

PSALMS

A wide-angle photograph of a vast, flat landscape. The foreground and middle ground are covered in lush green grass, densely populated with small, delicate white flowers. The terrain extends to a flat horizon line. The sky above is a clear, pale blue, with a slight gradient from top to bottom. The overall scene is bright and serene, suggesting a natural, open environment.

A Few Bible Facts on Poetry

- 43% of the Bible is narrative and 33% is poetry.
1-2 Sam

- When God speaks, it's most often in poetry.
- You can't understand a big chunk of the Bible if you can't read poetry.
- God likes poetry.
- God must think poetry is potent.

Why poetry? What is its value?

There is something about poetry that is uniquely able to capture the beauties, mysteries, and transcendent realities of God and life. There are some things about life that are larger than life, some things about this world that are out of this world, some things about reality that need more than just science and math to realize. There are some things about the normal human experience that normal words can't quite capture, but poetry can.

Why poetry? What is its value?

- Politicians don't use poetry to write laws.
- Scientists don't use poetry to publish research.
- Doctors don't use poetry to diagnose illness.
- The value of poetry isn't in how precise or pragmatic it is. The value of poetry is in how it can awaken the imagination and speak to your emotions.

Tish Harrison Warren

Why Poetry is So Crucial Right Now

1. “Good poems reclaim the power and grace of words.”

2. “Poems slow us down.”

3. “Poetry names our deepest longings.”

How the Psalms are Organized

-150 psalms divided in 5 books within the collection

PSALTER

-Book One (1-41), Book 2 (42-72), Book 3 (73-89).
Book 4 (90-106), Book 5 (107-150)

-Psalms are prayer-songs.

-Like created as personal prayer songs then collected by the period of exile (after 586BC).

538BC

Types of Psalms

- Penitential psalms (6, 32, 51, 102, 130, 143)
- Hallel psalms (113-118)
- Songs of ascent (120-134)
- Wisdom psalms (1, 37, 49, 73, 111-112, 127, 128)
- Messianic psalms (2, 110, 89, 22)

Psalm 51:7

Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

Types of Psalms

-Penitential psalms (6, 32, 51, 102, 130, 143)

-Hallel psalms (113-118) (146-150) HALLEL + YAH
-Songs of ascent (120-134) (PRAISE) + WEH

-Wisdom psalms (1, 37, 49, 73, 111-112, 127, 128)

-Messianic psalms (2, 110, 89, 22)

146,147,148,159,150

v.1 – Praise the Lord!

Types of Psalms

- Penitential psalms (6, 32, 51, 102, 130, 143)
- Hallel psalms (113-118)
- Songs of ascent (120-134)
- Wisdom psalms (1, 37, 49, 73, 111-112, 127, 128)
- Messianic psalms (2, 110, 89, 22)

Psalm 22:1 – My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Psalm 22:7-8 – Everyone who sees me mocks me. They sneer and shake their heads, saying, “Is this the one who relies on the Lord? Then let the Lord save him!

Psalm 22:16-18 – They have pierced my hands and feet. I can count all my bones. My enemies stare at me and gloat. They divide my garments among themselves and throw dice for my clothing.

Types of Psalms

- Imprecatory psalms (35:4-8; 58:6-9; 69:22-28; 109:6-20; 137; 140:9-11)
- Lament psalms – (3-7, 12, 13, 22, 26, 28, 54-57, 88)
- Thanksgiving psalms (18, 30, 32, 34, 107, 116, 138)
- Hymns (103, 113, 117, 135, 146, 147)

Psalm 35:4-8

Bring shame and disgrace on those trying to kill me;
turn them back and humiliate those who want to harm me.

Blow them away like chaff in the wind—
a wind sent by the angel of the Lord.

Make their path dark and slippery,
with the angel of the Lord pursuing them.

I did them no wrong, but they laid a trap for me.

I did them no wrong, but they dug a pit to catch me.

So let sudden ruin come upon them!

Let them be caught in the trap they set for me!

Let them be destroyed in the pit they dug for me.

Types of Psalms

- Imprecatory psalms (35:4-8; 58:6-9; 69:22-28; 109:6-20; 137; 140:9-11)
- Lament psalms – (3-7, 12, 13, 22, 26, 28, 54-57, 88)
- Thanksgiving psalms (18, 30, 32, 34, 107, 116, 138)
- Hymns (103, 113, 117, 135, 146, 147)

Psalm 38:6-8

I am bent over and racked with pain.

All day long I walk around filled with grief.

A raging fever burns within me, and my health is broken.

I am exhausted and completely crushed.

My groans come from an anguished heart.

Psalm 13:1-6

O Lord, how long will you forget me? Forever?

How long will you look the other way?

How long must I struggle with anguish in my soul,
with sorrow in my heart every day?

How long will my enemy have the upper hand?

Turn and answer me, O Lord my God!

Restore the sparkle to my eyes, or I will die.

Don't let my enemies gloat, saying, "We have defeated him!"

Don't let them rejoice at my downfall.

Types of Psalms

- Imprecatory psalms (35:4-8; 58:6-9; 69:22-28; 109:6-20; 137; 140:9-11)
- Lament psalms – (3-7, 12, 13, 22, 26, 28, 54-57, 88)
- Thanksgiving psalms (18, 30, 32, 34, 107, 116, 138)
- Hymns (103, 113, 117, 135, 146, 147)

Interpretive Keys

Types

They speak to three seasons of life common to all humans: Orientation, Disorientation, Reorientation.

Interpretive Keys

- FIGURES OF SPEECH: SIMILE, METAPHOR, IMAGERY, PERSONIFICATION
- Ancient Meditation Literature – It is designed to be read over and over over for a lifetime.
- STYLE: PARALLELISM

Psalm 19:1-4

The heavens proclaim the glory of God.

The skies display his craftsmanship.

Day after day they continue to speak;
night after night they make him known.

They speak without a sound or word;
their voice is never heard.

Yet their message has gone throughout the
earth,

and their words to all the world.

YAHUBIA

Psalm 1:1-3

Oh, the joys of those who do not
follow the advice of the wicked,
or stand around with sinners,
or join in with mockers.

But they delight in the law of the Lord,
meditating on it day and night.

They are like trees planted along the riverbank,
bearing fruit each season.

Their leaves never wither,
and they prosper in all they do.



MLB standings

GAMES

NEWS

STANDINGS

PLAYERS



Season

2023 ▾

American League

National League

NL Central

Team	W	L	Pct	GB	Home	Away	L10
 Pirates	18	8	.692	-	9-4	9-4	9-1
 Brewers	17	9	.654	1.0	8-5	9-4	6-4
 Cubs	14	11	.560	3.5	8-8	6-3	5-5
 Reds	12	15	.423	7.0	9-6	2-9	4-6
 Cardinals	10	17	.370	8.5	5-8	5-9	3-7

AUTHOR	PSALMS	TOTAL
David	3-9, 11-32, 34-41, 51-65, 68-70, 86, 101, 103, 108-110, 122-123, 131, 133, 138-145	73
Solomon	72, 127	2
Asaph	50, 73-83	12
Sons of Korah	42, 44-49, 84-85, 87-88	11
Moses	90	1
Heman	88	1
Ethan	89	1
Anonymous	1-2, 10, 33, 43, 66-67, 71, 91-100, 102, 104-107, 111-121, 124-126, 128-130, 132, 134-137, 146-150	50

1. Abraham's Covenant – (Gen 12:1-3) – Blessing to the whole world through one family.
2. Moses' Covenant – (Dt 28-30) – The nation is formed outside Egypt and given the law.
3. David's Covenant – (2Sm 7:12-13) – Davidic line of kings identified to rule forever.
4. New Covenant – (Jer 31:31-37) – Enablement of blessing.

1. David wanted God's presence and to build a temple. So did the exiles.
2. David had much to lament, complain, and rage over regarding his enemies. So did the exiles.
3. David was very sorry for his sin and had faced hard consequences. So had the exiles.
4. David was continually saved by the unconditional love and faithfulness of God. This was the hope of the post-exilic community.
5. David looked forward to his Great Son. This was who the community of the exiles were waiting for!

- Birth – Psalm 103:17 – But the love of the Lord remains forever with those who fear Him.
- Baptism - Psalm 2:7 – “The Lord said to me, ‘You are my son. Today I have become your Father.
- Miracles – Psalm 107:29 – He calmed the storm to a whisper and stilled the waves.
- Ministry – Psalm 72:12 – He will rescue the poor when they cry to Him; he will help the oppressed, who have no one to defend them.

- Death – Psalm 22:1 – My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?
- Psalm 22:7-8 – Everyone who sees me mocks me. They sneer and shake their heads, saying, “Is this the one who relies on the Lord? Then let the Lord save him!
- Psalm 22:16-18 – They have pierced my hands and feet. I can count all my bones. My enemies stare at me and gloat. They divide my garments among themselves and throw dice for my clothing.
- Resurrection – 16:10 – For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your holy one to rot in the grave.

The NT quotes the psalms directly at least 96 times with perhaps 200 more clear allusions all pointing to Jesus.

Matthew 22:41-46

Then, surrounded by the Pharisees, Jesus asked them a question: “What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is He?” They replied, “He is the son of David.” Jesus responded, “Then why does David, speaking under the inspiration of the Spirit, call the Messiah ‘my Lord’? For David said, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, Sit in the place of honor at My right hand until I humble your enemies beneath your feet.’”

Matthew 22:41-46

Since David called the Messiah ‘my Lord,’ how can the Messiah be his son?” No one could answer Him. And after that, no one dared to ask Him any more questions.

Revelation 22:16

“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to give you this message for the churches. I am both the source of David and the heir to his throne. I am the bright morning star.”

Unique Contribution of the Psalms to the Bible

- They aren't God talking to us, they are us talking to God.
- They cover the full range of the human experience in all of its complexity.
- They summarize the full range of the Biblical story with simplicity.
- The prayer book of Jesus.

Unique Contribution of the Psalms to the Bible

- The hymnal of our spiritual mothers and fathers.
- They are very incarnational: Fully God but fully human. Ancient yet relevant. Earthy yet inspired. Raw yet reverential. Human yet holy. Joyful yet melancholy. Comforting yet convicting. Despairing yet hopeful. Brief yet bottomless.
- Poetic prayer-songs to be read and mulled and meditated and appreciated for a lifetime.