

A Study Of

PSALMS

**“Let everything that has breath
praise the LORD.”**

Psalm 150:6

NASB Text & Study Guide

by Taylor Ladd

Introduction

1. What is a *psalm*? Write down a definition in your own words.
2. What the psalms were used for:
3. How we got the psalms:

Structure

1. Book divisions:

Book I (Psalms 1-41)	Book IV (Psalms 90-106)
Book II (Psalms 42-72)	Book V (Psalms 107-150)
Book III (Psalms 73-89)	

 - a. Each of the five books ends with a similar *doxology* (hymn of praise), see 41:13; 72:18-19; 89:52; 106:48; 150:6
 - b. Some commentators have suggested the following parallel between the five books in Psalms and the five Books of Law (Genesis – Deuteronomy):

Book	I	II	III	IV	V
Parallel OT Book	Genesis	Exodus	Leviticus	Numbers	Deuteronomy
Parallel Theme(s)	man & creation	Israel	sanctuary	Moses & wilderness	law & land

- c. How would the Israelites benefit from singing psalms that reminded them of the Books of Law? Do you find any principles here that apply to our singing today?
2. Names of God:
 - a. Throughout the Old Testament, there are several different Hebrew words that are translated as ‘*God*’ in the English text. The following chart, taken from Tremper Longman’s book *How to Read the Psalms* (p. 44), shows how frequently two of these Hebrew words appear in each book of Psalms.

Book	I	II	III	IV + V
<i>Yahweh</i>	272	74	13	339
<i>Elohim</i>	15	207	36	7

b. Significance of the names of God:

- Can you think of any reasons why the psalmists might use different names for God in the psalms?
- What benefit is there to thinking about God's names & attributes as we worship Him (think about the value of songs that focus on different aspects of God's character, e.g., *Holy, Holy, Holy*; *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*; *The Love Of God*; *He Leadeth Me*)?
- In the box below, write down all of the descriptions of God you find as you study through the psalms in this booklet. Also feel free to write down any other descriptions you come across in your own independent study of the psalms. You may want to include things like God's names, His attributes & characteristics, descriptions of His work, etc.

3. Psalms grouped by author or topic:

- David (mostly Ps. 1-72)
- Sons of Korah (Ps. 42-49, 84-85, 87-88)
- Asaph (Ps. 50, 73-83)
- Songs of Ascent (Ps. 120-134)
- Other groupings:

4. Overall movement

a. Psalm 1 is about:

- How is this an appropriate beginning to the book of Psalms?

b. Psalm 150 is about:

- How is this an appropriate ending to the book of Psalms?

c. Tremper Longman, *How to Read the Psalms*:

In Hebrew, the book of Psalms is entitled *tehillim*, which (when translated) means “songs of praise.” As we look at the psalms, though, the laments substantially outnumber the songs of praise. In what sense then is this book characterized as *tehillim*? A close examination of the Psalter suggests an answer. A decided shift takes place as we move from the beginning of the book to its end. As we move toward the end, praise overtakes lament until at the very end of the book we have a virtual fireworks of praise... In a real sense, the book of Psalms moves us from mourning to joy (Longman 45).

- What do you think of the above quote? How does the book of Psalms move us from mourning to joy? Does this suggest anything about what sincere worship should produce in the life of a Christian?

The Psalms Today

What makes the book of Psalms so relevant today? Here are just a few reasons:

1. The vast majority of the psalms do not include historical details in the titles. Since most of the psalms are not tied by their titles to a specific event in history, they are timeless, allowing us to identify more easily with the ideas in each psalm based on our own personal experiences.
2. As mentioned earlier in the introduction, the psalms give us a fuller picture of the nature and character of God.
3. In many ways, the book of Psalms is representative of the entire Old Testament. Many of the major events and themes that span the Old Testament story are reflected in the psalms. For example, there are psalms about everything from the creation of the world to the captivity of Judah. We read about the problem of suffering, the consequences of sin, the joy of forgiveness, the importance of God's laws, and the fate of the righteous & the wicked.
4. Understanding the psalms helps us to better understand the New Testament. There is no book quoted in the New Testament more often than the book of Psalms. By paying attention to the original context of these quotations, we are better able to figure out what the New Testament writers meant when they quoted from the psalms.
5. Since the psalms were written by people who were part of the covenant God made with Israel, they give us insight into what it means to have a covenant relationship with God. While there are major differences between the old and new covenants, the psalms still help us understand how a covenant works.
6. Yet another part of the enormous appeal of the psalms comes from the broad spectrum of emotions that are expressed throughout the book. No matter what emotion you are experiencing, chances are good that you can find a psalm that addresses it. Not only do the psalmists express these emotions, but they also express them *within the framework of God's inspiration!* Have you ever struggled with emotions like doubt, anger, fear, or depression, and then felt guilty just for thinking that way? The psalmists did. Not only do they show us that these emotions are not inherently bad, but they also show us how to express such emotions honestly in a way that still pleases God.
7. The psalms give us an inside-out view of what it looks like to have a heart that is completely devoted to God. Reading through the books of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles will show us how a godly person like David acts, but they can only give us a view of his life from the outside looking in. Reading through Psalms, on the other hand, will show us how a godly person like David thinks. Not only do the psalms show us what a godly heart looks like from the inside-out, but they are filled with instructions that are designed to create that kind of heart in each of us. If we

thoughtfully consider and listen to the words of the psalms, our hearts and our worship will radically change.

8. One of the greatest things about the book of Psalms is that it points the way to Jesus. Some psalms include very clear prophecies about events in His life or the work that He came to do. Other psalms seem to contain only veiled references to His coming. While Christ may not have been specifically in the minds of the psalmists as they wrote, He was certainly in the mind of the God who inspired the words of the psalms. Many psalms have both an immediate context that applies to events in the life of the writer, and a Messianic context that is fulfilled later by events in the life of Jesus.
9. What other things do you think make the book of Psalms so relevant today?

Categories of Psalms

Keep in mind that these are only *general* categories. There is no single correct way to divide the psalms by type, so you may find that the categories differ from one commentary to another. You may also discover that many of the psalms can fit into more than category. The following chart gives a basic list of the some of the most common categories of psalms.

Category	Basic Definition	Examples
1. Ascents/Pilgrims/Degrees	Used during pilgrimage to the temple	120-134
2. Confidence	Expresses the writer's feelings of trust	11, 16, 23, 27, 62, 91, 121, 125, 131
3. Didactic	Psalms of formal instruction	1, 5, 7, 15, 17, 50, 73, 94, 101
4. Imprecatory	Prayer for destruction/harm of enemies	35, 52, 55, 58-59, 69, 79, 83, 109, 137, 140
5. Lament	Cry for help in great distress	3, 12, 22, 42, 69, 73-74, 83
6. Messianic	Prophetic picture of Christ & His work	2, 20-24, 41, 68, 118
7. Nature	Describe God's creation/handwork	8, 19, 29, 33, 65, 104
8. Penitential	Expresses confession & sorrow for sin	6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143
9. Praise/Hallelujah/Hymn	Call to worship God; reasons for worship	106, 111-113, 115-117, 135, 146-150
10. Remembrance/History	Past events; God's deliverance of Israel	78, 105-106, 135-136
11. Royal/Kingship	Focused on the interests of Israel's king	2, 18, 20-21, 45, 72, 89, 101, 110, 132, 144
12. Supplication	Appeal for God to meet a need	86
13. Thanksgiving	Response of gratitude to answered lament	16, 18
14. Wisdom	Shows contrast between two ways of life	1, 19, 32, 34, 37, 49, 73, 91, 111-112, 119, 127-128, 133

Introduction

What are some of the advantages of writing poetry instead of prose (prose is the writing style that resembles normal conversation)? What are some of the disadvantages?

Two of the most common characteristics of Hebrew poetry are *parallelism* and *imagery*.

Parallelism

Parallelism is:

In Hebrew poetry, the second phrase is always related to the first phrase, so the second phrase carries forward the thought found in the first phrase in some way. If there are only two phrases that are parallel, it's called a *bicolon*. Three parallel phrases is called a *tricolon*. There are several basic types of parallelism we will see as we study the psalms.

1. Synonymous Parallelism
2. Antithetic Parallelism
3. Synthetic Parallelism
4. Emblematic Parallelism
5. Repetitive Parallelism
6. Pivot Pattern
7. Chiasm

8. Grammatical Parallelism

9. Ellipsis

- “We must always bear in mind that, while the second phrase will always progress the thought of the first, it may do so in a vast number of ways. The relationship between *A* and *B* can’t be limited to these...categories, but they are a start” (Longman 102).

Imagery

Imagery is:

Types of Imagery:

1. Personification

2. Simile

3. Metaphor

4. Hyperbole

5. Apostrophe

6. Synecdoche

Other Poetic Devices

1. Inclusio

2. Acrostic

Psalms of Praise/Hallelujah/Hymn: 106, 111-113, 115-117, 135, 146-150

PSALM 111

1 Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart, In the company of the upright and in the assembly.

2 Great are the works of the LORD; They are studied by all who delight in them.

3 Splendid and majestic is His work; And His righteousness endures forever.

4 He has made His wonders to be remembered; The LORD is gracious and compassionate.

5 He has given food to those who fear Him; He will remember His covenant forever.

6 He has made known to His people the power of His works, In giving them the heritage of the nations.

7 The works of His hands are truth and justice; All His precepts are sure.

8 They are upheld forever and ever; They are performed in truth and uprightness.

9 He has sent redemption to His people; He has ordained His covenant forever; Holy and awesome is His name.

10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments; His praise endures forever.

PSALM 113

1 Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD. Praise the name of the LORD.

2 Blessed be the name of the LORD From this time forth and forever.

3 From the rising of the sun to its setting The name of the LORD is to be praised.

4 The LORD is high above all nations; His glory is above the heavens.

5 Who is like the LORD our God, Who is enthroned on high,

6 Who humbles Himself to behold The things that are in heaven and in the earth?

7 He raises the poor from the dust, And lifts the needy from the ash heap,

8 To make them sit with princes, With the princes of His people.

9 He makes the barren woman abide in the house As a joyful mother of children. Praise the LORD!

Psalms of Remembrance/History: 78, 105-106, 135-136

PSALM 135

1 Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD; Praise Him, O servants of the LORD,
2 You who stand in the house of the LORD, In the courts of the house of our God!
3 Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; Sing praises to His name, for it is lovely.
4 For the LORD has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel for His own possession.
5 For I know that the LORD is great, And that our Lord is above all gods.
6 Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps.
7 He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; Who makes lightnings for the rain; Who brings forth the wind from His treasures.
8 He smote the first-born of Egypt, Both of man and beast.
9 He sent signs and wonders into your midst, O Egypt, Upon Pharaoh and all his servants.
10 He smote many nations, And slew mighty kings,
11 Sihon, king of the Amorites, And Og, king of Bashan, And all the kingdoms of Canaan;
12 And He gave their land as a heritage, A heritage to Israel His people.
13 Thy name, O LORD, is everlasting, Thy remembrance, O LORD, throughout all generations.
14 For the LORD will judge His people, And will have compassion on His servants.
15 The idols of the nations are but silver and gold, The work of man's hands.
16 They have mouths, but they do not speak; They have eyes, but they do not see;
17 They have ears, but they do not hear; Nor is there any breath at all in their mouths.
18 Those who make them will be like them, Yes, everyone who trusts in them.

19 O house of Israel, bless the LORD; O house of Aaron,
bless the LORD;

20 O house of Levi, bless the LORD; You who revere the
LORD, bless the LORD.

21 Blessed be the LORD from Zion, Who dwells in
Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

PSALM 136

1 Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His
lovingkindness is everlasting.

2 Give thanks to the God of gods, For His lovingkindness is
everlasting.

3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords, For His lovingkindness
is everlasting.

4 To Him who alone does great wonders, For His
lovingkindness is everlasting;

5 To Him who made the heavens with skill, For His
lovingkindness is everlasting;

6 To Him who spread out the earth above the waters, For
His lovingkindness is everlasting;

7 To Him who made the great lights, For His
lovingkindness is everlasting:

8 The sun to rule by day, For His lovingkindness is
everlasting,

9 The moon and stars to rule by night, For His
lovingkindness is everlasting.

10 To Him who smote the Egyptians in their first-born, For
His lovingkindness is everlasting,

11 And brought Israel out from their midst, For His
lovingkindness is everlasting,

12 With a strong hand and an outstretched arm, For His
lovingkindness is everlasting;

13 To Him who divided the Red Sea asunder, For His
lovingkindness is everlasting,

14 And made Israel pass through the midst of it, For His
lovingkindness is everlasting;

15 But He overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea,
For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

16 To Him who led His people through the wilderness, For His lovingkindness is everlasting;

17 To Him who smote great kings, For His lovingkindness is everlasting,

18 And slew mighty kings, For His lovingkindness is everlasting:

19 Sihon, king of the Amorites, For His lovingkindness is everlasting,

20 And Og, king of Bashan, For His lovingkindness is everlasting,

21 And gave their land as a heritage, For His lovingkindness is everlasting,

22 Even a heritage to Israel His servant, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

23 Who remembered us in our low estate, For His lovingkindness is everlasting,

24 And has rescued us from our adversaries, For His lovingkindness is everlasting;

25 Who gives food to all flesh, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

26 Give thanks to the God of heaven, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

Psalms of Lament: 3, 12, 22, 42, 69, 73-74, 83

PSALM 73

A Psalm of Asaph.

1 Surely God is good to Israel, To those who are pure in heart!

2 But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling; My steps had almost slipped.

3 For I was envious of the arrogant, As I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

4 For there are no pains in their death; And their body is fat.

5 They are not in trouble as other men; Nor are they plagued like mankind.

6 Therefore pride is their necklace; The garment of violence covers them.

7 Their eye bulges from fatness; The imaginations of their heart run riot.

8 They mock, and wickedly speak of oppression; They speak from on high.

9 They have set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue parades through the earth.

10 Therefore his people return to this place; And waters of abundance are drunk by them.

11 And they say, "How does God know? And is there knowledge with the Most High?"

12 Behold, these are the wicked; And always at ease, they have increased in wealth.

13 Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure, And washed my hands in innocence;

14 For I have been stricken all day long, And chastened every morning.

15 If I had said, "I will speak thus," Behold, I should have betrayed the generation of Thy children.

16 When I pondered to understand this, It was troublesome in my sight

17 Until I came into the sanctuary of God; Then I perceived their end.

18 Surely Thou dost set them in slippery places; Thou dost cast them down to destruction.

19 How they are destroyed in a moment! They are utterly swept away by sudden terrors!

20 Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord, when aroused,
Thou wilt despise their form.

21 When my heart was embittered, And I was pierced
within,

22 Then I was senseless and ignorant; I was like a beast
before Thee.

23 Nevertheless I am continually with Thee; Thou hast
taken hold of my right hand.

24 With Thy counsel Thou wilt guide me, And afterward
receive me to glory.

25 Whom have I in heaven but Thee? And besides Thee, I
desire nothing on earth.

26 My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength
of my heart and my portion forever.

27 For, behold, those who are far from Thee will perish;
Thou hast destroyed all those who are unfaithful to Thee.

28 But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; I have
made the Lord GOD my refuge, That I may tell of all Thy
works.

PSALM 74

A Maskil of Asaph.

1 O God, why hast Thou rejected us forever? Why does
Thine anger smoke against the sheep of Thy pasture?

2 Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast purchased
of old, Which Thou hast redeemed to be the tribe of Thine
inheritance; And this Mount Zion, where Thou hast dwelt.

3 Turn Thy footsteps toward the perpetual ruins; The
enemy has damaged everything within the sanctuary.

4 Thine adversaries have roared in the midst of Thy
meeting place; They have set up their own standards for
signs.

5 It seems as if one had lifted up His axe in a forest of trees.

6 And now all its carved work They smash with hatchet
and hammers.

7 They have burned Thy sanctuary to the ground; They
have defiled the dwelling place of Thy name.

8 They said in their heart, “Let us completely subdue them.” They have burned all the meeting places of God in the land.

9 We do not see our signs; There is no longer any prophet, Nor is there any among us who knows how long.

10 How long, O God, will the adversary revile, And the enemy spurn Thy name forever?

11 Why dost Thou withdraw Thy hand, even Thy right hand? From within Thy bosom, destroy them!

12 Yet God is my king from of old, Who works deeds of deliverance in the midst of the earth.

13 Thou didst divide the sea by Thy strength; Thou didst break the heads of the sea monsters in the waters.

14 Thou didst crush the heads of Leviathan; Thou didst give him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.

15 Thou didst break open springs and torrents; Thou didst dry up ever-flowing streams.

16 Thine is the day, Thine also is the night; Thou hast prepared the light and the sun.

17 Thou hast established all the boundaries of the earth; Thou hast made summer and winter.

18 Remember this, O LORD, that the enemy has reviled; And a foolish people has spurned Thy name.

19 Do not deliver the soul of Thy turtledove to the wild beast; Do not forget the life of Thine afflicted forever.

20 Consider the covenant; For the dark places of the land are full of the habitations of violence.

21 Let not the oppressed return dishonored; Let the afflicted and needy praise Thy name.

22 Do arise, O God, and plead Thine own cause; Remember how the foolish man reproaches Thee all day long.

23 Do not forget the voice of Thine adversaries, The uproar of those who rise against Thee which ascends continually.

Royal/Kingship Psalms: 2, 18, 20-21, 45, 72, 89, 101, 110, 132, 144

PSALM 21

For the choir director. A Psalm of David.

1 O LORD, in Thy strength the king will be glad, And in Thy salvation how greatly he will rejoice!

2 Thou hast given him his heart's desire, And Thou hast not withheld the request of his lips. Selah.

3 For Thou dost meet him with the blessings of good things; Thou dost set a crown of fine gold on his head.

4 He asked life of Thee, Thou didst give it to him, Length of days forever and ever.

5 His glory is great through Thy salvation, Splendor and majesty Thou dost place upon him.

6 For Thou dost make him most blessed forever; Thou dost make him joyful with gladness in Thy presence.

7 For the king trusts in the LORD, And through the lovingkindness of the Most High he will not be shaken.

8 Your hand will find out all your enemies; Your right hand will find out those who hate you.

9 You will make them as a fiery oven in the time of your anger; The LORD will swallow them up in His wrath, And fire will devour them.

10 Their offspring Thou wilt destroy from the earth, And their descendants from among the sons of men.

11 Though they intended evil against Thee, And devised a plot, They will not succeed.

12 For Thou wilt make them turn their back; Thou wilt aim with Thy bowstrings at their faces.

13 Be Thou exalted, O LORD, in Thy strength; We will sing and praise Thy power.

PSALM 45

For the choir director; according to the Shoshannim. A Maskil of the sons of Korah. A Song of Love.

1 My heart overflows with a good theme; I address my verses to the King; My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.

2 Thou art fairer than the sons of men; Grace is poured upon Thy lips; Therefore God has blessed Thee forever.

3 Gird Thy sword on Thy thigh, O Mighty One, In Thy splendor and Thy majesty!

4 And in Thy majesty ride on victoriously, For the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness; Let Thy right hand teach Thee awesome things.

5 Thine arrows are sharp; The peoples fall under Thee; Thine arrows are in the heart of the King's enemies.

6 Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Thy kingdom.

7 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated wickedness; Therefore God, Thy God, has anointed Thee With the oil of joy above Thy fellows.

8 All Thy garments are fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia; Out of ivory palaces stringed instruments have made Thee glad.

9 Kings' daughters are among Thy noble ladies; At Thy right hand stands the queen in gold from Ophir.

10 Listen, O daughter, give attention and incline your ear; Forget your people and your father's house;

11 Then the King will desire your beauty; Because He is your Lord, bow down to Him.

12 And the daughter of Tyre will come with a gift; The rich among the people will entreat your favor.

13 The King's daughter is all glorious within; Her clothing is interwoven with gold.

14 She will be led to the King in embroidered work; The virgins, her companions who follow her, Will be brought to Thee.

15 They will be led forth with gladness and rejoicing; They will enter into the King's palace.

16 In place of your fathers will be your sons; You shall make them princes in all the earth.

17 I will cause Thy name to be remembered in all generations; Therefore the peoples will give Thee thanks forever and ever.

PSALM 72

A Psalm of Solomon.

1 Give the king Thy judgments, O God, And Thy righteousness to the king's son.

2 May he judge Thy people with righteousness, And Thine afflicted with justice.

3 Let the mountains bring peace to the people, And the hills in righteousness.

4 May he vindicate the afflicted of the people, Save the children of the needy, And crush the oppressor.

5 Let them fear Thee while the sun endures, And as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

6 May he come down like rain upon the mown grass, Like showers that water the earth.

7 In his days may the righteous flourish, And abundance of peace till the moon is no more.

8 May he also rule from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth.

9 Let the nomads of the desert bow before him; And his enemies lick the dust.

10 Let the kings of Tarshish and of the islands bring presents; The kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.

11 And let all kings bow down before him, All nations serve him.

12 For he will deliver the needy when he cries for help, The afflicted also, and him who has no helper.

13 He will have compassion on the poor and needy, And the lives of the needy he will save.

14 He will rescue their life from oppression and violence; And their blood will be precious in his sight;

15 So may he live; and may the gold of Sheba be given to him; And let them pray for him continually; Let them bless him all day long.

16 May there be abundance of grain in the earth on top of the mountains; Its fruit will wave like the cedars of Lebanon; And may those from the city flourish like vegetation of the earth.

17 May his name endure forever; May his name increase as long as the sun shines; And let men bless themselves by him; Let all nations call him blessed.

18 Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who alone works wonders.

19 And blessed be His glorious name forever; And may the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen, and Amen.

20 The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended.

Penitential Psalms: 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143

PSALM 6

For the choir director; with stringed instruments, upon an eight-stringed lyre. A Psalm of David.

1 O LORD, do not rebuke me in Thine anger, Nor chasten me in Thy wrath.

2 Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am pining away; Heal me, O LORD, for my bones are dismayed.

3 And my soul is greatly dismayed; But Thou, O LORD — how long?

4 Return, O LORD, rescue my soul; Save me because of Thy lovingkindness.

5 For there is no mention of Thee in death; In Sheol who will give Thee thanks?

6 I am weary with my sighing; Every night I make my bed swim, I dissolve my couch with my tears.

7 My eye has wasted away with grief; It has become old because of all my adversaries.

8 Depart from me, all you who do iniquity, For the LORD has heard the voice of my weeping.

9 The LORD has heard my supplication, The LORD receives my prayer.

10 All my enemies shall be ashamed and greatly dismayed; They shall turn back, they shall suddenly be ashamed.

PSALM 32

A Psalm of David. A Maskil.

1 How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,
Whose sin is covered!

2 How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not
impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit!

3 When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away
Through my groaning all day long.

4 For day and night Thy hand was heavy upon me; My
vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer.
Selah.

5 I acknowledged my sin to Thee, And my iniquity I did
not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the
LORD"; And Thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin. Selah.

6 Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to Thee in a
time when Thou mayest be found; Surely in a flood of great
waters they shall not reach him.

7 Thou art my hiding place; Thou dost preserve me from
trouble; Thou dost surround me with songs of deliverance.
Selah.

8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you
should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

9 Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no
understanding, Whose trappings include bit and bridle to
hold them in check, Otherwise they will not come near to
you.

10 Many are the sorrows of the wicked; But he who trusts
in the LORD, lovingkindness shall surround him.

11 Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous ones,
And shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.

PSALM 51

For the choir director. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

1 Be gracious to me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Thy compassion blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me.

4 Against Thee, Thee only, I have sinned, And done what is evil in Thy sight, So that Thou art justified when Thou dost speak, And blameless when Thou dost judge.

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

6 Behold, Thou dost desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part Thou wilt make me know wisdom.

7 Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8 Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which Thou hast broken rejoice.

9 Hide Thy face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me away from Thy presence, And do not take Thy Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation, And sustain me with a willing spirit.

13 Then I will teach transgressors Thy ways, And sinners will be converted to Thee.

14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; Then my tongue will joyfully sing of Thy righteousness.

15 O Lord, open my lips, That my mouth may declare Thy praise.

16 For Thou dost not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; Thou art not pleased with burnt offering.

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.

18 By Thy favor do good to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem.

19 Then Thou wilt delight in righteous sacrifices, In burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then young bulls will be offered on Thine altar.

Messianic Psalms: 2, 20-24, 41, 68, 118

PSALM 2

1 Why are the nations in an uproar, And the peoples
devising a vain thing?
2 The kings of the earth take their stand, And the rulers
take counsel together Against the LORD and against His
Anointed:
3 “Let us tear their fetters apart, And cast away their cords
from us!”
4 He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at
them.
5 Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them
in His fury:
6 “But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My
holy mountain.”
7 “I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to
Me, ‘Thou art My Son, Today I have begotten Thee.
8 ‘Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Thine
inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Thy
possession.
9 ‘Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron, Thou shalt
shatter them like earthenware.’”
10 Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; Take
warning, O judges of the earth.
11 Worship the LORD with reverence, And rejoice with
trembling.
12 Do homage to the Son, lest He become angry, and you
perish in the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How
blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

PSALM 68

For the choir director. A Psalm of David. A Song.

1 Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; And let those who hate Him flee before Him.

2 As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; As wax melts before the fire, So let the wicked perish before God.

3 But let the righteous be glad; let them exult before God; Yes, let them rejoice with gladness.

4 Sing to God, sing praises to His name; Lift up a song for Him who rides through the deserts, Whose name is the LORD, and exult before Him.

5 A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows, Is God in His holy habitation.

6 God makes a home for the lonely; He leads out the prisoners into prosperity, Only the rebellious dwell in a parched land.

7 O God, when Thou didst go forth before Thy people, When Thou didst march through the wilderness, Selah.

8 The earth quaked; The heavens also dropped rain at the presence of God; Sinai itself quaked at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

9 Thou didst shed abroad a plentiful rain, O God; Thou didst confirm Thine inheritance, when it was parched.

10 Thy creatures settled in it; Thou didst provide in Thy goodness for the poor, O God.

11 The Lord gives the command; The women who proclaim the good tidings are a great host:

12 "Kings of armies flee, they flee, And she who remains at home will divide the spoil!"

13 When you lie down among the sheepfolds, You are like the wings of a dove covered with silver, And its pinions with glistening gold.

14 When the Almighty scattered the kings there, It was snowing in Zalmon.

15 A mountain of God is the mountain of Bashan; A mountain of many peaks is the mountain of Bashan.

16 Why do you look with envy, O mountains with many peaks, At the mountain which God has desired for His abode? Surely, the LORD will dwell there forever.

17 The chariots of God are myriads, thousands upon thousands; The Lord is among them as at Sinai, in holiness.

18 Thou hast ascended on high, Thou hast led captive Thy captives; Thou hast received gifts among men, Even among the rebellious also, that the LORD God may dwell there.

19 Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden, The God who is our salvation. Selah.

20 God is to us a God of deliverances; And to GOD the Lord belong escapes from death.

21 Surely God will shatter the head of His enemies, The hairy crown of him who goes on in his guilty deeds.

22 The Lord said, "I will bring them back from Bashan. I will bring them back from the depths of the sea;

23 That your foot may shatter them in blood, The tongue of your dogs may have its portion from your enemies."

24 They have seen Thy procession, O God, The procession of my God, my King, into the sanctuary.

25 The singers went on, the musicians after them, In the midst of the maidens beating tambourines.

26 Bless God in the congregations, Even the LORD, you who are of the fountain of Israel.

27 There is Benjamin, the youngest, ruling them, The princes of Judah in their throng, The princes of Zebulun, the princes of Naphtali.

28 Your God has commanded your strength; Show Thyself strong, O God, who hast acted on our behalf.

29 Because of Thy temple at Jerusalem Kings will bring gifts to Thee.

30 Rebuke the beasts in the reeds, The herd of bulls with the calves of the peoples, Trampling under foot the pieces of silver; He has scattered the peoples who delight in war.

31 Envoys will come out of Egypt; Ethiopia will quickly stretch out her hands to God.

32 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; Sing praises to the Lord, Selah.

33 To Him who rides upon the highest heavens, which are from ancient times; Behold, He speaks forth with His voice, a mighty voice.

34 Ascribe strength to God; His majesty is over Israel, And His strength is in the skies.

35 O God, Thou art awesome from Thy sanctuary. The God of Israel Himself gives strength and power to the people. Blessed be God!

Wisdom Psalms: 1, 19, 32, 34, 37, 49, 73, 91, 111-112, 119, 127-128, 133

PSALM 1

1 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel
of the wicked,
Nor stand in the path of sinners,
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!
2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
And in His law he meditates day and night.
3 He will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water,
Which yields its fruit in its season
And its leaf does not wither;
And in whatever he does, he prospers.
4 The wicked are not so,
But they are like chaff which the wind drives away.
5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
But the way of the wicked will perish.

PSALM 34

*A Psalm of David when he feigned madness before
Abimelech, who drove him away and he departed.*

1 I will bless the LORD at all times;
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
2 My soul will make its boast in the LORD;
The humble will hear it and rejoice.
3 O magnify the LORD with me,
And let us exalt His name together.
4 I sought the LORD, and He answered me,
And delivered me from all my fears.
5 They looked to Him and were radiant,
And their faces will never be ashamed.

6 This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him
And saved him out of all his troubles.
7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear
Him,
And rescues them.
8 O taste and see that the LORD is good;
How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!
9 O fear the LORD, you His saints;
For to those who fear Him there is no want.
10 The young lions do lack and suffer hunger;
But they who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any
good thing.
11 Come, you children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
12 Who is the man who desires life
And loves *length of days* that he may see good?
13 Keep your tongue from evil
And your lips from speaking deceit.
14 Depart from evil and do good;
Seek peace and pursue it.
15 The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous
And His ears are *open* to their cry.
16 The face of the LORD is against evildoers,
To cut off the memory of them from the earth.
17 *The righteous cry*, and the LORD hears
And delivers them out of all their troubles.
18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
And saves those who are crushed in spirit.
19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
But the LORD delivers him out of them all.
20 He keeps all his bones,
Not one of them is broken.
21 Evil shall slay the wicked,
And those who hate the righteous will be condemned.
22 The LORD redeems the soul of His servants,
And none of those who take refuge in Him will be
condemned.

Psalms of Ascent/Pilgrims/Degrees: 120-134

PSALM 127

A Song of Ascents, of Solomon.

1 Unless the LORD builds the house,

They labor in vain who build it;

Unless the LORD guards the city,

The watchman keeps awake in vain.

2 It is vain for you to rise up early,

To retire late,

To eat the bread of painful labors;

For He gives to His beloved *even in his* sleep.

3 Behold, children are a gift of the LORD,

The fruit of the womb is a reward.

4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,

So are the children of one's youth.

5 How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them;

They will not be ashamed

When they speak with their enemies in the gate.

PSALM 130

A Song of Ascents.

1 Out of the depths I have cried to You, O LORD.

2 Lord, hear my voice!

Let Your ears be attentive

To the voice of my supplications.

3 If You, LORD, should mark iniquities,

O Lord, who could stand?

4 But there is forgiveness with You,

That You may be feared.

5 I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait,

And in His word do I hope.

6 My soul *waits* for the Lord

More than the watchmen for the morning;

Indeed, more than the watchmen for the morning.

7 O Israel, hope in the LORD;

For with the LORD there is lovingkindness,

And with Him is abundant redemption.

8 And He will redeem Israel

From all his iniquities.

PSALM 132

A Song of Ascents.

1 Remember, O LORD, on David's behalf,
All his affliction;

2 How he swore to the LORD
And vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob,

3 "Surely I will not enter my house,
Nor lie on my bed;

4 I will not give sleep to my eyes
Or slumber to my eyelids,

5 Until I find a place for the LORD,
A dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob."

6 Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah,
We found it in the field of Jaar.

7 Let us go into His dwelling place;
Let us worship at His footstool.

8 Arise, O LORD, to Your resting place,
You and the ark of Your strength.

9 Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness,
And let Your godly ones sing for joy.

10 For the sake of David Your servant,
Do not turn away the face of Your anointed.

11 The LORD has sworn to David
A truth from which He will not turn back:
"Of the fruit of your body I will set upon your throne.

12 "If your sons will keep My covenant
And My testimony which I will teach them,
Their sons also shall sit upon your throne forever."

13 For the LORD has chosen Zion;
He has desired it for His habitation.

14 "This is My resting place forever;
Here I will dwell, for I have desired it.

15 "I will abundantly bless her provision;
I will satisfy her needy with bread.

16 "Her priests also I will clothe with salvation,
And her godly ones will sing aloud for joy.

17 "There I will cause the horn of David to spring forth;
I have prepared a lamp for Mine anointed.

18 "His enemies I will clothe with shame,
But upon himself his crown shall shine."