

# HIDDEN TREASURES IN THE PSALMS

A Summertime Selection From The Hymnbook of Israel

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## ספר תהלים *Sefer Tehillim* = Book of Praises or Psalms

**AUTHORSHIP** Hebrew Tradition: All 150 psalms written by David (lived 1040 – 970 BC).

Actually, roughly half can be attributed to David. Others were written long before and after his life. David is prominent in the psalms, and was known as the sweet psalmist of Israel” (2 Samuel 23:1)

### **111 Psalms With Named Authors:**

73–David    12–Asaph    11–Sons of Korah    10–Hezekiah    2– Solomon  
1–Moses    1–Heman    1–Ethan

**39 “Orphan” psalms**, although some can be reasonably traced back to one of these authors e.g., Psalm 2 is referenced in **Acts 4:24,25**; and Psalm 95 is referenced in **Hebrews 4:7** as Davidic

Psalms extend over 1000 years in writing, from Moses (Ps 90, c. 1440 BC) to Ezra (Ps 119, c. 444 BC)

Psalms also feature prominently in the NT, with as many as 400 references, quotes & allusions to the psalms.

Jesus often referred to the psalms

Psalms were quoted in epistles

Psalms were used for direction in the early church

Psalms were also used as forms of prayer

## **DIVISION OF THE PSALMS – 5 BOOKS (SIMILAR TO THE TORAH)**

		<b>Similar to</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Book 1	Psalms 1-41	Genesis	About Man
Book 2	Psalms 42-72	Exodus	Deliverance
Book 3	Psalms 73-89	Leviticus	Sanctuary
Book 4	Psalms 90-106	Numbers	Unrest / Wandering
Book 5	Psalms 107-150	Deuteronomy	Word of the Lord

## **THERE ARE OTHER SUBDIVISIONS OF PSALMS – A PROMINENT ONE IS “SONGS OF ASCENTS”**

These are 15 psalms (120 to 134) sung by pilgrims on their way up to Jerusalem

Psalms were used liturgically (sung by the Levitical choirs) in the 1st and 2nd Temple periods. Many of the psalms are prayers that are still “prayed” or sung by modern Jews, using Hebrew prayer books. It’s very common to observe men & women at the Western Wall praying these Tehillim.

## **MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF PSALMS**

LAW – Instructs

HISTORY – Teaches

PROPHECY – Announces, rebukes, chastens, etc.

PSALMS – Medicine of comfort and encouragement for us all. They are written to all of us, individually, for every season of life. They’re poems set to music and are intended for the lyre or the harp.

Psalms of praise; of lament; of thanksgiving; of prayer; royal psalms; and, among others, messianic psalms

## **MESSIANIC PSALMS**

There are many types of messianic psalms that prophesy the birth, life, death, resurrection, glory, priesthood, kingship, and return of Christ. The Psalms are full of Jesus Christ and – in one sense – offer a more complete picture of Him than the Gospels.

Gospels tell us He went to the mountain to pray; the Psalms give us His prayer.

Gospels tell us He was crucified; the Psalms tell us what was in His heart during the crucifixion.

Gospels tell us He went back to heaven; the Psalms show us Christ seated in heaven.

# HEBREW POETRY... JUST A LITTLE DIFFERENT THAN WESTERN POETRY

## The Nature of Poetry:

Phonetic Design      Rhyme is a parallelism of sound  
Rhythm is a parallelism of time

Conceptual Design    Parallelism of Ideas

Selah                      Parallelism to connect ideas

## Parallelism:

**Synonymous parallelism:** is where the 2<sup>nd</sup> line restates the 1<sup>st</sup>:

*“LORD, who shall abide in Thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in Thy holy hill?” (Ps 15:1)*

**Antithetic Parallelism:** is just the opposite – the lines are in contrast to each other: *“For evil doers shall be cut off; but those who wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.” (Ps 37:9)*

**Synthetic Parallelism:** is where each successive line expands the meaning: *“The statues of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.” (Ps 19:8,9)*

## A FEW HEBREW WORDS TO UNDERSTAND

### The Ineffable (indescribable) Name of God (Ps 138:2)

YHWH      יהוה

ENGLISH USE IN OT	HEBREW	HEBREW WORD	MEANING
LORD	יהוה	YHWH	The Name of God – Yehovah / Jehovah, etc.
Lord	אדני	Adonai	Son of God, Preincarnate / Presence of God
lord	אדן	Adon	A human master

### Messiah / The Anointed One

ENGLISH USE IN OT	HEBREW	HEBREW WORD	MEANING
Anoint	משח	Mashach	Verb: To anoint
Anointed	משיח	Mashiyach	Messiah