

# Bible Training Institute

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

A scroll of aged, yellowish parchment is unrolled against a dark red background. The parchment has a textured, slightly mottled appearance with some faint stains. The word "Psalms" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font in the center of the scroll. The scroll is partially unrolled, with the top and bottom edges showing the rolled-up sections.

# Psalms

# Introduction to Psalms

- Title: Hebrew - “Tehillim”—“Praises”
  - Septuagint - “Psalms”—“songs accompanied by the plucking of strings”
- Authors
  - David—73x                      Moses—Ps 90
  - Solomon—2x                      Asaph—12x
  - Sons of Korah—10x
  - Heman—88                      Ethan—89
- Date: 1410 BC (Ps 90)- 450 BC (Ps 126)

# Historical and Theological Themes

- Sovereignty of God
  - God of Creation (e.g., Ps 74)
  - God of Israel (e.g., Ps 105)
  - God of the Nations (e.g., Ps 33)
  - God Who will Establish His rule (e.g., Ps 2)
- People of God– “the righteous”
- Enemies of God- “The wicked”

# Historical and Theological Themes

- God Attributes Made Known to His People
  - Loyalty
  - Goodness
  - Faithfulness
  - Righteousness
  - Compassion
- David and the Davidic Covenant (78, 89, 132)

# Purpose of Psalms

*The righteous pray to and praise  
YHWH as they await the coming  
of God's kingdom.*

# Literary Structure

- Five books—Based on the theme of Kingdom of God
- Each book ends with a Psalm of doxology and praise
- Likely that Psalms 1 (& 2?) and 150 were written specifically as the intro and ending

# Literary Structure

- **Book 1**—1-41—Deals with the Exiled King Expecting the Kingdom
- **Book 2**—42-72—About the Ideal King—He is yet to come
- **Book 3**—73-89—The Pure in Heart Hope in God even when the kingdom seems to be faltering
- **Book 4**—90-106—Israel in Exile (Ps 93-99 are key)
- **Book 5**—107-150—Post-Exilic—e.g., Ps 126—Restoration has taken place but still incomplete



# Interpretive Issue

## The Imprecations in the Psalms

- “Imprecation”—“imprecatory prayer” = a spoken curse
  1. Evil emotions?
  2. Old Covenant only?
  3. Expression of Divine Curse (Gen 12:3)?
  4. Appropriately uttered only by Christ (and his followers)—e.g., Rev 6

# Types of Psalms

## Lament

- Corporate—Ps 94
- Individual
- Penitential—Ps 32, 51, 90
- Imprecatory prayers—Ps 109

## Praise

- Individual and/or corporate

# Types of Psalms

## Wisdom

- Written in proverbial language—Ps 37, 127
- Often include blessing for following God's law—Pss 1, 19, 119

## Psalms Thanksgiving

- Not just internal gratitude, but public acknowledgement

## Songs of Remembrance

- God's work in the past Pss 77, 78, 105

# Types of Psalms

## Songs of Trust

- Offer praise with emphasis on trustworthiness of God—e.g., Ps 27

## Royal Songs

- Celebrate the rule of God as king
- Contain allusions to pomp and circumstance—  
Pss 45, 110
- Clear messianic overtones anticipating Christ—  
Ps 2

# Key Psalms

1—God and wicked

2—Messiah's reign

8—God's Glory/Man's rule

15—Godly character

16—Eternal life

19—Works/Word of God

22—Messiah's suffering

23—Great Shepherd

32—Forgiveness

42—Thirsting for God

51—Confession of sin

37/73—Apparent prosperity of the wicked

90—Man's transitoriness

100—Call to worship

103—Bless the Lord

119—God's Word

127—God gives blessings

139—Omniscience/presence

150—Praise the Lord

# Messianic Psalms—a BIG study

- Generally acknowledged Messianic Psalms—2, 8, `6, 22, 24, 40, 41, 45, 68, 69, 72, 89, 91, 102, 110, 118.
- This list is many variations depending on the interpreter and hermeneutic
- Range of interpretation:  
Clearly quoted or shown in NT to anything vaguely Messiah-looking in Psalms.

# Lessons

- Definite kingdom focus of Psalms
- What to do while we wait for the kingdom (for Christ from a NT understanding)
  - We praise
  - We cry out for help
  - We rejoice
  - We wait expectantly
- It is instructive that the longest book of the Bible is a book of WORSHIP