

Introduction

The Power of Music ...to reach into our souls, to connect relationally to God and to others, to tap into our emotions—joy, grief, doubt, deep reflection, meditation, instruction, and exaltation,...

.....To Heal – My aunt’s career in music therapy; David’s ministry to Saul

“So it came about whenever the evil spirit from God came to Saul, David would take the harp and play it with his hand; and Saul would be refreshed and be well, and the evil spirit would depart from him.” 1 Sam. 16:23

Authors:

The inscriptions may not be inspired but should be considered historically accurate.

David:

73 of the Psalms are designated to David.

Asaph (a priest who headed the service of music)

12 Psalms

Sons of Korah (a guild of singers and composers)

10 Psalms

Solomon

2 (72, 127)

Authors:

Moses:

1 Psalm (90)

Heman

1 Psalm (88)

Ethan

1 Psalm (89)

Anonymous (some of these are traditionally attributed to Ezra)

50 psalms

Other Psalms not in the Psalms:

There are at least Eleven other Psalms in the Old Testament:

The Song of the Sea, Ex. 15:1-18

The Song of Moses, Dt. 32:1-43

The Song of Deborah, Jud. 5

The Song of Hannah, 1 Sam. 2:1-10

A Psalm of David, 2 Sam. 22:2-51, Ps. 18

Job’s Lament Psalms, Job 3, 7, 10

A Doxology of Isaiah, Is. 12:4-6
 The Song of Hezekiah, Is. 38:9-20
 Jeremiah's Lament Psalm, Lam. 3:19-38, 5
 The Prayer of Jonah, Jon. 2:1-9
 The Prayer of Habakkuk, Hab. 3:2-19

A Snapshot Overview of the Psalms:

Actually 5 Separate Books

Important to realize there were compilers as well as authors.

Over 1000 years of Israel's History

Songs, Hymns, Anthems of Praise

PSALMS	Book	Book 1 (1—41)	Book 2 (42—72)	Book 3 (73—89)	Book 4 (90—106)	Book 5 (107—150)
	Chief Author	David	David/Korah	Asaph	Anonymous	David/Anonymous
	Number of Psalms	41	31	17	17	44
	Basic Content	Songs of Worship	Hymns of National Interest		Anthems of Praise	
	Topical Likeness To Pentateuch	Genesis: Man and Creation	Exodus: Deliverance and Redemption	Leviticus: Worship and Sanctuary	Numbers: Wilderness and Wandering	Deuteronomy: Scripture and Praise
	Closing Doxology	41:13	72:18-19	89:52	106:48	150:1-6
	Possible Compiler	David	Hezekiah or Josiah		Ezra or Nehemiah	
	Possible Dates of Compilation	c. 1020-970 B.C.	c. 970-610 B.C.		Until c. 430 B.C.	
	Span of Authorship	About 1000 Years (c. 1410-430 B.C.)				

PSALMS

Jesus in the Psalms:

- 20 Different Psalms speak to the themes that we find represented the Gospels regarding Jesus' unique person and ministry.

Direct Prophecy of Jesus' Ministry:

Things to Notice:

- These are not only in the Gospels
- These are not only about His Earthly ministry

Key Verses:

Psalm 19:14, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer."

Psalm 145:21, "My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh shall bless His holy name forever and ever."

Psalm	Prophecy	Fulfillment
2:7	God will declare Him to be His Son	Matthew 3:17
8:6	All things will be put under His feet	Hebrews 2:8
16:10	He will be resurrected from the dead	Mark 16:6-7
22:1	God will forsake Him in His hour of need	Matthew 27:46
22:7-8	He will be scorned and mocked	Luke 23:35
22:16	His hands and feet will be pierced	John 20:25,27
22:18	Others will gamble for His clothes	Matthew 27:35-36
34:20	Not one of His bones will be broken	John 19:32-33,36
35:11	He will be accused by false witnesses	Mark 14:57
35:19	He will be hated without a cause	John 15:25
40:7-8	He will come to do God's will	Hebrews 10:7
41:9	He will be betrayed by a friend	Luke 22:47
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The Five Books of the Psalms:

They cover the whole History of Israel (1000 years)

They were written by different authors to different audiences. The historical setting is important.

They were compiled during three different periods of the United Kingdom, the Divided Kingdom, and the Post Exile

Each book ends with a doxology of praise and Psalm 150 is the doxology of the entire book.

Categories of the Psalms:

1 Chron. 16:4, "And he (David) appointed some of the Levites as ministers before the ark of the Lord, even to **celebrate**, and to **thank**, and to **praise** the Lord God of Israel."

Lament psalms – Direct address to God to petition for protection or deliverance; these can be individual or communal

Thanksgiving psalms – Acknowledgement of God's person and work in direct answer and deliverance and express renewed commitment to him; individual or communal

General praise psalms – Calls to worship and praise God.

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Royal psalms – Focus on the earthly king as foreshadowing of the Heavenly king, Ps. 2

Wisdom and Didactic psalms - To teach and instruct in the way of righteousness, Ps. 1, Ps. 119 (often with use of acrostic form, first letter of alphabet, as a memory device.)

Interpreting the Psalms:

1) Use the period of the book section and superscription to help better understand the historical context and audience.

2) Realize the association to definite aspects of Israel's worship. (Study Leviticus to see the parallel worship rituals)

3) Understand the structure and motifs of Hebrew poetry (parallelism, compare and contrast, progression, Psalm 1)

4) Do not allegorize the Messianic psalms, be mindful of the historical context of the author as well as future fulfillment.

Interpreting the Psalms – Key terms:

Selah – “a pause, crescendo, or musical interlude”

Maskil – possibly “contemplative, didactic, or skillful psalm”

Miktahm – possibly “epigrammatic or atonement psalm”

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Applications:

- Church music, though not equal to inspiration, continues to be the expression of the Holy Spirit through individuals to the church throughout the ages. Musicians, when spirit filled, are gifts of ministry to build up the body and should be encouraged in their ministry.
- Tapping into the Psalms gives release to the deepest elements of soul and spirit and can bring healing in our innermost parts. They encourage us to bear our soul to God. Spend time in the hymnal of Scripture.
- This same expression is meant to be shared with others to bless the congregation. Poets and musicians should be willing to be more vulnerable. These are common to man problems but not all of us have your gifts.
- The outworking of being filled with the Spirit is...
“speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Eph. 5:19-20

“Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” Col. 3:16

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