

THE SOUND OF THE SOUL



As a hospice chaplain I had the privilege of visiting a Jewish patient (wonderful interaction!). Her cantor sang the Hebrew prayers - texts with a melody. Hope with a harmony. Beautiful!



Name LXX Psalmoi, songs accompanied by stringed instruments (also Psalterion, Psalter); Hebrew Mizmor, from zamar, to sing, to praise; Book: Tehillim (11QPs; Ps 145), from halal, to praise → Halleluia! Terminology: shir song; maschil poem; sela musical pause? miktam poem

Authors for/from/about David (73 Psalms): “sweet psalmist of Israel” (2Sam 23:1; cf. 2 Chron 23:18; 29:25,30) and “a skillful player on the harp” (1Sam 16:16; cf. 2Sam 1:17; 1 Chron 15:16; 16:7; Ps 18:0; Am 6:5; PP 642-754; Ed 164, 165). Asaph (12); Korah (10); Moses (Ps 90); Heman (Ps 88); Ethan (Ps 89); Solomon (72, 127); Jeduthun (39, 62, 77; anonymous (Ezra + David, NT: Ps 2; 95). Jewish Psalm societies: ḥevrat tehillim

Canon 1,000 year-span: patriarchs, theocracy, monarchs, exile, post-exilic period
 Christian: Historical-Wisdom-Prophets Jewish: Torah-Prophets-Writings: Problem → Solution!
 Wisdom Books: Job, Psalms, Proverbs = Books of Truth (sipre ‘emet)
 150; LXX 151 (11QPs); Syriac 155 - open book? Psalm 14~53; Luther (254): “a little Bible”



Structure Hebrew titles Psalms 10-148 = Vers 1! Greek/Latin one Psalm: Ps 9+10; Ps 114+115; 2: 116; 147 ♪ Pentateuch (M. Shoher Tov 1.2)? Book 1 (Genesis): 1-41 (Jehovah) Book 2 (Exodus): 42-72 (Elohim to 83) Book 3 (Leviticus): 73-89 Book 4 (Numbers): 90-106 Book 5 (Deuteronomy): 107-150 end: “Amen”/“Halleluia”

Style

- **Parallelism** synonymous (Ps 18:5; 71:9; 117:1); antithetical (Ps 20:7; 71:7) Psalm 122: Jerusalem 3x; Shalom 3x; “house of the Lord” (v1, v9)
- **Rhyme Units** qinah: 3 + 2 meter | Alliteration: Psalm 137 | **Refrain:** Ps 136 “mercy” 26x!
- **Acrostic** alphabetical = completion (“A to Z”) (Pss 9+10; 25; 34; 37; 111; 112; 119; 145 [-J N])
- **Chiasms** Psalms 15...19...24 | 1-3; 6-8; 11; 15; 18; 22; 25-27; 30; 44; 51; 54; 56; 57; 58; 67; 70-72; 79; 86; 100; 106; 115; 126; 130; 135; 137; 139; 148; 150

Psalm 119
 נ ג כ ד
 22x8 = 176 verses

Themes “They are concerned with sickness and recovery, sin and forgiveness, sorrow and comfort, weakness and strength, evanescence and permanency, futility and purposefulness” (Messenger Bible, p. 771).

“The psalms of David pass through the whole range of experience, from the depths of conscious guilt and self-condemnation to the loftiest faith and the most exalted communing with God” (PP 754).

God → Praise & Worship (8, 24, 29, 33; 47; 48; 100 → 1 Cor 14:26; Eph 5:19; Col 3:16; James 5:13)
Temple & Torah; Daily Life (1; 23; 37; 49; 121; 131 Thank You 18; 66; 107; 118; 138) **Creation** (8; 19)
Kingship (20; 21; 24; 45; 93) **Laments** Individual (3; 5-7; 13; 17; 22; 25; 26; 28; 31; 35; 38; 42-43; 51; 54-57; 59; 63; 64; 69-71; 77; 86; 102; 120; 130; 140-143) **Corporate** (12; 44; 60; 74; 79; 80; 83; 85; 106; 123; 129; 137) **Imprecatory** (7; 35; 40; 55; 58; 59; 69; 79; 109; 137; 139; 144) → appeal to God as judge: Ex 34:6; Lev 26; Deut 28; 32:39; Mt 23; Acts 5:3,9; Rom 12:19; Gal 1:8, 9; 5:12; Js 5:1-3; Rev 6:9-10; 14:6-12
 🙌 “The Bible is written by inspired men, but it is not God’s mode of thought and expression. It is that of humanity. God, as a writer, is not represented. Men will often say such an expression is not like God. But God has not put Himself in words, in logic, in rhetoric, on trial in the Bible” (Ms 24, 1886).

Feasts Sabbath: 92 (LXX week days: 24; 48; 93; 94) Passover: Psalms 113-118, 135 Pentecost: Psalm 118
 Tabernacles: Psalms 120-134 1st night; Psalm 12 8th day (LXX: 29)
 Dedication (Hanukkah): Psalm 30 (John 10!) Purim: Psalm 7
 New Moon: Psalm 81, 98, 104 (plus Psalm 29 for evening sacrifice)
 New Year: Psalm 47 Day of Atonement: Psalms 103; 130
 Hallelujah Psalms: 104-106; 111-113; 115-117; 135; 145-150

Creation “The author of nature is the author of the Bible. Creation and Christianity have one God” (FE 375). “Nature and revelation alike testify of God’s love” (SC 9).

Memory “But after the word of Scripture was quoted, Satan knew that he had no chance of triumphing” (Lt 159, 1903).
Psalm 1 “The words in the first Psalm need to be committed to memory” (Ms 144, 1897).
Psalm 34 “Let this chapter be read and committed to memory” (Ms 70, 1897).
Psalm 119 “Present before your children the instruction given in the 119th Psalm. Take this precious lesson, and read it with tender, softened hearts. Encourage your children to commit the same to memory, especially the first sixteen verses” (Ms 12, 1898).
 “We might well devote study to the last four psalms of David” (= Psalms 147-150).



“The pages of my mother’s Book of Psalms were swollen with her lifetime of tears”

(Rabbi Yisrael Meir Kagan, Chofetz Chaim, Stone Edition Tanach, p. 1437)

The Psalms “principally teach and train us to bear the cross” (Calvin xxxix)

Christ was embedded in the daily life experience and worship expression of Israel!

MESSIANIC

Psalms (along with Isaiah) is the most-quoted book in the New Testament!

Psalm 2:2,7: “Anointed” = Messiah = “Christ” + “Son of God” → Mark 1:1! 1:1 (Blessed → Beatitudes! Mt 5:3); 8:6 (feet); 16:10 (resurrection); 22:1 (forsaken; Mt 27:46|Mk 15:34; v2: Heb 2:12 - but after Christ’s minus v31 spells out a magnificent plus!), 7-8 (mocked); 16 (pierced); 18 (clothes); 34:20 (bones); 35:11 (false witnesses); 19 (hated); 40:7-8 (God’s will); 41:9 (friend; Acts 1:20!); 68:18 (ascension); 69:9 (zeal); 21 (vinegar); 72; 89; 97; 102; 109:4 (pray for enemies); 8 (Judas); 110:1 (enemies footstool); 4 (Melchizedek); 118:22 (cornerstone); 26 (name of the Lord)

Luke 24:44 The Emmaus Road Reminder (Context: Catastrophic Devastation): “Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets **and the Psalms [the Writings] concerning Me.**” Result: “They worshiped him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy, 53 and were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.”

Ephesians 5:19 “speaking to one another **in psalms** and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”



Colossians 3:16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another **in psalms** and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

James 5:13 “Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? **Let him sing psalms.**”

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer” (Psalm 19:14).

PROPHETIC PUNCH: Revelation 14:7! In the end . . . Worship God!

Israel’s daily worship experience and expression become the eschatological mandate for the entire world!

“Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all” (Ps 34:19).

“Read Psalm 27, 28, 29, 78 . . . Read the eighty-ninth, ninetieth, ninety-first, ninety-second, and ninety-third psalms. My attention has been called to these matters. Shall we not consider the Word of the Lord? **These things were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come,** and should they not be the objects of study in our schools? The Word of God contains instructive lessons, given in reproof, in warning, in encouragement, and in rich promises. Would not such food as this be meat in due season to the youth” (Ms 96, 1899; 3BC 1142.1)?

“In the 91st psalm is a most wonderful description of the coming of the Lord **to bring the wickedness of the wicked to an end,** and to give to those who have chosen Him as their Redeemer the assurance of His love and protecting care” (3BC 1150.3) [Psalm 91 quoted.] “God’s commandment-keeping people stand under the broad shield of Omnipotence” (BT 121).

SUMMER CAMP



Psalm 23 . . . In 1992 I was pool director and boys counselor at Glacier View Ranch in Colorado. On my days off I would head into the mountains, to be with God (#Ps 121:1). But one day one of my campers got beat up by the other boys. I immediately reported the incident to the boy’s director, but once camp was over and the dad saw the bruised belly of his little boy he threatened a lawsuit! After me apologizing profusely and the dad dropping the threat of a lawsuit the camp director gave me the day off to recover! As usual, I headed to the mountains. Alone with the Almighty. It was there - Peaceful Valley near - that I discovered a valley with a creek, snow-capped mountains . . . and Psalm 23. It became so real to me: we don’t sit or stand or wait in the valley - we walk right through it! Rather than becoming an overquoted cliché, Psalm 23 has remained a living reality in my personal life over the years.



Personally . . . In the last few years, even months, my personal prayer life has moved from *Please, God!* to *Pleasing God.* I now relish the reality of His presence. Yes, I come with requests; but I first approach God in awe, with adoration, and a hushed silence. *Alone with the Almighty!*

👉 DA 363 “In all who are under the training of God is to be revealed a life that is not in harmony with the world, its customs, or its practices; and everyone needs to have a personal experience in obtaining a knowledge of the will of God. We must individually hear Him speaking to the heart. **When every other voice is hushed, and in quietness we wait before Him, the silence of the soul makes more distinct the voice of God.** He bids us, “Be still, and know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10. Here alone can true rest be found. And this is the effectual preparation for all who labor for God. Amid the hurrying throng, and the strain of life’s intense activities, the soul that is thus refreshed will be surrounded with an atmosphere of light and peace. **The life will breathe out fragrance, and will reveal a divine power that will reach men’s hearts.**”

“Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name” (Hebrews 13:15).