



## Outline of Old Testament: Psalms by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

**Psalms = Praises (or, Lyrics from Life) [God Is Personal]**  
Of 283 direct references to the **Redemption** **Blueprint for**  
Old Testament in the New Testament,  
116 are from **Psalms**<sup>1</sup>

### I. 115 Psalms Have Titles, Except These 35:

**1; 2; 10; 33; 43; 71; 91; 93-97; 99;  
104-107; 111-119; 135-137; 146-150**

#### A. David's Name Is On Some 74 Psalms By:

**Matthew 22:43**

##### 1. Name :

a. Listed on the Psalm: **2-9; 11-32; 34-41; 51-65;  
68-70; 86; 101; 103; 108-110; 122;  
124; 131; 133; 138-145**

b. Named by Holy Spirit:

- 1) Psa. 2:1-2 (Acts 4:25)**
- 2) Psa.16:8-11 (Acts 2:25-31)**
- 3) Psa. 95:7-8 (Hebrews 4:7)**

##### 2. Events in his life:

a. delivered from the hand of Saul **18;**

b. **2 Sam.11-12** - sinned with Bathsheba **51;**

c. **53; 59; 63; 142**

d. When persecuted by Saul: **7; 11; 16;**

**17; 22; 31; 34; 35; 52 (1 Samuel 22:9); 54;**

**56 (1 Samuel 22:11); 57; 58; 109; 113; 140; 141**

e. When David reigned: **2; 6; 9; 20;**

**21; 24; 29; 30; 31; 38**

**39; 40; 41; 68; 101**

f. When Absalom rebelled: **3; 4; 55; 62;**

**70; 71; 143; 144**

---

<sup>1</sup> (W. Graham Scroggie *Handbook*, p.114)

B. Other Authors and the number each wrote ( ):

1. Moses (1): **90**
2. School of Korah (10): **42; 44-49; 84-85; 87-88**
3. School of Asaph, cousin of Heman (12): **73-79; 81-83**
  - a. David ordered Asaph to write **96:1-13 & 105:1-15**  
(**1 Chronicles 16:7,37**): **73-83**
  - b. **2 Chronicles 29:30**
4. Solomon (2): **72; 127**
5. Ethan (1) a.k.a. Jeduthun  
(**1 Chronicles 15:17; 16:41-42; 25:1**): **89**
6. Heman (1) descendant of Korah **1 Chronicles 6:33-37**: **88**
7. Anonymous (50)

## II. Psalms That Tie-In With History:

A. Before the Babylonian Captivity (before **2 Kings 25 & 2 Chronicles 36**):

**18; 30; 45; 72; 74; 76; 78; 79; 82; 83**

B. During the Captivity (through many of the Prophets):

**10; 12-14; 15; 25-28; 36-37; 53; 42-44; 49-50; 60; 64; 69; 73; 75; 77; 80; 84; 86; 88; 89-90; 92-93; 95; 109; 120-121; 130-132; 137**

C. Following the return to the Promised Land (from **Ezra-Esther**):

**23; 61; 63; 47-48; 59; 65-67; 85-87; 96-100; 102-108; 111-114; 116-118; 122; 124; 125-129; 133-138; 146-150<sup>2</sup>**

## III. There Are Five (5) Books In "Psalms"

**Each Ends In A Liturgical Doxology ("Amen, Amen" or "Hallelujah")**

(Moses' Pentateuch is five books, each with its own special part of Israel's history,

so, each "psalter" seems to have its own theme):

1. **Book I: 1-41 - Introduces human life and needs (Genesis?)**
2. **Book II: 42-72 - Redemption/Deliverance (Exodus?)**
3. **Book III: 73-89 - Nearing God His Way (Leviticus?)**
4. **Book IV: 90-106 - Tried & Failed (Numbers?)**
5. **Book V: 107-150 - Second Chance (Deuteronomy?)**

---

<sup>2</sup> adapted from Hugo McCord, Chapter 19: "Living Message of Psalms," 1977 Spiritual Sword Lectureship, Memphis, TN

## IV. Jesus Preached Himself From Psalms

- A. Before He died
  - 1. **Matthew 41:42 (Psalm 118:22)**
  - 2. **Matthew 22:42-45 (Psalm 110:1)**
  
- B. After His Resurrection, No Psalm Left Unfulfilled By Him
  - 1. **Luke 24:27** - expounded all concerning Himself
  - 2. **Luke 24:44-49** - all things fulfilled concerning Him
  
- C. Christ's Apostles Preached Jesus From **Psalms:**
  - 1. On Pentecost **Acts 2** Peter used **Psalm 16; 110; 132**
  - 2. **Acts 4:11; 1 Peter 2:7 (Psalm 118:22)**
  - 3. **Acts 13:33-35** Paul used **Psalm 2; 15**
  - 4. **John 2:17 (Psalm 69:9)**
  - 5. **Matthew 13:35 (Psalm 78:2)**

## C. Messiah Is Preached:

In Psalm:	As Being:	By:
<u>8:4-5</u>	<u>Human</u>	<u>Hebrews 2:6-8</u>
<u>2:7</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>Hebrews 1:5; Matthew 3:17</u>
<u>110:1</u>		<u>Matthew 22:42-45</u>
<u>45:6,11</u>	<u>God</u>	<u>Hebrews 1:8</u>
<u>45:7; 89:18-19</u>	<u>Holy</u>	<u>Hebrews 1:9</u>
<u>110:4</u>	<u>Priest</u>	<u>Hebrews 5:6</u>
<u>2:6; 89:18-19</u>	<u>King</u>	<u>Acts 5:31; Revelation 19:16</u>
<u>110:5,6</u>	<u>Victor</u>	<u>Revelation 6:17</u>
<u>61:6,7; 45:17;</u>	<u>Eternal</u>	<u>Hebrews 1:10</u>
<u>72:17; 102:25-27</u>		
<u>22:27; 65:2,5; 66:4;</u>	<u>All Authority</u>	<u>Revelation 19:16;</u>
		<u>1 Timothy 6:15</u>
<u>68:29-33; 72:8; 86:9;</u>		<u>Matthew 28:18-20</u>
<u>102:15,22; 103:19; 138:4</u>		
<u>40:6-8</u>	<u>Obedient</u>	<u>Hebrews 5:8-9;10:5-7</u>
<u>69:9</u>	<u>Zealous</u>	<u>John 2:17</u>
<u>69:9</u>	<u>Sufferer</u>	<u>Revelation 15:3</u>
<u>41:9</u>	<u>Betrayed</u>	<u>Luke 22:48</u>
<u>22:</u>	<u>Cross/Death</u>	
<u>1, 19-24</u>		<u>Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34;</u>
		<u>Hebrews 5:7</u>
<u>6-8</u>		<u>Matthew 27:39-44</u>
<u>15.</u>		<u>John 19:28</u>
<u>16.</u>		<u>John 20:25</u>
<u>17.</u>		<u>John 19: 33-36</u>
<u>18</u>		<u>Matthew 27:35; Mark 15:24;</u>
		<u>Luke 23:34; John 19:24</u>
<u>31:5</u>	<u>Final Words</u>	<u>Luke 23:46; Matthew 27:50</u>
<u>2:7; 16:8-10</u>	<u>Resurrection</u>	<u>Acts 2:22-31; 13:33-36</u>
<u>68:18</u>	<u>Ascension</u>	<u>Ephesians 4:8</u>
<u>9:8</u>	<u>Judgment</u>	<u>Acts 17:30-31</u>

## V. Psalms Divided According To Need:

- ✘ Messianic **2; 16; 22; 24; 40; 45; 68; 69; 72; 97; 110; 118**
- ✘ Praising God's Works in "nature:" **19; 65; 104**
- ✘ Thankful **136**
- ✘ Sorrowful **12; 79**
- ✘ Imprecatory **109** (Man's wrong thoughts rightly recorded  
**Cf 13:1-2; 58:6,10; Cf Job 42:3,8; Habakkuk 1:2; Jeremiah 4:10; 12:1; 17:18)**
- ✘ Penitential **6; 32; 38; 51; 102; 130; 143**
- ✘ Hallelujah **103; 106; 111-118; 135; 146-150**  
*Hallelujah* **111-113; 146-150**  
*Hallels* **114-118**  
Sung before Passover **113-114**  
Sung after Passover **115-118**  
**Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:16-26; Luke 22:7-23**
- ✘ Didactic **1; 5; 7; 15; 17; 23; 50; 73; 94; 96; 101**
- ✘ Pilgrim **120-134**
- ✘ Prayer **17; 71; 86; 90; 102; 142**
- ✘ Royal **92-100**
- ✘ Devotional **3; 16; 28; 41; 54; 55; 59; 61; 67; 70; 86; 122; 144**
- ✘ Morning **3-5; 19; 57; 63; 108**
- ✘ Evening **4; 8; 143**
- ✘ Meditation **16; 56; 60**
- ✘ Trouble **4; 5; 11; 28; 41; 55; 59; 64; 109; 120; 140; 143**
- ✘ Historical **78; 105; 106<sup>3</sup>**

---

<sup>3</sup> adapted from *Scroggie's Bible Handbook*, by W. Graham Scroggie, Fleming H. Revell Company, Old Tappan, New Jersey, n.d.

## VI. Each Psalm Type Follows A Pattern Of Expression:<sup>4</sup>

### A. *Lament Psalms:*

1. Address to God, Invocation
  - a. first person address to God (I, you)
  - b. an initial plea
2. Complaint to God
  - a. description of problem, questions asked of God
  - b.** crisis of any kind; in *penitential psalms* it is sin
3. Claim of innocence
  - a. often includes an initial plea for help
  - b. condemnation of "wicked" or "enemy"
4. Affirmation of Trust
  - a. But as for me" or "Nevertheless"
  - b. turning point of the psalm; theological focus
5. Petition
  - a. plea for God's intervention
  - b. often uses the words "save" or "deliver"
6. Acknowledgment of Response
  - a. assurance of hearing
  - b. vow of praise, worship
7. Doxology: blessings, praise

### B. *Thanksgiving or Todah Psalms*

1. Summary of the Testimony of the Psalmist
  - a) recalls plea for help
  - b) recounts God's intervention
2. Narration of the Psalmist's experience
  - a) the original problem
  - b) the cry for help
  - c) God's deliverance
3. Acknowledgement of God's aid in Praise/Thanks
  - a) worship, with the word *todah*: praise, sacrifice, blessings
  - b) cry of praise

---

<sup>4</sup> outlines by Dennis Bratcher, *Patterns for Life: Structure, Genre, and Theology in Psalms*

### ***C. Hymnic Psalms***

1. Call to Praise
  - a) uses an imperative
  - b) addressed to the community (plural)
2. Reason for Praise
  - a) "because" or "for"
  - b) God described with participial clause,  
"God, who [activity]"
  - c) God's deliverance
3. Renewed Call to Praise (balances beginning)
  - a) uses an imperative
  - b) addressed to the community (plural)

## **Psalm Notes:**

### ✓ **Book of Fascinating Facts:**

✘ Middle verse of the whole English Bible is **118:8**:  
"It is better to trust in the LORD Than to put confidence in man."  
**Truly this is the theme in the entire Word of God!**

✘ **Psalm 117** is the shortest chapter in the Bible;  
**119** is the longest chapter in the Bible.

**Psalm 119** is sectioned according to the Hebrew alphabet of 22 letters.

1. In each section of 8 lines, all lines in Hebrew begin with the same letter of the alphabet for that section! It was so arranged as to be easily memorized and recited. It is the greatest tribute to God's Word in the Bible!

2. There are 10 Hebrew words for Moses' Law appearing in this chapter (translated by 8 English words: testimony, way, word, judgment, precept, commandment, law, statute). On average, no verse is without one of these words in it!

✘ **Psalm 23** is read and remembered by nearly all people, **107:15** is unknown and ignored by nearly all people!

✘ The only Bible quoted by the Devil is **Psalm 91:11-12**, and he misquotes it by omitting half of **verse 11**

**Cf Matthew 4:6; Luke 4:10-11**

✘ Chapters completely repeated: **Psalm 14/53**

✓ **The only chapter number cited by the Holy Spirit is Psalm 2 in Acts 13:33.**

✓ **The biggest single Book in the Bible expansively "plucks" every human heart string before God's Will, yet shows the greatest God of all hears and helps! NO OTHER RELIGION ON EARTH HAS SUCH A GOD! Psalm 18:31-"For who is God, except the LORD?" Psalm 20:7-"Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God."**

✓ **If we place each Psalm within the history from which it came, we see the God who cares, the same one in the New Testament Cf 2 Corinthians 1:3-11**