

PSALMS

AN OVERVIEW

Purpose

To provide poetry for expressing praise, worship, adoration, and confession to Yahweh.

Author

David, Asaph, the sons of Korah, Solomon, Heman, Ethan, Moses and others who are unnamed.

Date

The Psalms were written c.1400-450 BC.

Audience

The Psalms were written for all eras to enjoy and were meant to be timeless.

Setting

The psalms were not primarily intended to be narrations of historical events. Yet they often parallel events in history, such as David's flight from Saul and his great sin with Bathsheba.

Special Features

The book of Psalms is fundamentally the hymnbook of the people of God at worship. The Psalms take the basic themes of Old Testament theology and turn them into song: Monotheism, Creation and Fall, Election and Covenant, Covenant Membership and Eschatology.



Key Verses

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." (23:4 ESV)

"Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart." (37:4 ESV)

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (119:105 ESV)

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." (119:11 NIV)

"Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!" (150:6 ESV)

Key People

David, Korah, Solomon.

Key Place

The Temple.