

The Organization of the Psalter

Book 1: 1–41

Double Introduction

Ps 1 - An invitation to embrace God's wisdom and walk in the way of the righteous
Ps 2 - An invitation to believe and submit to the LORD's "Anointed"

- All are Davidic Pss, except 10 and 33 which have no superscription
- But Ps 10 continues Ps 9 (together = one acrostic psalm)
- Ps 33 has thematic connections with Ps 32.

(note especially 32:11 with 33:1, and 32:10 with 33:21-22)

Psalm 41

The LORD will raise up the Messianic King to triumph over His enemies

Doxology
Ps 41:13

Ps 2: The Messianic Hope in the Davidic Covenant is Immutable (God's Perspective)

Book 2: 42–72

- 42-49 = 1st Korah Collection
 - Ps 43 is probably part of Ps 42
 - Ps 42-45 are Maskil Psalms (see 52-55)
- 50 = Asaph Psalm (mentions adultery, anticipating Ps 51)
- 51-71 = Mostly Davidic Pss
 - But Pss 67 & 71 have no superscription
 - Pss 52-55 = Maskil Pss
 - Pss 56-60 = Mikhtam Pss
- 72 = Solomonite (Points to the Messianic King & Kingdom)

Psalm 72

The Messiah will have a glorious universal reign exalting righteousness

Doxology
Ps 72:18-19

Ps 72: The Messianic Hope in the Davidic Covenant is Visualized in its Kingdom Fulfillment

Book 3: 73–89

- 73-83 = Asaph Collection (recall Ps 50)
- 84-85 = 2nd Korah Collection (recall 42-49)
- 86 = Prayer of David
- 87-88 = 3rd Korah Collection (Pss 88 & 89 are both Maskil Psalms)
- 89 = Psalm of Ethan (regarding the Davidic Covenant)
Note 89:46 – "How long, O LORD?"
Frustration that God seems to be ignoring the Davidic Covenant promises.

Psalm 89

The LORD will fulfill the Davidic Covenant Promises in His "Son-Messiah"

Doxology
Ps 89:52

Ps 89: The Messianic Hope in the Davidic Covenant is Questioned (Man's Perspective)

Ps 90: A Look Back to Moses the Lawgiver

God is a Secure Refuge; the Problem is with the Nation's Sin

Ps 106: National Humility & Confession

Because of Disobedience to God's Law, Must Seek for God's Favor To be Restored

Book 4: 90–106

- 90 = Psalm of Moses
- 91 = No superscription
- 92 = For Sabbath (no author)
- 93-99 = Kingship of Yahweh Pss
- 100 = Ps of Thanksgiving (no author)
- 101 = Davidic Psalm
- 102 = Prayer of the Afflicted (no author)
- 103 = Davidic Psalm
- 104-105 = No superscription
- 106 = No superscription / Hallelujah Ps (Focus on Confession & Forgiveness)

Doxology
Ps 106:46

Notice the Linking:
Comp. 106:1 with 107:1

Book 5: 107–145

- 107 = No Superscription (God's loyal-love is the basis for forgiveness & restoration)
- 108-110 = Davidic Pss (linking words & themes)
- 111-113 = Hallelujah Pss
- 114-118 = No superscription
- 119 = Torah Psalm (acrostic pattern)
- 120-134 = Pss of Ascent (pilgrimage)
- 135-137 = No superscription (Ps 137 is a psalm of the Baby. Exile)
- 138-145 = Davidic Pss (Ps 145 is a Ps of total adoration for the Lord)

Grand Doxology
Ps s 146-150

Grand Concluding Doxology

Pss 146-150
Hallelujah Psalms

Depicts the entire universe in united praise, adoration and worship of the LORD God.

"Let everything that has breath praise the LORD."