by their polls, man by man, was thirty and eight thousand. **1 Chronicles 23:4** Of which, twenty and four thousand were to set forward the work of the house of the LORD; and six thousand were officers and judges: **1 Chronicles 23:5** Moreover four thousand were porters; and four thousand praised the LORD with the instruments which I made, said David, to praise therewith. **1 Chronicles 23:6** And David divided them into courses among the sons of Levi, namely, Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

4. A collection accumulated gradually

5. A collection accumulated in stages

Proverbs 1:1 THE proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;

Proverbs 10:1 The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: But a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

Proverbs 25:1 These are also proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out.

Psalm 72:20 The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended.

Psalms 73-89: are Psalms of Asaph

Book 3

Psalms 90-106: Are Psalms of Moses/David or (no title)

Book 4

Psalms 107-145: We again have David

Book 5

STRUCTURE OF THE PSALMS

Introduction: Psalms 1 + 2

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Psalms 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; And in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

Each book **ends** with a doxology and the entire collection **ends** with doxology.

Book 1: Psalms 3 - 41

Psalms 41:13 Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen.

Book 2: Psalms 42 - 72

Psalms 72:18 Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who only doeth wondrous things.

Psalms 72:19 And blessed be his glorious name for ever: And let the whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen, and Amen.

Book 3: Psalms 73 - 89

Psalms 89:52 Blessed be the LORD for evermore. Amen, and Amen.

Book 4: Psalms 90 - 106

Psalms 106:48 Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: And let all the people say, Amen. Praise ye the LORD.

Book 5: Psalms 107 - 145

Psalms 145:21 My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD: And let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.

Conclusion: Psalms 146 - 150

6. A collection collected into five books patterned **like / patterned **after** the law**

7. A collection of almost infinite variety, styles, subjects, emotions & purposes!