

The Psalms

Songs and Chants of worship

The Title:

The title in Hebrew is *Tehillim*, a derivative of the word *halal*, which is where we get our English word Hallelujah. It is a term of praise, or worship. Thus, the book of Psalms is predominantly built and based on that theme.

The title in English is a transliteration of the Greek, *ψαλμος*, to pluck, as in the strings of a harp, guitar, or lyre.

The contributors:

Moses wrote Psalm 90, a prayer of blessing and praise for God's care of His people.

David wrote at least 68 psalms, at least that is how many psalms have his name attached in the Hebrew texts. His themes vary greatly from adoration, to supplication.

Asaph, a priest, serving in the tabernacle, was appointed by David to lead worship by song. He wrote 12 of the Psalms.

The Sons of Korah have their names attached to 11 Psalms. It is still debated whether these were written *by* or *for* these men who sang in worship in the Temple.

The Ezrahite is credited with 2 Psalms. Ethan the Ezrahite wrote Psalm 89, and Heman the Ezrahite, Psalm 88. I Kings 4:31 mentions these men as having remarkable wisdom. They are believed to have belonged to the Sons of Korah. Solomon has his name attached to 2 Psalms as well. Here again, there is some debate as to whether these were *for* him, or were written *by* him.

The remaining Psalms are written by unknown authors, but the Rabbi's were in hearty and full agreement as to their veracity as Scripture.

The categories:

- 1) Psalms 1-41 comprise the works of David. Of course, some quick math makes it evident that these aren't all of his Psalms.
- 2) Psalms 42-72 make up what were probably the rest of the Psalms used in the temple worship Psalter during David's reign. There were several other contributors to this book besides David himself.
- 3) Psalms 73-89 are the songs collected and added probably upon the return of God's people from Babylon. These were included to offer new material of worship, considering the deliverance of God from Babylonian captivity.
- 4) Psalms 90-106 comprise the writings of mostly anonymous writers. Only three Psalms in this segment contain identifying names, 90 was written by Moses, and 101 and 103 by David.
- 5) Psalms 107-150 is the last group, basically the catch-all for the remaining Psalms. They have no unifying themes or similarities to unite them apart from general worship.