

Psalm 1

THE PSALMS OF DAVID

PART 1

Introduction to the book of Psalms:

1. The book of Psalms is the songbook of the Old Testament.
 2. The Hebrew word that serves as the title of this book (“psalms”) comes from the verb *halal*, meaning, “To praise.”
 3. The Psalms are arranged into five books:
 - a. Book 1 – Psalms 1 – 41
 - b. Book 2 – Psalms 42 – 72
 - c. Book 3 – Psalms 73 – 89
 - d. Book 4 – Psalms 90 – 106
 - e. Book 5 – Psalms 107 – 150
 4. There are seven known authors of the psalms:
 - a. David (73 psalms)
 - b. Asaph (12 psalms)
 - c. Sons of Korah (12 psalms)
 - d. Solomon (2 psalms [72, 127])
 - e. Heman (1 psalm [88])
 - f. Ethan (1 psalm [89])
 - g. Moses (1 psalm [90])
 - h. Anonymous (48 psalms)
 5. There are several different types of psalms:
 - a. Ethical (cf. Psalm 1)
 - b. Historical (cf. Psalms 78, 105, 106)
 - c. Praise (cf. Psalm 113)
 - d. Alphabetic / Acrostic (cf. Psalm 119)
 - e. Liturgical / Responsive
 - f. Imprecatory (cf. Psalms 35, 69, 109)
 - g. Ascent / Degrees (cf. Psalms 120 – 134)
 - h. Thanksgiving (cf. Psalm 75)
 - i. Penitential (cf. Psalm 51)
 - j. Messianic (cf. Psalms 2, 22)
 6. The psalms are poetic and must be understood and interpreted in harmony with their style of writing.
 7. Many psalms have titles or explanations at their beginnings which are not inspired but are very ancient and likely accurate.
 8. Psalm 1 is an introductory psalm that encapsulates the message of the entire book and emphasizes an important theme – the Law of Jehovah.
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- I. The Blessedness of the Righteous (Psalm 1:1-3)
 - A. The word ‘blessed’ can be rendered as, “Oh, the blessedness!”
 1. It is more than just happiness.
 2. It is plural in the original Hebrew.
 3. It is linked back to the Abrahamic promise (Gen. 12:3).
 - B. The character of the blessed man is considered negatively – what he does not do (cf. 2 Sam. 16:20; 1 Cor. 1:18ff).
 - C. The character of the blessed man is considered positively – what he does.

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- D. The results are pictured as a planted, cultivated tree by a continual source of water (cf. Luke 8:11; Rom. 6:3ff; 1 Pet. 2:2; Matt. 7:17-20).
- II. The Condition of the Unrighteous (Psalm 1:4-6)
- A. They are not like the righteous.
 - B. Instead of an evergreen, they are chaff.
 - C. They will not be able to withstand the judgment of God.
 - D. Their way of life ends in death – eternal separation from God.
 - E. God knows all men.