



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 27

Psalm 27 (ESV) Of David.

¹The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

²When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh,
my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

³Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

⁴One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to inquire in his temple.

⁵For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will lift me high upon a rock.

⁶And now my head shall be lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

⁷Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!

⁸You have said, "Seek my face."
My heart says to you, "Your face, Lord, do I seek."

⁹Hide not your face from me.
Turn not your servant away in anger,
O you who have been my help.

Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!

¹⁰For my father and my mother have forsaken me,
but the Lord will take me in.

¹¹Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.

¹²Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they breathe out violence.

¹³I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living!

¹⁴Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!

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.

Psalm 27

Images of God

Actions of God

Requests of David

vv 1–6 David's confidence in God

-- in face of present experience, holding to the reality of the faith taught in the Word to overcome fear

-- v 1 rhetorical questions—what answer?

-- vv 2–3 situations envisioned

-- vv 4–5 tent over the ark, see 2 Samuel 6:17

Where does David see himself?

Exodus deliverance (Exodus chapters 26–40); Leviticus 23:33–43

tabernacle liturgy – sacrifice and prayer after v 6?

vv 7–12 Prayer for God's help, forgiveness, and guidance

-- v 10 "father and mother forsaken" – hypothetical/"had they . . ."

1 Samuel 23:3–4; death?

our situations

-- v 11 life as a journey

vv 13–14 Wait for the Lord

-- our "position" at the end

-- personal note