



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 32

Psalm 32 (ESV) Of David.

- ¹Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
- ²Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- ³For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
- ⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah*
- ⁵I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah*
- ⁶Therefore let everyone who is godly
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
surely in the rush of great waters,
they shall not reach him.
- ⁷You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance. *Selah*
- ⁸I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
- ⁹Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
which must be curbed with bit and bridle,
or it will not stay near you.
- ¹⁰Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord.
- ¹¹Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!
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.

Penitential Psalm (e.g., Psalms 6, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143) – life of daily repentance

Use: before Confession & Absolution, Evening, Lent

vv 1–2 Blessed

-- covered, not counted

-- no deceit

vv 3–4 Wasting away

-- day and night

-- hand heavy

v 5 Confession

-- liturgy

vv 6–7 Hiding place

-- time when you may be found

-- from seclusion to public acknowledgement

vv 8–9 Instruction

vv 10–11 Proverbs of trust in the Lord