

# **OT Wisdom Literature (OT6)**

## **The Book of Psalms – Part 1**

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# OT Wisdom Literature (OT6)

Apr 3 – Introduction to Wisdom Literature

Apr 10 – The Book of Job

Apr 17 – **No Class** (Holy Week)

Apr 24 – The Book of Psalms, Part 1

May 1 – **No Class**

May 8 – **No Class**

May 15 – The Book of Psalms, Part 2

May 22 – The Book of Proverbs

May 29 – The Book of Ecclesiastes

June 5 – The Song of Songs; Final Exam

# THE STRUCTURE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT



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GENESIS  
EXODUS  
LEVITICUS  
NUMBERS  
DEUTERONOMY

JOB  
PSALMS  
PROVERBS  
ECCLESIASTES  
SONG OF SOLOMON

ISAIAH  
JEREMIAH  
LAMENTATIONS  
EZEKIEL  
DANIEL

JOSHUA  
JUDGES  
RUTH  
1 SAMUEL  
2 SAMUEL  
1 KINGS  
2 KINGS  
1 CHRONICLES  
2 CHRONICLES  
EZRA  
NEHEMIAH  
ESTHER

Number of books  
in the  
Old Testament:

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of books  
in the  
New Testament:

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of books  
in the Bible:

\_\_\_\_\_

HOSEA  
JOEL  
AMOS  
OBADIAH  
JONAH  
MICAH  
NAHUM  
HABAKKUK  
ZEPHANIAH  
HAGGAI  
ZECHARIAH  
MALACHI

# The Book of Psalms

“Most Scripture speaks to us, while the Psalms speak for us.”  
Athanasius


“If the rest of Scripture may be called the speech of the Spirit of God to man, this book (the Psalms) is the answer of the Spirit of God in man.”

Alexander Maclaren

“The Psalms open up to us familiar access to God.”  
John Calvin

“The Psalms are like manna which taste to every man like that he loves best.”  
John Donne

# The Value of the Psalms

1. For renewal in worship and prayer.
  2. For renewal in self-awareness.
  3. To show the absolute mercy of God which finds fulfillment in the coming of Jesus.
  4. To reflect a realistic response to the suffering in the world.
  5. To reflect the community of God's people, worshipping, praying, witnessing and working together.
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# The Book of Psalms

**Title:** The Hebrew name for the book is *Tehillim*, or “Praises.” The Greek translation, *psalmoi*, means “instrumental music.”

**Author:** Seventy-three of the Psalms have superscriptions identifying King David as their author. Two (Ps. 72 & 127) are attributed to Solomon; Ps. 90 identifies Moses as its author; twelve Psalms (50, and 73-83) are ascribed to the family of Asaph; eleven Psalms (42, 44-49, 84-85, 87-88) are credited to the Sons of Korah; Ps. 88 is attributed to Heman; and Ps. 89 is assigned to Ethan the Ezrahite. Fifty Psalms do not identify their authors.

**Date of Writing:** If Moses did write Psalm 90 it would be the earliest, around 1450 BC; while Psalm 137 was apparently written during the Babylonian Captivity, around 586-538 BC. They were probably brought together into their present form shortly after the Captivity – around 537 BC.

# The Book of Psalms

**Recipients:** The ancient Jewish people, and everyone since.

**Themes:** The Book of Psalms is the longest book in the Bible, with 150 “chapters” or individual psalms. It is also one of the most diverse, dealing with subjects such as God and his creation, war, worship, wisdom, sin and evil, judgment, justice, and the coming of the Messiah.

**Content:** The Book of Psalms is a collection of prayers, poems and hymns that served as the worship hymnal from ancient Israel, leading worshipers into praise and adoration of God.

**Structure:** The Book of Psalms is a divided into Five Sections, each closing with a doxology:

**Book 1** – Psalm 1-41

**Book 2** – Psalm 42-72

**Book 3** – Psalm 73-89

**Book 4** – Psalm 90-106

**<sup>7</sup>Book 5** – Psalm

# The Book of Psalms

**Types of Psalms:** The simplest view of the Psalms identifies TWO forms – Psalms of Praise; and Psalms of Lament. But others have proposed the following Psalm forms:

1. **Hymns** – songs of praise for God and his work in creation.
2. **Communal Laments** – in which the nation laments some common disaster.
3. **Royal Psalms** – dealing with the king and events in his life.
4. **Individual Laments** – lamenting events in the life of an individual.
5. **Individual Thanksgiving Psalms** – in which an individual gives thanks for blessings.
6. **Wisdom Psalms** – similar to Proverbs.
7. **Psalms of Remembrance** – recollecting past events, especially God's great work on behalf of the Israelites.
8. **Judgment Psalms** – visiting curses on enemies.



# The Hallel

The Psalms of Praise

**Psalms 113-118**

(Sung at Feasts of Passover, Weeks & Tabernacles)



# The Song of Ascents

The Psalms sung by pilgrims going up to Jerusalem

**Psalms 120-134**