

VISION FOR THE WORD OF GOD:
PSALMS

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One of the easiest ways to think about the Book of Psalms is to look upon it as the hymn book of the Bible. From our own experiences, we know that not all hymns are the same:

Hymns of Worship and Praise:

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
Lift Every Voice and Sing
O Thou in Whose Presence My Soul Takes Delight
How Firm a Foundation Ye Saints of the Lord
How Great the Wisdom
How Great Thou Art

Hymns for Procession and Entrance:

Holy, Holy, Holy,
We're Marching to Zion
Lord in the Morning Thou Shalt Hear
All Hail the Power

Hymns of Lament and Sorrow

I Must Tell Jesus
Come Ye Disconsolate
Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross
Beams of Heaven as I Go
How Tedious and Tasteless the Hours

Hymns of Comfort

God Will Take Care of You
Blessed Assurance
Does Jesus Care?
What a Friend We Have in Jesus
It is Well With My Soul

Hymns of Invitation

All to Jesus I Surrender
Just As I Am
Lord I'm Coming Home
Come to Jesus
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Hymns of Nativity

Angels We Have Heard on High
Away in the Manger
O Little Town of Bethlehem
Joy to the World
Silent Night

Communion

Alas and Did My Savior Bleed
There is A Fountain Filled With Blood

Break Thou the Bread of Life
 Down at the Cross
 Nothing But the Blood of Jesus

Hymns of Patriotism:

Battle Hymn of the Republic
 My Country Tis of Thee
 The Star-Spangled Banner
 Lift Every Voice and Sing

75-76; Different Types of Psalms

Worship and Praise: 8; 29; 33; 93; 96; 104; 148; 150

Entrance or Processional: 15; 24; 68; 100; 132

Royal Davidic (patriotic): 2; 72; 101; 10; 132

Lament and Sorrow

 Community: Psalm 137

 Personal: Psalm 22

Comfort: Psalm 23; 27; 91

Repentance: Psalm 51

Thanksgiving: 18; 30-31; 63; 66-68; 103; 107; 116; 118; 122; 124; 135-136; 138

Wisdom: 1; 25; 32; 34; 36-37; 49; 62; 73; 75; 78; 111-112; 119; 127-128

Organization of the Book of Psalms

Book 1: 1-41

Book 2: 42-72

Book 3: 73-89

Book 4: 90-106

Book 5: 107-150

Authors of the Book of Psalms

David (app. 75, 2-9; 11-41; 51-65; 68-70; 86; 101; 103, 108-110; 122; 124; 131; 133; 138-145)

Asaph and family (12, 50; 73-83)

The sons of Korah (11, 42; 44-49; 84-85; 87-88)

Ethan the Ezrahite (1, 89)

Solomon (2, 72 and 127)

Moses (1, 90)

Others (Remaining 50)

Dates of Composition:

1,000-year period ranging from time of Moses in the wilderness (1440-1400BC) to Ezra, fourth century BC. Most Psalms were composed during the lifetimes of David and Solomon

Lessons from Psalms

Worship is respect for the sovereignty of God even when we have questions regarding God's permissive and direct will

God's sovereignty means that God does not have to answer our questions. However even when God does not answer our questions, worship can still strengthen and comfort.

Half-hearted, confused and angry worship is still more powerful than the neglect or worship because worship keeps the line of communication open to a personal relationship with Almighty God

There is power in community as well as individual worship. As one of the great hymns of the faith reminds us:

We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows
They sympathizing tear

Community worship also keeps the communities to which we belong accountable to God.

To get the most out of worship, focus on God and not on ourselves and others. We cannot worship God while we are dwelling in the seat of the scornful or consumed by administrative concerns or bound by procedures

To worship God is to be prepared for new and unexpected moves of God (Exodus 40: 34-38; I Kings 8: 11 and II Chronicles 5: 14; Acts 2)