



**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 137*

### Psalm 137

- <sup>1</sup> By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept,  
when we remembered Zion.
  - <sup>2</sup> On the willows there we hung up our lyres.
  - <sup>3</sup> For there our captors required of us songs,  
and our tormentors, mirth, saying,  
"Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"
  - <sup>4</sup> How shall we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land?
  - <sup>5</sup> If I forget you, O Jerusalem,  
let my right hand forget its skill!
  - <sup>6</sup> Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth,  
if I do not remember you,  
if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy!
  - <sup>7</sup> Remember, O LORD, against the Edomites  
the day of Jerusalem,  
how they said, "Lay it bare, lay it bare,  
down to its foundations!"
  - <sup>8</sup> O daughter of Babylon, doomed to be destroyed,  
blessed shall he be who repays you  
with what you have done to us!
  - <sup>9</sup> Blessed shall he be who takes your little ones  
and dashes them against the rock!
- 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.

Coming up next . . . Psalm 150