

BIBLE STUDY HELPS FOR THE PSALMS*

Psalms is a worship book. Christian people usually spend more time in reading Psalms than any other book of the Bible. The central aim of the book is to adore God. According to Psalms, LIFE is worthwhile only as LIFE is related to God.

DIVISION OF THE PSALMS

Psalms is divided into 5 books. Each of the 5 books ends with a doxology (praise or glory word) and also with an AMEN. All of Psalm 150 is a doxology for the whole book of Psalms.

5 BOOKS

- Book 1–Psalm 1-41
- Book 2–Psalm 42-72
- Book 3–Psalm 73-89
- Book 4–Psalm 90-106
- Book 5–Psalm 107-150

8 Categories

1. Individual Petition–i.e. Psalm 17.
2. Individual Thanksgiving– i.e. Psalm 30.
3. Community Petition– i.e. Psalm 74.
4. Community Thanksgiving– i.e. Psalm 124.
5. Hymns– i.e. Psalm 29.
6. Royal Hymns– i.e. Psalm 45.
7. Psalms of Zion– i.e. Psalm 87.
8. Wisdom– i.e. Psalm 112.

3 Major Festivals Where Psalms Were Used

1. Passover–stressed the redemption from Egypt.
2. Pentecost–seven weeks later–stressed the giving of the law at Mt. Sinai.
3. Tabernacles–Feast of Booths, Feast of Ingathering. Begging God for forgiveness.

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