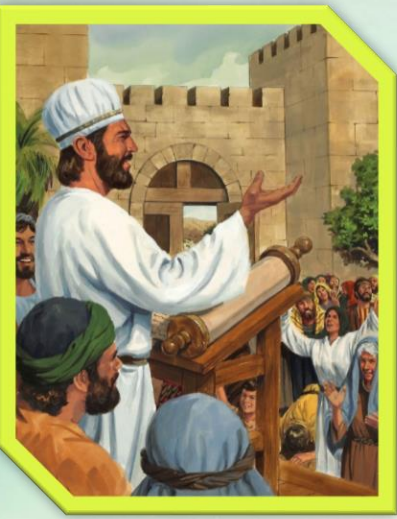


STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK OF PSALMS



ORGANIZATION AND GENERAL THEME

The book of Psalms was compiled and organized by Ezra based on previous compilations (one of the most important was made in the time of King Hezekiah). Ezra organized the psalter into books. He also composed Psalm 119 in acrostic form, using various psalms composed by David.



BOOK	PSALMS	CONTENT	FEATURED PSALMS
I	1-41	Personal regrets. Most of the psalms in this section mention agents who are adversaries of the psalmist, identified as “my enemies.”	1, 2, 24
II	42-72	Most were composed during the reign of David. The enemy is also mentioned in many of the psalms in this section.	45, 48, 51, 54-64
III	73-89	Compilations of the sons of Asaph and Korah	78
IV	90-106	Compilation of psalms of praise (95-100)	90, 103-105
V	107-150	Collection of hallelujahs (111-117) and pilgrimage psalms (120-134)	107, 110, 119

TYPES OF PSALMS

Hymns	General hymns	8, 29, 33, 100, 103, 104, 111, 113, 114, 117, 135, 136, 145-150
	Historical hymns	78, 105
	Hymns of Zion	46, 48, 76, 87, 122
	Hymns of reign	47, 93, 96-99
Lamentations	Individual lamentations	3, 5, 6, 7, 12, 73, 71, 22, 25, 26, 28, 31, 35, 36, 38, 39, 43, 51, 54, 55-57, 59, 61, 63, 64, 69-71, 86, 88, 102, 109, 120, 130, 40-143
	Community lamentations	44, 60, 74, 77, 79, 80, 82, 83, 85, 90, 97, 106, 18, 123, 126, 137
Miscellaneous	Psalms of the King	2, 18, 20, 21, 45, 72, 89, 101, 110, 132, 144
	Individual Thanksgivings	9, 10, 30, 32, 34, 40, 41, 92, 107, 116, 138
	Community Thanksgivings	65-68, 118, 124
	Individual Trust Psalms	4, 11, 16, 23, 27, 62, 84, 91, 121, 131
	Trusted Community Psalms	115, 125, 129, 133
	Liturgies	15, 24, 134
	Prophetic Exhortations	14, 50, 52, 53, 58, 75, 81, 95
	Didactic psalms	1, 19, 37, 49, 73, 112, 119, 127, 128, 139

LITERARY TECHNIQUES OF HEBREW POETRY

Simile

Expression in which two different things are compared, often introduced by “to be like” (Ps. 1:3)

Anthropomorphism

Attributing human forms or attributes to a non-human being or thing, especially a deity (Ps. 18:8-10)

Metonymy

Using the name of an object or concept for that of another with which it is related (Ps. 2:5)

Synecdoche

A part is used for the whole or the whole for a part (Ps. 44:6)

Acrostic

The first letters of the initial words of each verse spell a word, or use the letters of the alphabet in order (Ps. 119)

Anaphora

Repetition of one or more words at the beginning of two or more verses (Ps. 136)

Ellipse

Sudden jump from one topic to another (Ps. 21:12)

Aposiopesis

Sudden interruption in the middle of a sentence (Ps. 6:3)

Erotesis

Rhetorical question (Ps. 106:2)