

Study No.13 Psalms of David



Timeframe of events:

c.1180 B.C. to c.960 B.C.

Summary: The book of The Psalms contains 150 songs, about half of which were likely to have been composed by David. These songs almost always included praise of Jehovah, but many of them also reflected the circumstances experienced by David at the time. Hence, we find a mix of joy, sadness, anger and hope within them. Though many lines from psalms may be sung by Christians today, the Psalms of David tend to make much more sense when bearing in mind David's life experiences, and God's dealings with Israel at that time. The Book of Psalms as a whole, and some features peculiar to it, will be considered in a future study. In this study, however, we will focus simply on those Psalms attributed to David.

Main Reading / Listening



Read and/or listen to the following passages at least once. Twice is better for taking it all in!

As a minimum, please read or listen to:

Psalms 23 & 95

To read or listen to the entire Bible systematically, this week's passages are: (77 Psalms in total)

Psalms 2 to 9 11 to 32 34 to 41

51 to 65 68 to 70 86 95 96 101 103 105 106

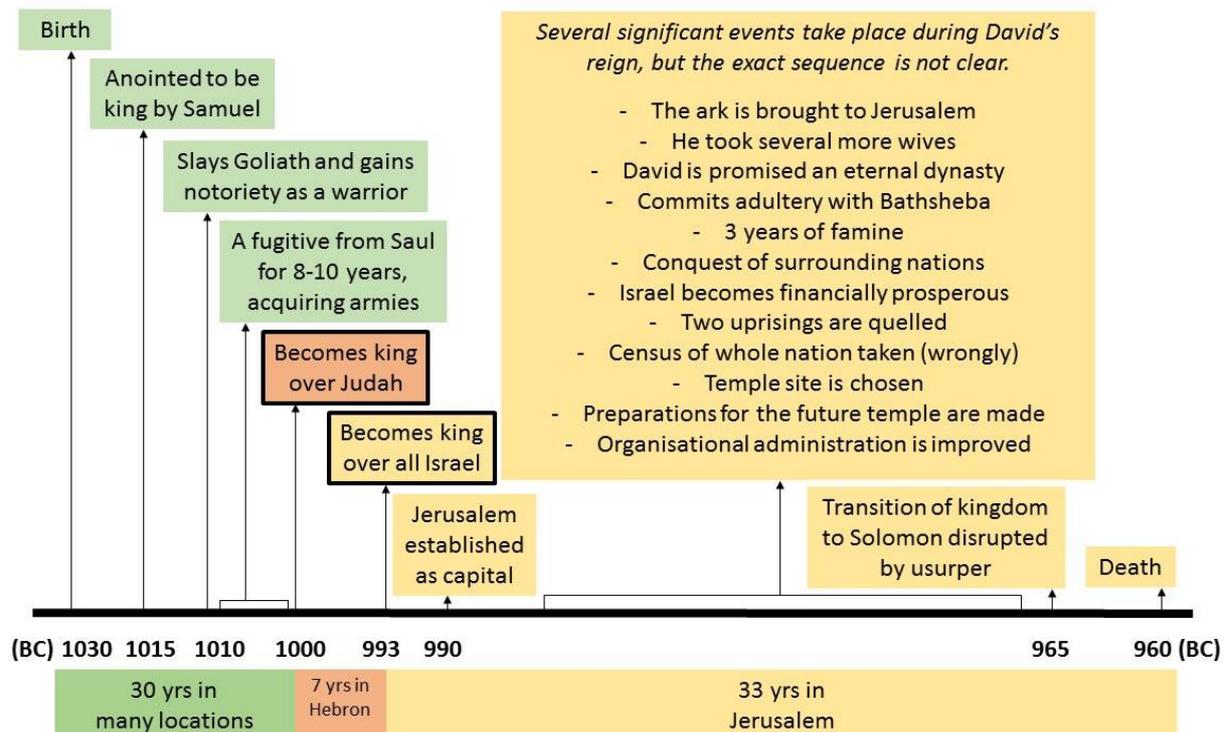
108 to 110 122 124 131 133 138 to 145.

Relevant Charts:



Life of David, in summary

(refer to "Chronology of David" article for more details)



The exact number of psalms composed by David is a matter of debate. Below is a list of 77 psalms, attributed to David by one method or another.

Psalms certainly written by David:

- 2** - No title, but attributed to David in Acts 4:25,26
(v.1,2 are quoted in Acts 4:25,26; v.7 is quoted in Acts 13:33; Hebrews 1:5 & 5:5; v.8,9 are quoted in Revelation 2:26,27 and referred to in Revelation 12:5 & 19:15)
- 16** - Titled "of David", and attributed to David in Acts 2:25-28
(a quote from v.8-11)
- 18** - Entirely replicated from 2 Samuel 22:2-51. Attributed to David there.
- 32** - Titled "of David", and attributed to David in Romans 4:7,8
(a quote from v.1,2)
- 69** - Titled "of David", and attributed to David in Acts 1:16,17,20 & Romans 11:9,10 (v.4 is quoted in John 15:25; v.9a is quoted in John 2:17; v.9b is quoted in Romans 15:3; v.21 is alluded to in Matthew 27:34; v.22,23 are quoted in Romans 11:9,10; v.25 is

- quoted in Acts 1:20)
- 95** - No title, but attributed to David in Hebrews 4:7 (v.7-11 quoted in Hebrews 3:7-11, and partially referred to in Hebrews 3:15,18; 4:3,5,7)
- 96** - No title, but entirely replicated from 1 Chronicles 16:23-33. Attributed to David there.
- 105** - No title, but v.1-15 replicated from 1 Chronicles 16:8-21. Attributed to David there.
- 106** - No title, but v.1,47,48 replicated from 1 Chronicles 16:35,36. Attributed to David there.
- 109** - Titled "of David", and attributed to David in Acts 1:16,17,20 (v.25 is alluded to in Matthew 27:39)
- 110** - Titled "of David", and attributed to David in Matthew 22:41-45; Mark 12:35-37; Luke 20:41-46; Acts 2:34,35. (v.1 is quoted in each of these NT verses; v.4 is quoted in Hebrews 5:6; 7:17,21)

Other Psalms titled "Of David":

Those psalms titled "of David", partially quoted in the New Testament, but not specifically attributed to David there:

- 4** (v.4 is quoted in Ephesians 4:26)
- 5** (v.9 is quoted in Romans 3:13)
- 6** (v.8 is probably quoted in Matthew 7:23 & Luke 13:27)
- 8** (v.2 is quoted in Matthew 21:15,16; v.4-6 is quoted in Hebrews 2:5-9; v.6 is quoted in 1 Corinthians 15:27 & Ephesians 1:22)
- 14*** (v.1b-3 is quoted in Romans 3:10-12)
- 19** (v.4 is quoted in Romans 10:17,18)
- 22** (v.7,8 is referred to and quoted in Matthew 27:43 & Luke 23:35)
- 24** (v.1 is quoted in 1 Corinthians 10:26,28)
- 31**** (v.5a is quoted in Luke 23:46)
- 34** (v.8 is referred to in 1 Peter 2:1-3; v.12-16 is quoted in 1 Peter 3:8-12; v.20 is quoted in John 19:36)
- 35** (v.19 is quoted in John 15:25)
- 36** (v.1b is quoted in Romans 3:18)
- 37** (v.9-11 is similar to Matthew 5:1-11, "The Beatitudes")
- 38** (v.11 is alluded to in Luke 23:49)
- 40***** (v.6-8 is quoted in Hebrews 10:5-10)
- 41** (v.9 is quoted in John 13:18)
- 51** (v.4 is quoted in Romans 3:3,4)
- 53*** (v.1-3 is partly quoted in Romans 3:10-12)
- 55** (v.22 is alluded to in 1 Peter 5:7)
- 62** (v.12 is quoted in Romans 2:6)
- 86** (v.9 is alluded to in Revelation 15:4)
- 103** (v.17 is alluded to in Luke 1:50)
- 140** (v.3b is quoted in Romans 3:13b)
- 143** (v.2b is alluded to in Romans 3:20)

- * (Psalm 14 is almost identical to Psalm 53)
- ** (31:1-4 is similar to 71:1-3)
- *** (40:13-17 is almost identical to Psalm 70)

Remaining Psalms, titled "of David", but not verified as such elsewhere:

3 7 9 11 12 13 15 17 20 21 23 25 26 27 28 29 30 39
 52 54 56 57* 58 59 60** 61 63 64 65 70*** 101
 108*** 122 124 131 133 138 139 141 142 144 145

- * (57:7-11 is 108:1-5);
- ** (60:5-12 is 108:6-13);
- *** (70 is 40:13-17)
- **** (108 is a combination of 57:7-11 & 60:5-12)

Enhancing your reading:

Attempt one or more of the following tasks for a better appreciation of the subjects covered by the main readings for this study.



- Jot down any questions arising from this study's readings. Ask someone else for help, or conduct your own research to try and answer these questions.

- Note any passages, verses, themes or lessons that have stood out to you from this study's readings. Write down or verbalise your reasons.

Consider and discuss the following questions:



- (1) What is a "psalm"?
- (2) Was David inspired by God when he wrote his psalms? Give reasons for your answer.
- (3) How do we know that Psalm 2 was written by David? Acts 4:25,26
- (4) Why do you think that Psalm 2 is partially quoted in Acts 4:23-31?
- (5) Why is Psalm 2:7 quoted in Acts 13:33; Hebrews 1:5; 5:5?
- (6) Why is Psalm 2:8,9 quoted in Revelation 2:26,27, and referred to in Revelation 19:15?
- (7) How do David's life experiences impact the content of Psalm 2? (e.g. v.2 - "The rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and His Anointed...")
- (8) The title of Psalm 3 refers to Absalom. (a) Who was Absalom and what part did he play in the life of King David? Cp 2 Samuel chs.13-19. (b) How might this psalm relate to that portion of David's life?
- (9) Why is Psalm 4:4 quoted in Ephesians 4:26?
- (10) Why is Psalm 5:9 quoted in Romans 3:13?
- (11) The title of Psalm 7 refers to Cush, a Benjamite. (a) Who was Cush and what part might he have played in the life of David? (b) How may this psalm relate to that portion of David's life?
- (12) Why is Psalm 8:2 quoted in Matthew 21:15,16?
- (13) Why is Psalm 8:4-6 quoted in Hebrews 2:5-9?
- (14) Why is Psalm 8:6 quoted in 1 Corinthians 15:27 & Ephesians 1:22? Are the two NT quotes referring to the same event?
- (15) According to Psalm 12:6, what are the words of the Lord like? Why is this significant in the context of the whole psalm?
- (16) Why is Psalm 14:1b-3 quoted in Romans 3:10-12?
- (17) How could anyone "live" in the Lord's tabernacle? Psalm 15:1
- (18) How do we know that Psalm 16 was written by David, apart from the title on this psalm? Acts 2:25-28
- (19) How do David's life experiences impact the content of Psalm 16?

- (20) Why is Psalm 16:8-11 quoted in Acts 2:25-28?
- (21) Why is Psalm 16:10b quoted in Acts 13:35?
- (22) What is meant by Psalm 17:15 - "I shall be satisfied when I awake in your likeness"?
- (23) The title of Psalm 18 is almost identical to 2 Samuel 22:1, and the psalm itself the same as 2 Samuel 22:2-51. (a) How do we know that Psalm 18 was written by David, apart from the title on this psalm? (b) What was the occasion of this psalm, and why was it replicated?
- (24) How do David's life experiences impact the content of Psalm 18?
- (25) Why is Psalm 18:2b quoted in Hebrews 2:11-13?
- (26) Why is Psalm 18:49 quoted in Romans 15:7-12?
- (27) Why is Psalm 19:4 quoted in Romans 10:17,18?
- (28) Psalm 19:1-11 praises some of God's works. Briefly summarise what is spoken of here.
- (29) Psalm 19:14 appears as part of the 1978 popular song "Rivers of Babylon", adapted and popularised by Boney M. The majority of that song is based on Psalm 137, so why do you think that 19:14 was included by the songwriters?
- (30) Who is the "king" mentioned in Psalm 21?
- (31) Psalm 22:1 is quoted in Matthew 27:46. What was the Lord Jesus saying by crying out these words?
- (32) How did the words of Psalm 22 apply to Christ's suffering and crucifixion? How could the words of Psalm 22 apply to David, or someone of David's time?
- (33) Why is Psalm 22:7,8 referred to and quoted in Matthew 27:43 & Luke 23:35?
- (34) Psalm 23 is probably the best-known psalm. Why do you think this is?
- (35) Why do you think Psalm 23 is not quoted at all in the New Testament?
- (36) Why is Psalm 23 often recited at funeral services?
- (37) What does the writer mean by the phrase in Psalm 23:6, "I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever"?
- (38) Why is Psalm 24:1 quoted in 1 Corinthians 10:26,28?
- (39) The writer of Psalm 27:4 (probably David) expresses a desire to inquire in the Lord's temple. Is "temple" the correct term here, given that the temple building was not constructed until years later under Solomon?
- (40) Psalm 29:3-9 refers to "the voice of the LORD" seven times. Summarise the attributes listed.

(41) The title of Psalm 30 refers to the dedication of the house of David. (a) What house is being referred to? (b) How is this psalm's content related to its title?

(42) Why is Psalm 31:5a quoted in Luke 23:46?

(43) How do we know that Psalm 32 was written by David, apart from the title on this psalm? Romans 4:7,8

(44) How do David's life experiences impact on the content of Psalm 32?

(45) Why is Psalm 32:1,2 quoted in Romans 4:5-8?

(46) The title of Psalm 34 refers to 1 Samuel 21:11-15. What was this incident, and how is Psalm 34 related to it?

(47) How is Psalm 34 related to Psalm 56?

(48) Why is Psalm 34:8 referred to in 1 Peter 2:1-3?

(49) Why is Psalm 34:12-16 quoted in 1 Peter 3:8-12?

(50) How is Psalm 34:20, quoted in John 19:36, said to have been fulfilled? Comparing these two verses, what is the differing sense in each?

(51) How is John 15:25, a fulfillment of Psalm 35:19?

(52) Why is Psalm 36:1b quoted in Romans 3:18?

(53) How is Psalm 37:9-11 similar to Matthew 5:1-12 (the "Beatitudes")?

(54) How does Luke 23:49 relate to Psalm 38:11?

(55) How did Psalm 38:12 also come to pass in Christ's day? (e.g. John 5:16-18; 8:3-6; Matthew 16:1; 26:3,4; Luke 22:2)

(56) The title of Psalm 39 includes the words "to Jeduthun". Who was this person, and why would a psalm be addressed to him? 1 Chronicles 25:1,3,6. Cp 16:38,41.

(57) Why is Psalm 40:6-8 quoted in Hebrews 10:5-10?

(58) Psalm 40:13-17 is almost identical to Psalm 70. Why would it be repeated there?

(59) Why is Psalm 41:9, quoted in John 13:18, said to have been fulfilled? In what way could these words have applied to the writer of the psalm?

(60) The title of Psalm 51 refers to 2 Samuel 12:1-15. What was this incident, and how is Psalm 51 related to it?

(61) Why is Psalm 51:4 quoted in Romans 3:3,4?

(62) The title of Psalm 52 refers to 1 Samuel 22:9. What was this incident, and how is Psalm 52 related to it?

(63) Why is Psalm 53:1-3 partly quoted in Romans 3:10-12?

- (64) Psalm 53 is almost identical to Psalm 14. Why would it be repeated within the same book?
- (65) The title of Psalm 54 refers to 1 Samuel 23:19. What was this incident, and how is Psalm 54 related to it?
- (66) Why is Psalm 55:22 referred to quoted in 1 Peter 5:7? Cp.1 Peter 1:6.
- (67) The title of Psalm 56 refers to 1 Samuel 21:11-15. What was this incident, and how is Psalm 56 related to it?
- (68) How is Psalm 56 related to Psalm 34?
- (69) The title of Psalm 57 refers to 1 Samuel 22:1. What was this incident, and how is Psalm 57 related to it?
- (70) Psalm 58:6 is a prayer to "Break their teeth in their mouth, O God!" (a) Was it appropriate for the singer of the psalm to pray this of those who sought to harm him? (b) Should Christians pray such a thing today? Give reasons for your answer.
- (71) The title of Psalm 59 refers to 1 Samuel 19:11 What was this incident, and how is Psalm 59 related to it?
- (72) Psalm 59 expresses David's emotions whilst he was being unjustly persecuted. (a) Summarise what sort of things he expressed, and the role that God played in his prayers at times of distress. (b) What can Christians take from this?
- (73) The title of Psalm 60 refers to 2 Samuel 8:2-16 & 1 Chronicles 18:2-15. What were these incidents, and how is Psalm 60 related to them?
- (74) Psalm 61:6,7 says that God will prolong the king's life, yet David died at the age of 70, which was not particularly long in Biblical terms. What is really being said in these verses?
- (75) Why is Psalm 62:12 quoted in Romans 2:6?
- (76) The title of Psalm 63 refers to 2 Samuel 15:14,23,28; 17:16. What was this incident, and how is Psalm 63 related to it?
- (77) Why is Psalm 68:18 partly quoted in Ephesians 4:8-10? How is the phrase about "gifts" different in each instance, and why is this?
- (78) How do we know that Psalm 69 was written by David, apart from the title on this psalm? Romans 11:9,10
- (79) Why is Psalm 69:4a, partly quoted in John 15:25, said to have been fulfilled?
- (80) How is it relevant that the Lord's disciples remembered Psalm 69:9a, quoted in John 2:17?
- (81) Why is Psalm 69:9b quoted in Romans 15:3?
- (82) How is Psalm 69:21 related to Matthew 27:34 & John 19:28-30?

- (83) So much of Psalm 69 seems to refer to suffering of the Lord Jesus. How is Psalm 69 a reflection on David's life experiences?
- (84) Why is Psalm 69:22,23 quoted as part of Romans 11:7-11?
- (85) Why is Psalm 69:25 quoted in Acts 1:20?
- (86) How does Luke 1:71 relate to Psalm 69:10? Who spoke the words of Luke 1:71, and under what circumstance?
- (87) Why is the entirety of Psalm 70, almost identical to Psalm 40:13-17, replicated as a single psalm?
- (88) How is Psalm 86:9 related to the prophecy of Revelation 15:4? To what does this prophecy refer?
- (89) There is no title on Psalm 95. How do we know that it was written by David? Hebrews 4:7
- (90) How do David's life experiences impact on the content of Psalm 95?
- (91) Why is Psalm 95:7,8 quoted in Hebrews 4:7?
- (92) Why is Psalm 95:7-11 quoted in Hebrews 3:7-11? Cp Hebrews 3:15-4:10
- (93) There is no title for Psalm 96. How do we know that it was written by David? 1 Chronicles 16:23-33
- (94) How do David's life experiences impact the content of Psalm 96?
- (95) How is Psalm 103:17 related to Luke 1:50? Who is speaking/singing the words of Luke 1:50, and under what circumstance?
- (96) How do we know that Psalm 105 (v.1-15) was written by David? 1 Chronicles 16:8-22
- (97) How do David's life experiences impact the content of Psalm 105:1-15?
- (98) How do we know that Psalm 106 (v.1,47,48) was written by David? 1 Chronicles 16:35,36
- (99) How do David's life experiences impact on the content of Psalm 106:1,47,48?
- (100) Much of Psalm 106 retells Israel's history. Why might there be a need for this in a psalm?
- (101) The titles on Psalms 57 & 60 describe two very different circumstances in David's life. Regarding Psalm 108, vv.1-5 is Psalm 57:7-11, and vv. 6-13 is 60:5-12. Why are these passages replicated as a single psalm (108)?
- (102) How do we know that Psalm 109 was written by David, apart from the title on this psalm? Acts 1:16,17,20.
- (103) How do David's life experiences impact the content of Psalm 109?

- (104) Why is Psalm 109:8 quoted in Acts 1:20 in relation to Judas Iscariot?
- (105) How much of Psalm 109:1-20 do you think may be applied to (a) Judas (b) the Sadducees, Pharisees, etc. of Christ's time?
- (106) How does Matthew 27:39 relate to Psalm 109:25?
- (107) How do we know that Psalm 110 was written by David, apart from the title on this psalm? Matthew 22:41-46; Mark 12:35-37; Luke 20:41-44; Acts 2:34,35.
- (108) Why is Psalm 110:1 quoted in the above NT passages?
- (109) Why is Psalm 110:1 also quoted in Hebrews 1:13?
- (110) How do 1 Corinthians 15:25 & Hebrews 10:12,13 relate to Psalm 110:1?
- (111) Why is Psalm 110:4 quoted four times in Hebrews - 5:6; 6:20; 7:17,20?
- (112) What is meant by the phrase in Psalm 110:4, "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek"?
- (113) Can the words of Psalm 110 be applied to David's life? Give reasons for your answer.
- (114) Psalm 122 is titled "A Song of Ascent(s)". (a) What does this mean? (b) How many Songs of Ascents are there in the Psalms? (c) What is the main thought being expressed in this psalm?
- (115) What is the main thought being expressed in Psalm 124?
- (116) How was unity in Israel like oil running down Aaron's beard (Psalm 133:1,2)?
- (117) According to the words of Psalm 139, how well does God know us? What is the Psalmist's prayer because of this (v.23,24)?
- (118) Why does Psalm 140:3b mean, and why is it quoted in Romans 3:13b?
- (119) The title of Psalm 142 probably refers to 1 Samuel 22:1. What was this incident, and how is Psalm 142 related to it?
- (120) How does Romans 3:20 relate to Psalm 143:2b?
- (121) Psalm 144 expresses several different thoughts. Summarise what is being said in this Psalm.
- (122) Do the words of Psalm 145:19,20 apply today? Give reasons for your answer.