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# THE HOLY BIBLE **NKJV** REFERENCE GUIDE

**OLD TESTAMENT**

**BOOK 19**

**PSALMS**



**King David playing the harp by Gerard van Honthorst**

## SUMMARY

Psalms, a collection of lyrical poems, is one of only two Old Testament books to identify itself as a composite work containing multiple authors (Proverbs is the other). Some psalms name their author in the first line or title.

For example, Moses wrote Psalm 90. David was responsible for many of them, composing seventy-three psalms. Asaph wrote twelve; the descendants of Korah penned ten. Solomon wrote one or two, and Ethan and Heman the Ezrahites were responsible for two others. The remainder of the psalms do not contain information about their authors.

The book was originally titled Tehillim, which means “praise songs” in Hebrew. The English title of “Psalms” originated from the Septuagint’s Greek title Psalmoi, also meaning songs of praise.

The psalms comprised the ancient hymnal of God’s people. The poetry was often set to music—but not always. The psalms express the emotion of the individual poet to God or about God. Different types of psalms were written to communicate different feelings and thoughts regarding a psalmist’s situation.

The book of Psalms expresses worship. Throughout its many pages, Psalms encourages its readers to praise God for who He is and what He has done. The Psalms illuminate the greatness of our God, affirm His faithfulness to us in times of trouble, and remind us of the absolute centrality of His Word.

As the Psalms present a clear picture of God lovingly guiding His people, the responses of praise and worship to God are never far from the psalmists’ pens. The portrayal of worship in the Psalms offers us glimpse after glimpse of hearts devoted to God, individuals repentant before Him, and lives changed through encounters with Him.

David went to many experiences in his life that he wrote about, especially when he was hunted down by King Saul from place to place like a "Partridge" in the wilderness. David was a young shepherd, he knew what it was like to tend his flock and to guard them from predators, this gave him a beautiful imagery for the Lord the great Shepherd.

David was also a musician, a man of war, a king, a father, a husband, a friend, and many more. He repented over his sin in Psalm 51, acknowledging himself to be a sinner before God and God alone. God called David "a man after my own heart" and these experiences allowed him to share with the reader, a man who knew the heart of God.

David was a master at finding different ways to praise God in life experiences and the book of Psalms is a wonder book for those who want to know how to please God. He was filled with the Holy Spirit. There is no doubt that David wrote most of the Psalms, and the ones that he did not write are in his style as well.

It is impossible to determine exactly how the Psalms were compiled and collected, and dating them is also difficult for most of the Psalms. Some of the Psalms are commemorating victories, while others are historical, remembering the Lord and God's people in past events.

## SUMMARY Continued

Other Psalms are prophetic and look to the future and the coming of the Messiah, as well as the heavenly kingdom. There are Psalms of affliction, lamentation and remorse over sin, as well as songs of Thanksgiving and trusting the Lord.

The book of Psalms is the longest book in the Bible. The 119th Psalm is a longest chapter in the whole Bible. The 117th Psalm is the shortest chapter in the Bible and located in the middle. When the Old Testament is quoted in the New Testament by someone, over one third of all the quotes are from the Psalms.

## NKJV SELECTED SCRIPTURE

- 1:6** For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.
- 5:12** For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; With favor You will surround him as with a shield.
- 18:30** As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.
- 23:1** A Psalm of David. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- 23:2** He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.
- 23:3** He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.
- 23:4** Yea, 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
- 23:5** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.
- 23:6** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.
- 32:10** Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; But he who trusts in the Lord, mercy shall surround him.
- 33:4** For the word of the Lord is right, And all His work is done in truth.
- 33:5** He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.
- 33:6** By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.
- 34:9** Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him.
- 34:10** The young lions lack and suffer hunger; But those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.
- 34:13** Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit.
- 34:14** Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.
- 37:3** Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.
- 37:4** Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.
- 37:8** Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret--it only causes harm.
- 37:11** But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.
- 37:16** A little that a righteous man has Is better than the riches of many wicked.

## NKJV SCRIPTURE Continued

- 37:23** The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way.
- 37:24** Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the Lord upholds him with His hand.
- 37:34** Wait on the Lord, And keep His way, And He shall exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you shall see it.
- 55:16** As for me, I will call upon God, And the Lord shall save me.
- 55:17** Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice.
- 55:18** He has redeemed my soul in peace from the battle that was against me, For there were many against me.
- 55:22** Cast your burden on the Lord, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.
- 62:7** In God is my salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength, And my refuge, is in God.
- 90:4** For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it is past, And like a watch in the night.
- 91:9** Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place,
- 91:10** No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;
- 91:11** For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.
- 91:12** In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.
- 91:14** *Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name.*
- 91:15** *He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him.*
- 91:16** *With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation.*
- 100:3** Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.
- 100:4** Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.
- 100:5** For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.
- 103:2** Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits:
- 103:3** Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases,
- 103:4** Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,
- 103:5** Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- 103:17** But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting On those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children,
- 103:18** To such as keep His covenant, And to those who remember His commandments to do them.
- 103:19** The Lord has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules over all.
- 103:20** Bless the Lord, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word.
- 103:21** Bless the Lord, all you His hosts, You ministers of His, who do His pleasure.

## NKJV SCRIPTURE Continued

- 103:22** Bless the Lord, all His works, In all places of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!
- 104:33** I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.
- 104:34** May my meditation be sweet to Him; I will be glad in the Lord.
- 119:9** How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.
- 119:10** With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!
- 119:11** Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You!
- 119:12** Blessed are You, O Lord! Teach me Your statutes!
- 119:13** With my lips I have declared All the judgments of Your mouth.
- 119:14** I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches.
- 119:15** I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways.
- 119:16** I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.
- 145:17** The Lord is righteous in all His ways, Gracious in all His works.
- 145:18** The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.
- 145:19** He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.
- 145:20** The Lord preserves all who love Him, But all the wicked He will destroy.
- 145:21** My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, And all flesh shall bless His holy name Forever and ever.

## CHARACTER Definitions

**SELAH** - The word Selah is found in two books of the Bible, but is most prevalent in the Psalms, where it appears 71 times. It also appears three times in the third chapter of the minor prophet Habakkuk.

It is a Hebrew word meaning a musical interlude; to pause and think about what was just said or sung; or to pause and watch for a visual demonstration of what was said or sung.

## MAP REFERENCES

<i>Authors of the Psalms</i>	
Author	Chapters The Author Wrote
Asaph	50, 73-83
David	1-41, 5-71, 138-150
Ethan the Ezrahite	89
Herman the Ezrahite	88
Moses	90
Solomon	72, 127
Sons of Korah	42-49, 84-89
Unknown	some 51 Psalms

## BIBLE TIMELINE

1407 BC	Psalm of Moses	Psalm 90
1013 BC	David's Psalm of Deliverance (1Sa 20)	Psalm 59
1012 BC	David's Psalm Fleeing Saul (1Sa 21)	Psalm 52
1012 BC	David's Psalm Before Ahimelech (1Sa 21)	Psalm 34
1011 BC	David's Psalm at Gath (1Sa 21)	Psalm 56
1011 BC	David's Psalms in the Cave (1Sa 22)	Psalms 57, 142
1011 BC	David's Psalm at Keilah (1Sa 23)	Psalm 54
998 BC	David's Psalm of Victory (2Sa 8)	Psalm 60
998 BC	David's Psalm of Zion	Psalm 15
998 BC	David's Psalm of Glory to God	Psalm 24
998 BC	Psalms of Praise (1Ch 16)	Psalms 96, 105, 106
991 BC	David's Psalm of Repentance (2Sa 12)	Psalm 51
979 BC	Psalms of David	Psalms 2 - 145
979 BC	Psalms of Korah	Psalms 42 - 44, 84, 85, 87, 88
979 BC	Psalms of Asaph	Psalm 50, 73, 75 - 78, 80 - 83, 89
979 BC	Psalms of Unknown Authors	Psalms 1 - 150
972 BC	David's Psalm of Thirst for God (2Sa 16)	Psalm 63
972 BC	David Psalms of Deliverance (2Sa 17)	Psalms 41, 55
970 BC	David's Psalm of Steadfastness (2Sa 23)	Psalm 108
970 BC	David's Psalm of Salvation (1Ki 2)	Psalm 37
967 BC	Psalm for Solomon (2Ch 1)	Psalm 72
967 BC	Psalm of Korah (1Ki 3)	Psalm 45
959 BC	Psalms of Solomon (2Ch 7)	Psalms 135, 136
950 BC	Solomon Psalm of Blessing	Psalm 127
701 BC	Korah's Psalms of Refuge (2Ch 32)	Psalms 46 - 48
586 BC	Psalms of Desolation (Jer. 52)	Psalms 74, 79