

Unleashing the Old Testament

with Alan Gilman
Bible Teacher

Session 18



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The Writings Part 1: The Psalms



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The Writings (K'tuvim)

❖ Psalms (Tehillim)	❖ Esther (Ester)
❖ Proverbs (Mishlei)	❖ Daniel (Dani-el)
❖ Job (Iyov)	❖ Ezra (Ezra')
❖ Song of Songs / Solomon (Shir Hashirim)	❖ Nehemiah (Nechemya)
❖ Ruth (Rut)	❖ 1 Chronicles (Divrei Hayamim A)
❖ Lamentations (Eikhah)	❖ 2 Chronicles (Divrei Hayamim B)
❖ Ecclesiastes (Qoheleth)	



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The Writings (K'tuvim)

Wisdom Literature

- ❖ Job
- ❖ Psalms
- ❖ Proverbs
- ❖ Ecclesiastes
- ❖ Song of Songs/Solomon



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The Writings (K'tuvim)

Wisdom Literature

Wisdom is a life skill where truth, goodness, and holiness are effectively and fittingly applied to specific situations.



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The Psalms (T'hillim)

Introduction

- ❖ The Bible's worship song book
- ❖ Personal nature of the Psalms
- ❖ Context (individual, national, Torah)
- ❖ Prophetic Elements
- ❖ The Psalms and theology
(Descriptive vs. Prescriptive)



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The Psalms (T'hillim)

Organization

- ❖ Book I: 1-41
- ❖ Book II: 42-72
- ❖ Book III: 73-89
- ❖ Book IV: 90-106
- ❖ Book V: 107-150

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.
(Psalm 41:13)



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The Psalms (T'hillim)

Authorship

- ❖ David (73)
- ❖ Asaph (12)
- ❖ Sons of Korah (11)
- ❖ Solomon (2)
- ❖ Moses (1)
- ❖ Heman the Ezrahite (1)
- ❖ Ethan the Ezrahite (1)
- ❖ Unknown (49)



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The Psalms (T'hillim)

Types of Psalms

- ❖ Lament Psalms (complaining and grieving)
- ❖ Thanksgiving Psalms
- ❖ Hymnic Psalms (songs of praise)
- ❖ Psalms for Public Worship
- ❖ Community Psalms (songs about life and living)



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The Psalms (T'hillim)

Parallelism

- ❖ Synonymous
- ❖ Antithetical
- ❖ Synthetic



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The Psalms (T'hillim)

Parallelism - Synonymous

He made known his ways to Moses,
 his acts to the people of Israel.
 The LORD is merciful and gracious,
 slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
 He will not always chide,
 nor will he keep his anger forever.
 He does not deal with us according to our sins,
 nor repay us according to our iniquities. (Psalm 103:7-10)



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The Psalms (T'hillim)

Parallelism - Antithetical

The young lions suffer want and hunger;
 but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.
 (Psalm 34:10)



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The Psalms (T'hillim)

Parallelism - Synthetic

He is like a tree
 planted by streams of water
 that yields its fruit in its season,
 and its leaf does not wither.
 In all that he does, he prospers.
 (Psalm 1:3)



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The Psalms (T'hillim)

Acrostics

- ❖ Psalms 9, 10, 25, 34, 37, 111, 112, 119 (stanzas) & 145
- ❖ Five songs that make up the Book of Lamentations (First four out of five chapters)
- ❖ Proverbs 31:10-31 (the excellent wife)



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The Psalms (T'hillim)

Special Collections

- ❖ The Hallel (113 - 118)
- ❖ The songs of ascents (120 - 134)
- ❖ The halleluyah psalms (146 - 150)



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The Psalms (T'hillim)

Special Terminology

- ❖ “To the chief Musician” or “choirmaster/director” (53X - e.g. Ps. 4)
- ❖ Selah (71X - meaning uncertain; e.g. Ps. 3:2, 4, 8)
- ❖ Shir (song; e.g. Ps. 128)
- ❖ Mizmor (song with musical accompaniment?; e.g. Ps. 30:1) [Often used with "shir"]



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The Psalms (T'hillim)

Special Terminology

- ❖ Tehillah (hymn or song of praise [to God]; e.g. Ps. 145:1)
- ❖ Michtam (meaning uncertain; e.g. Ps. 16)
- ❖ Shigayon (meaning unknown; e.g. Ps. 7)



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The Psalms (T'hillim)

Special Terminology

Psalm 16 - English Standard Version (ESV)
 A MIKTAM OF DAVID.
¹ Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
² I say to the LORD, “You are my LORD; I have no good apart from you.”

מִכְתָּם לְדָוִד שְׁמִרְנִי אֵל פִּי־חַסִּיתִי בְךָ:



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The Psalms (T'hillim)

Verse numbering

ENGLISH

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

FRENCH

¹ Au chef des chantres. Psaume de David.
² Lorsque Nathan, le prophète, vint à lui,
après que David fut allé vers Bath-Schéba.
³ O Dieu! aie pitié de moi dans ta bonté;
Selon ta grande miséricorde, efface mes
transgressions;

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Sample Psalms



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Psalm 1

Blessed is the man
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
² but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.



25

Psalm 1

³ He is like a tree
planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.

In all that he does, he prospers.

⁴ The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.



26

Psalm 1

⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
⁶ for the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.



27

Psalm 2

Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?

² The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,

³ "Let us burst their bonds apart
and cast away their cords from us."



28

Psalm 2

⁴ He who sits in the heavens laughs;
 the LORD holds them in derision.
⁵ Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
 and terrify them in his fury, saying,
⁶ "As for me, I have set my King
 on Zion, my holy hill."



29

Psalm 2

⁷ I will tell of the decree:
 The LORD said to me, "You are my Son;
 today I have begotten you."
⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your
 heritage,
 and the ends of the earth your possession.
⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron
 and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."



30

Psalm 2

¹⁰ Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
 be warned, O rulers of the earth.
¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear,
 and rejoice with trembling.
¹² Kiss the Son,
 lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,
 for his wrath is quickly kindled.
 Blessed are all who take refuge in him.



31

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
² He makes me lie down in green pastures.
 He leads me beside still waters.
³ He restores my soul.
 He leads me in paths of righteousness
 for his name's sake.



32

Psalm 23

⁴ 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.



33

Psalm 23

⁵ You prepare a table before me
 in the presence of my enemies;
 you anoint my head with oil;
 my cup overflows.
⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
 all the days of my life,
 and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
 forever.



34

Psalm 32

A Maskil of David.

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

² Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts
no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.



35

Psalm 32

³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of
summer. Selah



36

Psalm 32

⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the
LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah



37

Psalm 32

⁶ Therefore let everyone who is godly
 offer prayer to you at a time when you may be
 found;
 surely in the rush of great waters,
 they shall not reach him.

⁷ You are a hiding place for me;
 you preserve me from trouble;
 you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
 Selah



38

Psalm 32

⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way you
 should go;
 I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

⁹ Be not like a horse or a mule, without
 understanding,
 which must be curbed with bit and bridle,
 or it will not stay near you.



39

Psalm 32

¹⁰ Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
 but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts
 in the LORD.

¹¹ Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,
 and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!



40

Psalm 13

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?
 How long will you hide your face from me?
² How long must I take counsel in my soul
 and have sorrow in my heart all the day?
 How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?



41

Psalm 13

³ Consider and answer me, O LORD my God;
 light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,
⁴ lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"
 lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.



42

Psalm 13

⁵ But I have trusted in your steadfast love (hesed);
 my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
⁶ I will sing to the LORD,
 because he has dealt bountifully with me.



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