

DAVID: SINGER of ISRAEL

Week 15: United Kingdom: David—Trials of a King (2 Samuel; Psalms)

The Bible as a whole is actually a collection of many books written by various men, inspired by God, over thousands of years. Likewise the book of Psalms is not single book, in and of itself, but a collection of many poems, composed or compiled mostly by King David. David was the second king of Israel (c. 1000BC) probably best known for his slaying of Goliath with a pebble and a slingshot in the name of the Lord. But as one reads through 2 Samuel, it is demonstrated that David did not always have a Goliath-slaying attitude. He rode the roller-coaster of doubt, trouble, despair and struggle. But, what is seen in the collection of these Psalms is David's trust and dependency in the Lord.

David's writings in the psalms are varied and display many of his emotions and experiences throughout his life. They chronicle his encounters as a young shepherd boy, his time fighting the enemies of Israel as well as his own personal enemies, his leadership while in the kingship, and much more. In addition, these were not just poems but many times were lyrics for songs played in the temple and throughout Israel to be accompanied by the harp, flute and other musical instruments.

Week Fifteen Reading Plan

Psalms 19:1-14; 23:1-6	The Wonders of the Great Shepherd
2 Sam. 9:1-13	David Cares for Mephibosheth
2 Sam. 11:1-12:25	David and Bathsheba
Psalms 51; 139	God Knows All About us
1 Chron. 22:2-19	David's Plan for Building the Temple
Psalms 103; 86	God's Wonderful Love
2 Sam. 18:1-19:8	David's Rebellious Son Defeated

As such, the book of Psalms expresses worship. It encourages its readers to praise God for who He is and what He has done. The Psalms illuminate the greatness of our God, affirms His faithfulness to us in times of trouble, and remind us of the absolute centrality of His Word. As the Psalms present a clear picture of God lovingly guiding His people, the responses of praise and worship to God are never far from the David's pen. The portrayal of worship in the Psalms offers us glimpses of heart devoted to God, individuals repentant before Him, and lives changed through encounters with Him.

The dominating theme in the psalms of David is his praise of God and trusting in the Lord despite the enemies and troubles surrounding him. David's enemies included neighboring peoples, foreign invaders, those of his own house, and even his very own temptations and thoughts ("in the multitude of my thoughts within me, Thy comforts delight my soul").

AUTHORS OF THE PSALMS

- **David** - 1-41, 55-71, 138-150
- **Family of Asaph** - 50, 73-83
- **Sons of Korah** - 42-49, 84-87)
- **Solomon** - 72, 127
- **Moses** - 90
- **Ethan (Herman) the Ezrahite** - 88-89

With the exception of Solomon and Moses, all these additional authors were priests or Levites who were responsible for providing music for sanctuary worship during David's reign. Fifty of the psalms designate no specific person as author.

One of the most quoted lines from the psalms ever is from the 23rd Psalm, "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for You are with me." His unwavering hope in God is shown in its most basic sense that even through death God will remain faithful: "He will be our guide even unto death" (49:14).

By the sheer openness of the writings of David, it is clear that he was real with himself, his God, and his people. He knew that life was full of things like war, struggles, failure, temptation, and despair; yet David continually trusted in the Lord as his protector and teacher. The psalms reveal that he did this with a passionate heart that is made plain, yet imaginative, to people of all ages who may be dealing with any number of trials.

We can bring all our feelings to God—no matter how negative or complaining they may be—and we can rest assured that He will hear and understand. King David teaches us that the most earnest prayer of all is a cry for help as we find ourselves overwhelmed by the problems of life.

Book Chapters # of Psalms	Book 1 1-41 (41 Psalms)	Book 2 42-72 (31 Psalms)	Book 3 73-89 (17 Psalms)	Book 4 90-106 (17 Psalms)	Book 5 107-150 (44 Psalms)
Closing Doxology	Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen and Amen. 41:13	Praise be to His glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen. 72:18-19	Praise be to the LORD forever! Amen and Amen. 89:52	Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the LORD. 106:48	Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD. 150:1-6
Similar to a Book of Moses	Genesis: emphasis on humanity and creation	Exodus: emphasis on deliverance and redemption	Leviticus: emphasis on worship and the sanctuary	Numbers: emphasis is on the wilderness and wanderings	Deuteronomy: emphasis on the word of God and praise
Chief author	David	David & Korah	Asaph	Anonymous	David & Anonymous
Compiler	David	Hezekiah or Josiah		Ezra or Nehemiah	
Dates of Compilation	1020–970BC	970-610BC		up until 430BC	
Basic Content	Worship	Hymns of National Interests		Anthems of Praise	
Years Spanned	About 1,000 years, but mainly between 1000-500BC				
Overall Theme	We worship God for who He is and what He has done				

TYPES OF PSALMS

- **Didactic** - intended to teach. (1/3 of the Psalms)
- **Hallelujah** - Hallel means *praise*. (8, 19, 24, 29, 47, 50, 65-66, 76-77, 93-99, 104, 111-115, 134, 139, 147-150)
- **History** - Deals with a portion of Jewish history — commonly with the flight from Egypt. (78, 105, 106)
- **Imprecatory** - Prayers of a man for vengeance on his enemies. (35, 54-59, 68-71, 83, 109, 137-140, 143-144)
- **Lament** - Prayers for God's deliverance and comfort when everything is going wrong. (1/3 of the Psalms)
- **Messianic** - Psalms that contain references to Christ. (2, 16, 23, 24, 67, 68, 69, 72, 93, 96, 97, 98, 99, 110, 118)
- **Penitential** - Psalms that deal with sin and forgiveness. (6, 25, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143)
- **Pilgrimage** - Songs of worship for pilgrims. They express celebration. (43, 46, 48, 76, 84, 87, 120-134)
- **Royal** - Proclaims the reign of the earthly and the heavenly King. (2, 18, 20, 21, 45, 72, 89, 101, 110, 132, 144)
- **Supplication** - Prayers requesting favor for oneself or another. (20, 67, 112, 122, 132, 134, 144)
- **Thanksgiving** - Praise and gratitude for the blessings God gives. (8, 19, 29, 33, 65, 67, 68, 81, 103)