

General Overview

General observations

Israel's ancient songbook. It's **Psalm 140**, not **Psalms 140**. There is honesty and questioning in the **Psalms**. Jesus starts a psalm during his crucifixion and the people around him could have finished it. The **Psalms** are dynamic.

The central proposition: Psalm 117:1-2: God is worthy of our praise. This also provides the five-fold division of the book of **Psalms** (because the phrase "Amen and amen" appears at the end of each one)

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Psalms 1-42 | 3. Psalms 73-89 | 5. Psalms 107-150 |
| 2. Psalms 42-72 | 4. Psalms 90-106 | |

In the Hebrew Bible, there is a division of three (Law, Writings (includes the **Psalms**), Prophets).

Types of **Psalms** (not exhaustive):

- Wisdom **Psalms** (general observations of life): **1** (the right man delights in God, the wrong man rejects God), **14, 73**
- Penitential **Psalms** (express sorrow for sins): **38, 51** (wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin)
- Royal **Psalms** (focuses on Israel's king): **2** (coronation day), **45, 110**
- Messianic **Psalms** (God's anointed one restoring Israel and establishing everlasting salvation): **2, 16, 22**
- Imprecatory **Psalms** (call for God's judgment on enemies): **35, 69, 137**
- Lament **Psalms** (ends with praise, states Psalmist's trust in God, bemoans one's condition): **3, 4, 6** (honest with God, appeal to God's character, pouring out to God, gaining confidence)
- Hymn **Psalms** (hymns of praise, songs): **8, 136, 150** (Where to praise? Reason to praise? How to praise? Who should praise?)

Note: be careful about dating the **Psalms** and tying them to a particular author (or eliminating a particular author) as God inspired them and God knows the future

Parallelism is a poetical device the Hebrew writers use to help us remember:

- Antithetical parallelism: a line has the opposite meaning of the prior (ex: **Psalm 1:8**)
- Synonymous parallelism: a line has the same meaning as the prior (ex: **Psalm 38:1**)
- Synthetic parallelism: a line continues the thought of the prior (ex: **Psalm 42:1**)

Observation about the structure of the Old Testament:

- The Law is the basis that the rest of the Old Testament is built off of
- The history is the demonstration of whether or not the Israelites were following the Law
- The wisdom literature is practical application of the Law
- The prophets call back to the Law