

THE PSALMS / ZABUR

Some scholars believe **150 poems of The Book of Psalms** of the **Old Testament** of both the Jewish and Christian Bible to be full range virtual expression of Israel's Religious Faith. The Book of Psalms in its current, most used forms, consists of 150 songs and prayers.

Songs or Praises in Psalms are identified by different headings for different chapters or different poems of this total generally agreed to be as 150 poems or Songs. For Example:

- **Psalms : Ch: 30 :** Songs of thanksgiving
- **Psalms : Ch: 72 :** The prayers of David s/o Jesse are ended
- **Psalms : Ch: 117 :** Hymns of praise
- **Psalms : Ch: 1 and 119 :** Psalms as in references to the Law

Dating the 150 poems individually is not just difficult but impossible.

The organizing and **numbering** of The Book of Psalms differs between **MASORETIC TEXT** of **Hebrew** which is the authoritative text of the Jewish Bible and the **SEPTUAGINT TEXT** of **Greek**. For example :

<u>Hebrew Psalms</u>	*	<u>Greek Psalms</u>
9 – 10	*	9
11 – 113	*	10 - 112
– 116	*	– 115
– 146	*	– 145

SEPTUAGINT's Version of Old Testament many a times include an extra Psalm that is **Psalm no: 151** said to be found in **Psalm Scroll** of **Dead Sea Scrolls** [The Dead Sea Scrolls are a collection of **972 texts** from the **Hebrew Bible** found on the **northwest shore of the Dead Sea** found by **Muhammad Ahmed al Hamed**, a Shepherd of **Bethlehem** in the winter of **1947 / 48** and then the entire story of these Dead Sea Scrolls as presented by Jew and Christian Scholars was constructed by **John C Trever**, claimed the first non Muslim to see those Dead Sea Scrolls after their discovery. John C Trever was a Biblical Scholar and Archaeologist who did his Ph.D in Old Testament from Yale Graduate School of the U.S.A. * **DEAD SEA : yamha melah** in Hebrew & **Bahral Mayyit** in Arabic is said to be the most saline sea located with its border on east touching Jordan and on West touching present day Israel].

PESHITTA said to be the standard version of **Syriac Bible** includes **Psalms : 152 – 155**.

There is no unanimity about the authorship of the Psalms and most of the 150 Psalms are ascribed to various authors of which modern day researchers consider most to be of unknown authors. BUT the **Masoretic Text** which is **the authoritative Jewish Bible** Text **considers 73 of the Psalms** to be **authored by David** pbuh.

IN JEWISH USAGE OF THE BOOK OF PSALMS is divided on the analogy of Pentateuch into **FIVE BOOKS** with

- **First Book** consisting **41 Psalms** of which **David is Supposed author** of : **4** of these Books
- **Second Book** consisting **31 Psalms** of which **David is Supposed author** of : **18** of these books
- **Third Book** consisting **17 Psalms** of which **David is Supposed author** of : **1** Book
- **Fourth Book** consisting **17 Psalms** of which **David is Supposed author** of : **3** of these Books
- **Fifth Book** consisting **44 Psalms** of which **David is Supposed author** of : **15** of these Books

CONCLUSION : There is no guarantee of the authenticity of entire Psalms or even those supposed to be Books of Psalms authored by Dawood *Alaihas Salaam* as to be truly those that were Revealed to Dawood *Alaihas Salaam* by Allah *Subhaanahu wa Ta'la*.

ZABUR Is believed by Muslims according to the Glorious Qur'an to be the Book of Allah that was **Revealed to Dawood** *Alaihas Salaam* by Allah. Zaboor was Revealed **after Torat** and **before the Injeel** (Gospel of Jesus).

According to certain research scholars the term **zabur** is the Arabic equivalent of the Hebrew zimra, meaning "song, music [**Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament**: vol: 1, pg: 245]."

The **Greek connotation** for Zabur from Arabic and Zimra from Hebrew is **Psalms**.

ZABUR AS MENTIONED IN QUR'AN

By name **Zabur** is mentioned in the Qur'an only **3** times :

1. Sura Nisa : **4** Aayat : **163**
2. Sura Isra : **17** Aayat : **55**
3. Sura Ambiya : **21** Aayat : **105**

The Aayat of Sura **Ambiya** : **21 : 105** in the **Glorious Qur'an** mentions the promise of Allah and States, 'And We [Allah] have already mentioned in the Zabur [Book of Psalms: 37 : 29] repeating the previous mention [Book of Exodus: 32 : 13] that the land [**Canaan** of Biblical times **now known** popularly **as Palestine** and also as The General Law of Allah is that the whole earth after Qur'an's Revelation is included Insh'Allah in the meaning of the Aayat and according to some Muslim Scholars it also includes HEREAFTER] will be inherited by My [Allah's] Righteous Servants.

The Qur'an and Authentic Ahaadees of Muhammad *Sallam* do not detail much about the Zabur Revealed to Dawood *Alaihas Salaam*, except that one Hadees of Muhammad *Sallam* recorded in Sahih **Buqari** : Vol: **4** H: **3417** says that Muhammad *Sallam* said, "The reciting of the Zabur (i.e. Psalms) was made easy for David. He used to order that his riding animals be saddled, and would finish reciting the Zabur before they were saddled. And he would never eat except from the earnings of his manual work."