



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 121

Psalm 136

- ¹Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for His steadfast love endures forever.
- ²Give thanks to the God of gods,
for His steadfast love endures forever.
- ³Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for His steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁴to Him who alone does great wonders,
for His steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁵to Him who by understanding made the heavens,
for His steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁶to Him who spread out the earth above the waters,
for His steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁷to Him who made the great lights,
for His steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁸the sun to rule over the day,
for His steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁹the moon and stars to rule over the night,
for His steadfast love endures forever;
- ¹⁰to Him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt,
for His steadfast love endures forever;
- ¹¹and brought Israel out from among them,
for His steadfast love endures forever;
- ¹²with a strong hand and an outstretched arm,
for His steadfast love endures forever;
- ¹³to Him who divided the Red Sea in two,
for His steadfast love endures forever;
- ¹⁴and made Israel pass through the midst of it,
for His steadfast love endures forever;
- ¹⁵but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea,
for His steadfast love endures forever;
- ¹⁶to Him who led his people through the wilderness,
for His steadfast love endures forever;

Vv 1–3,
the God of gods

Vv 4–9, wonders
of creation

Vv 10–16,
wonders of
the Exodus

¹⁷ to Him who struck down great kings,
for His steadfast love endures forever;

Vv 17–22, wonders of the conquest

¹⁸ and killed mighty kings,
¹⁹ Sihon, king of the Amorites,

for His steadfast love endures forever;
for His steadfast love endures forever;

²⁰ and Og, king of Bashan,
²¹ and gave their land as a heritage,

for His steadfast love endures forever;
for His steadfast love endures forever;

²² a heritage to Israel his servant,

for His steadfast love endures forever.

²³ It is He who remembered us in our low estate,
for His steadfast love endures forever;

Vv 23–25, God’s loving care

²⁴ and rescued us from our foes,

for His steadfast love endures forever;

²⁵ He who gives food to all flesh,

for His steadfast love endures forever.

²⁶ Give thanks to the God of heaven,
for His steadfast love endures forever.

Vv 26, closing

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.

Type of Psalm: _____ Author: _____ Mood: _____

The refrain: *For His steadfast love endures forever*

- See Exodus 34:1–9
- Liturgical/temple use? See 2 Chronicles 7:1–7
- Repetition

Vv 1–3 – Threefold naming of God (e.g., Numbers 6:22–27), echoes of Psalm 135

History review

Vv 4–9 – Creation: Genesis 1

Vv 10–16 – Redemption: Exodus 12–15; Deuteronomy 8:15 (40 years)

Vv 17–22 – Promise Land: Numbers 21

His continuing love

Vv 23–25 – “remembered us”

V 26 – “God of heaven,” see Ezra 5:1; Nehemiah 1:4; Daniel 2:18

A wonderful prayer of thanksgiving, which the Church and all its members will gladly send up
to the throne of grace at all times!