

***Cover to Cover: From Genesis to Maps***  
**Sermon # 19 – “Psalms”**  
**October 7, 2007**

The heartbeat of this book is worship. It is a book of prayers and praises.

The word “psalm” means “praise” or “hymn”. The Book of Psalms essentially is a hymnbook. It is the oldest hymnbook in the world. It was the hymnal of ancient Israel. A collection of 150 religious “songs” (although originally they were more like chants).

The Psalms stand out from everything we’ve read thus far in our survey of the Bible. In previous books, we read about what the people of Israel did. But now—through the words of the Psalmist—we feel what they felt.

The Psalms are in one sense the most universal of all the biblical writings. They speak to all men in all conditions for all time.

The Psalms appeal to us because they are so personal and so human. They run the gamut of human emotion. They are so much in tune with the human experience. From the Psalms we get a glimpse of the passion, the heart cry, and the worshipful devotion of the people of Israel.

The Psalms inspire us to draw close to God. It is the favorite devotional book of many Christians. Even Jesus—in His moment of greatest need—quoted the Psalms. (e.g., 22:1; 31:5)

***Authorship of the Psalms***

100 of the 150 psalms have an author attributed to them. 73 are attributed to David. (The Davidic psalms consist roughly of the entire first half of the book). 12 are attributed to Asaph, David’s levitical choir director. 10 to the sons of Korah. 2 to Solomon. 1 each to Moses, Heman the Ezrahite, and Ethan the Ezrahite. The remaining 50 are anonymous.

***Outline of the Psalms***

<b>5 Divisions:</b>	<b>Themes:</b>	<b>Parallel with 1<sup>st</sup> Five Books:</b>
Psalm 1-41	Man & <u>Creation</u>	Genesis
Psalm 42-72	<u>Israel</u> & Redemption	Exodus
Psalm 73-89	Worship & the <u>Temple</u>	Leviticus
Psalm 90-106	Our Sojourn on <u>Earth</u>	Numbers
Psalm 107-150	<u>Praise</u> & the Word of God	Deuteronomy

Each of these sections ends with a doxology of praise (41, 71, 89, 106, 145-150)

### *Topical Classification of the Psalms*

1. **Prophetic Psalms**. Psalms pointing to the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. **Praise Psalms**. Psalms exalting the Lord.
3. **Petition Psalms**. Psalms calling upon the Lord for Help.
4. **Penitence Psalms**. Psalms confessing sin unto the Lord.
5. **Pastoral Psalms**. Psalms depicting the Lord's shepherding care for His People.
6. **Precept Psalms**. Instructive/ Teaching Psalms.
7. **Prayer Psalms**. Psalms of general communion with God.
8. **Profession (of faith) Psalms**. Psalms addressed to others about God.
9. **Patriotic Psalms**. Psalms celebrating Jewish nationalism.
10. **Pilgrimage Psalms**. Psalms of ascent, sung on the way up to Jerusalem for the celebration of holy days.

The longest psalm—Psalm 119—is also the longest book in the Bible. Its theme is the Word of God.

The shortest psalm—Psalm 117—is also the shortest book in the Bible. Its theme is praise.

The ultimate message of the Psalms: We've got a God who is worthy of our highest worship.