



**Author:** King David; Asaph; the Sons of Korah; Moses; others

**Time:** 11th to 6th centuries BC

**Purpose:** To express hope in the Lord God for salvation, using prayers and praises spoken by God's people at the tabernacle and temple or by individuals

**Outline:**

Book One: Psalms 1–41

*intensely personal psalms of David*

Book Two: Psalms 42–72

*psalms of David and the kingdom; nationalistic*

Book Three: Psalms 73–89

*psalms of Asaph and the Sons of Korah; nationalistic*

Book Four: Psalms 90–106

*anonymous psalms and laments*

Book Five: Psalms 107–150

*songs of ascents and praise; psalms of David*

**Key Verses:** The Shepherd Psalm (ch. 23); sincere repentance (51:7–12); the Lord reigns (ch. 110); the Psalm of the Word (119:105–107); the Mission Psalm (145:4–13)

**Key People:** King David; the nation of Israel; "the righteous"

**Places:** Chiefly Jerusalem

# The Psalms

## The Prayer Book of the Bible

*Psalm 119:9–16*

### Psalm 119:9–16 (ESV)

#### II. Beth

<sup>9</sup>How can a young man keep his way pure?

By guarding it according to your word.

<sup>10</sup>With my whole heart I seek you;

let me not wander from your commandments!

<sup>11</sup>I have stored up your word in my heart,  
that I might not sin against you.

<sup>12</sup>Blessed are you, O Lord;  
teach me your statutes!

<sup>13</sup>With my lips I declare  
all the rules of your mouth.

<sup>14</sup>In the way of your testimonies I delight  
as much as in all riches.

<sup>15</sup>I will meditate on your precepts  
and fix my eyes on your ways.

<sup>16</sup>I will delight in your statutes;  
I will not forget your word.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

#### *On Psalm 119*

-- length

-- repetition

*Structure:* Psalm 119 follows an acrostic pattern. It is structured by the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Each line of the eight-line stanzas start with the same letter.

What does this suggest about the place of God's Word in language and life?

*Situation in life:* What stage of life is envisioned here? See Genesis 22:5, 12; 37:2; Luke 2:41–52

*Central Theme:* A meditation on the characteristics and blessings of God's law (Word)

The eight terms:

- *Torah*
- *Edot* v. 14
- *Piqqudim* v. 15
- *Huqqim* v. 12, 16
- *Mitzvot* v. 10
- *Mishpatim* v. 13
- *Davar* v. 9, 16
- *Imra* v. 11

What characteristics, attitudes, and blessings of the Word are proclaimed in these?

What relationship is encouraged with God's Word?