

# OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

## PERIOD FIVE

### PSALMS

#### LESSON 24

*In this lesson we want to learn -*

- *who wrote the psalms*
- *the five parts in the book of psalms*
- *the seven kinds of psalms.*

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

##### **A. Most people like the Psalms.**

The book of Psalms is one of the books of the Old Testament that almost everyone reads. Young people like the Psalms. Old people like the Psalms. People like the Psalms because they tell about things that happen to people. They tell how people feel about many things that happen.

The Psalms tell about joys and sorrows. They tell about hopes and fears. They tell about victories and defeats.

We can often tell of our love for God by using the words of the Psalms.

##### **B. Many people wrote the Psalms.**

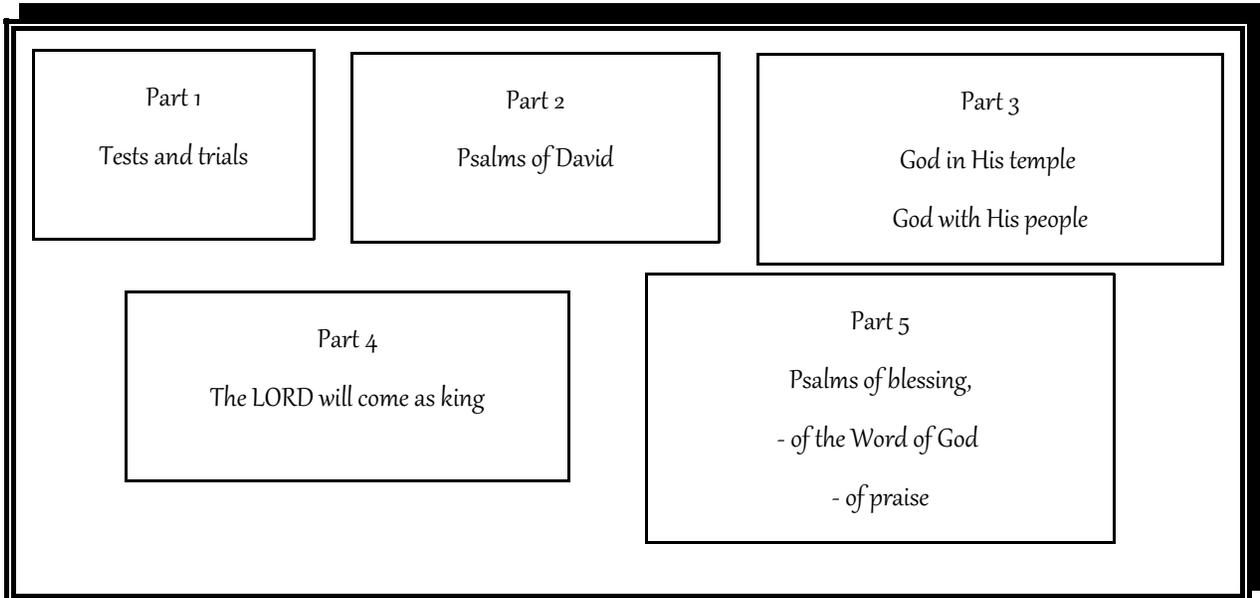
There are 150 psalms in the book. They are written by different men. David wrote 73 psalms. Asaph wrote 12 psalms. The sons of Korah wrote 10 psalms. Solomon wrote 2 psalms. Moses, Ezrahites, Herman and Ethan wrote one psalm each. We do not know who wrote the rest of the psalms.

##### **C. It took many years to write the Psalms.**

It took many years to write the Psalms. Some psalms were written before David lived. Some were written when Hezekiah lived. One psalm was written by Moses. This is why each psalm has its own message.

We do not know who chose the psalms and put them together into one book. David started the singing in the temple. Maybe he started to collect the psalms and put them into a book. It is believed that the prophet Ezra put the psalms together the way they are today.

## 2. PARTS OF THE BOOK OF PSALMS



The book of Psalms is divided into five parts. Each part ends with "Amen, Amen," or "Amen, Praise ye the Lord." See Psalms 41, 72, 89, 105 and 150. (Amen means "let it be that way.")

Some teachers have tried to name each part. It is very hard to name each part because there are many thoughts in each part. We will look at some of these thoughts.

### A. Part one - tests and trials, Psalms 1 - 41.

Most of these psalms are about the tests and trials of God's people. Some psalms show the difference between the godly and ungodly.

READ PSALM 1.

What does the blessed or happy man not do (Psalm 1:1)?

What does the blessed man do (Psalm 1:2)?

What will he be like (Psalm 1:3)?

What are the ungodly like (Psalm 1:4)?

What will happen to the ungodly (Psalm 1:6)?

READ PSALM 2.

The nations fight against God. Who will rule over the nations (Psalm 2:6,7)? (See Hebrews 1:5-8).

READ PSALM 40.

What did the Lord do for David when he waited for Him (Psalm 40:1-3)?

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## **B. Part two, Psalms of David, Psalms 42 - 72.**

Many of David's psalms are in this part. He wrote many of these psalms while hiding from Saul. Some psalms tell of Jesus Christ coming to be king of Israel. Some psalms tell of the nations coming to Christ. See Psalms 42, 45, 60, 62.

READ PSALM 46.

What was God to David (Psalm 46:1)?

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Where is the Lord?

Psalm 46:5

Psalm 46:7

Psalm 46:11

READ PSALM 51.

David sinned by taking Bath-sheba as his wife. David knew he had sinned. This psalm tells how he repented of his sin.

What did David ask the Lord to do (Psalm 51:10)?

What kind of sacrifice does God want (Psalm 51:17)?

**C. Part three, God is in His temple and with His people, Psalms 73-89.**

These psalms tell of the Lord being in His holy temple, or sanctuary. The sanctuary is the holy place in the temple. These psalms also tell of the Lord being with His people. Most of these psalms were written by Asaph. Asaph led the singing in the temple. See Psalm 73:17; 77:13; 84 to 89.

READ PSALM 84.

What does the writer want to do (Psalm 84:2)?

Where does the writer want to be (Psalm 84:10)?

What promises are given to the upright (people who live good lives) (Psalm 84:11)?

**D. Part four, The LORD will come as king, Psalms 90 - 106.**

These psalms tell about the LORD coming to be king. The word "LORD" in the Old Testament often means "Jesus Christ" in the New Testament. The LORD is to come and judge the people of Israel. He will be their king. All the nations of the world will come and worship Him. See Psalms 93; 96:13; 97:1-5.

MEMORIZE PSALM 100. WRITE IT OUT.

**E. Part five, Psalms of blessing, of the Word of God, of praise, Psalms 107 - 150.**

Some of the psalms in this part tell how the LORD blessed the people of Israel. Some tell how the people of Israel were a blessing to other nations.

Some psalms are about the Word of God. Psalm 119 is the best known psalm about the Word of God. This psalm is found in the center of the Bible. (Take your Bible - hold it at Genesis and Revelation. Open the Bible right in half. There, close to the middle, you will find Psalm 119.)

READ PSALM 119.

What will the Word of God do for a young man (Psalm 119:9)?

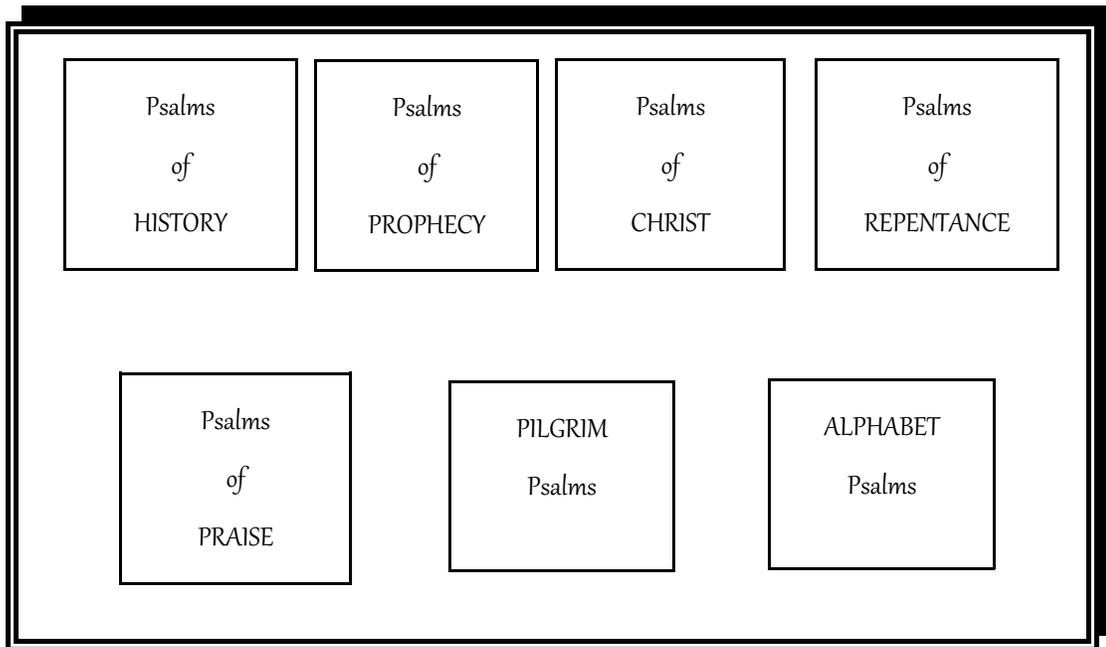
How will the Word of God help us if we memorize it (Psalm 119:11)?

What will the Word of God do for us (Psalm 119:105)?

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The last psalms in part five are psalms of praise.

### 3. KINDS OF PSALMS



The Psalms tell about many things. We will not list all the things in this lesson. We will only list some of the important things. The Psalms tell about history, prophecy, about Christ coming, repentance and praise.

#### **A. Psalms of history.**

History is what happened in the past. See Psalms 78, 105 and 106. READ PSALM 78.

#### **B. Psalms of prophecy.**

To prophesy is to tell what will happen in time to come. See Psalms 2, 16, 22, 40, 45, 68, 110, 118. READ PSALM 40.

#### **C. Psalms of Christ.**

Psalms of Christ are called Messianic psalms. They told that Jesus Christ would come. They told that Jesus Christ would suffer. These psalms told what Jesus Christ would do. See Psalms 2, 8, 16, 22, 23, 24, 40, 45, 68, 69.

Psalm 22 is about the suffering of Christ. READ Psalm 22, Matthew 27 and Luke 23. Write down the verses in the New Testament that go with:

Psalm 22:1 - Matthew 27:

Psalm 22:18 - Matthew 27:

Psalm 23 is about Christ, our Shepherd. It would be good to memorize this Psalm.

#### **D. Psalms of repentance.**

David wrote Psalm 51. It tells how David repented of his sin. See Psalms 6, 32, 38, 51, 52, 80, 143. READ PSALM 51.

#### **E. Psalms of praise.**

There are many psalms of praise in this book. See Psalms 65, 95 to 100, 111 to 118, 146 to 150. READ PSALM 150.

#### **F. Pilgrim Psalms.**

The pilgrim psalms are Psalms 120 to 134. They are also called "Songs of degrees" or "Songs of ascents." It is believed that the Jewish people would sing these songs as they travelled to Jerusalem. All the people were to go to Jerusalem for the important feasts. "Degrees" means the different places along the roads to Jerusalem. "Ascents" means the roads going "up" to Jerusalem.

#### **G. Alphabet Psalms.**

Psalm 119 is an alphabet psalm. The first 8 verses start with the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The second 8 verses start with the second letter of the Hebrew alphabet. This is done all through the psalm. At the top of each group is the letter that is used.

Psalms 25, 34, 111, 112 are also alphabet psalms.

We could never learn all there is in the Book of Psalms in this lesson. May this lesson cause you to spend more time in this wonderful book.

### **WORDS TO LEARN**

1. godly - righteous , like God.
2. ungodly - wicked, not like God.
3. messianic - that which belongs to the Messiah or Christ.
4. pilgrim - one who travels to a holy place.
5. sanctuary - is the holy place in the temple or house of God.