

# Psalms

- 150 Hymns and lyrical poetry
  - Largest Contribution written by King David
    - Talented musician 1 Sam 16: 14-23
    - Inventor of musical instruments, Amos 6:5
    - Accomplished poet 2 Sam 1: 19-27
    - Organizing liturgical music for the temple in Jerusalem 1 Chron 25: 1-6
  - Moses Psalm 90
  - King Solomon Psalm 72, 127
  - Jeduthum Psalm 39, 62, 77
  - Ethan the Ezrahite Psalm 89
  - Heman the Ezrahite Psalm 88
  - 11 written by sons of Korah (worship leaders) 42, 44-49, 84-85, 87-88
  - More than 30 were written by unknown authors
  - Dates: Between 1500 BC to 500 BC
- Psalter means Praises – This is a book of songs, praises, and hymns
- Structure:
  - Divided into five small books ending with a doxology
  - A doxology is a short hymn or expression of praise to God
  - The five doxologies: 41:13; 72:18-20; 89:52; 100:48 and finally 150:1-6 serving as doxology for the whole book.
- Arrangement of Book
  - The enumeration (numbering) of books differs
  - Greek Septuagint and Latin Vulgate differ
    - In the Ignatius Bible, psalms 9 and 10 are joined, as are psalms 114 and 115, while 116 and 147 are divided into two separate psalms. Check your notes leading into your book of Psalms. This Bible has the numbering following the Greek with the Latin in brackets [ ].
- With the exception of the Gospel, no other book in the Bible has a greater impact to the Christian liturgy.
- The popularity of the Psalms is due to its ability to draw into a dialogue with the Lord.
  - It shows us what a prayerful relationship with the Lord is like.
  - From the height of joy to the depths of pain and despair, and everything in between.
- Many psalms are prophetic
- No book is more quoted in the New Testament than the Book of Psalms

## Outline of the Book of the Psalms

### **1. Book One (psalms 1-41)**

- A. Preface to the Psalm (psalms 1-2)
- B. Psalms of David (psalms 3-41, 10 and 33 are untitled)

### **2. Book Two (42-72)**

- A. Psalms of the Sons of Korah (psalms 42-49, but 43 is untitled)
- B. Psalms of Asaph (Psalm 50)
- C. Psalms of David (Psalms 51-65)
- D. Miscellaneous Psalms (Psalms 66-67)
- E. Psalms of David (Psalms 68-71, but 71 is untitled)
- F. Psalms of Solomon (Psalm 72)

### **3. Book Three (73-89)**

- A. Psalms of Asaph (Psalms 73-83)
- B. Psalms of the Sons of Korah (Psalms 84-88, but 86 is Davidic)
- C. Psalms of Ethan (Psalm 89)

### **4. Book Four (90-106)**

- A. Psalms of Moses (Psalm 90)
- B. Miscellaneous Psalms (psalms 91-106, but Psalms 101 and 103 are Davidic)

### **5. Book Five (107-150)**

- A. Miscellaneous Psalm (Psalm 107)
- B. Psalms of David (Psalms 108-110)
- C. Miscellaneous Psalms (Psalms 111-112)
- D. The Hallel Psalms (Psalms 113-118)
- E. Psalm in Praise of the Law (Psalm 119)
- F. Songs of Ascents (Psalms 120-134, with Pss 122, 124, 131 being Davidic and Psalm 127 being Solomonic)
- G. Miscellaneous Psalms (Psalms 135-137)
- H. Psalms of David (Psalms 138-145)
- I. The Hallelujah Psalms (Psalms 146-150)