

## Types of Psalms

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| Type: | <p><b>Praise Psalm</b></p> <p>8, 19, 29, 33, 47, 66:1-12, 93, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 103, 104, 105, 107, 111, 113, 114, 117, 135, 136, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150</p>  | <p>Focus on God's role as creator and sustainer who provides stability and reliability in a chaotic world.</p> <p>Expressions of confidence in God's power and authority.</p> <p>No hint of suffering or disorder.</p> <p>Structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Call to worship</li> <li>(b) Invitation to praise</li> <li>(c) Description of what God has done</li> </ul>   |
| Type: | <p><b>Individual Lament (Complaint/Petition)</b></p> <p>3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 22, 25, 26, 27:7-14, 28, 31, 35, 36, 38, 39, 41, 42, 43, 51, 53, 54, 56, 57, 59, 61, 63, 64, 69, 70, 71, 86, 88, 102, 109, 120, 130, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143</p> | <p>Psalmist's call for rescue by God.</p> <p>Offers oppressed or troubled persons a means of unburdening themselves before God and receiving an assurance.</p> <p>Structure (somewhat flexible):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Cry for help from God</li> <li>(b) Complaint - description of the problem</li> <li>(c) Statement of trust</li> <li>(d) Prayer for rescue</li> <li>(e) Statement of praise</li> </ul> <p>Psalm tells a drama about the psalmist (who is loyal to God), his enemies, and God. The psalmist suffers assault by his enemies and asks God for relief.</p> <p>An appeal to God's virtue rather than the individual's (who may be considered innocent in the specific instance).</p> <p>Suffering is a present and continuing experience.</p> |

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| Type: | <b>Community Lament</b><br>44, 60, 74, 77, 79, 80, 83, 85, 89, 90, 94, 123, 126           | The community complains about their abandonment by God to their enemies. The great acts of God that brought Israel into existence are recalled with the hope that in remembering those events God would renew such deliverance. |
| Type: | <b>Thanksgiving Psalm</b><br>18, 21, 30, 32, 34, 40:1-10, 41, 92, 108, 111, 116, 118, 138 | Describes suffering in the past (as a result of sin, treachery, oppression or the chaos of the world) but also reports God's deliverance, redemption, and transforming action.  |
| Type: | <b>Royal Psalm</b><br>2, 18, 20, 21, 45, 72, 89, 101, 110, 132, 144:1-11                  | Focus on matters relating to the king and his political, social, and religious duties.<br>Among these are <i>laments</i> and <i>thanksgivings</i> .   |
| Type: | <b>YHWH Malak (“Yahweh Reigns”)</b><br>24, 29, 47, 93, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99                 | Celebrations of the kingdom and rule of God.<br>Kingship is grounded in God's creative power and authority over chaos.<br>Divine judgment is also a theme and is seen as a joyful thing because it will set things right.       |
| Type: | <b>Song of Zion</b><br>46, 48, 76, 84, 87, 121, 122                                       | Celebrations of the majesty of Mt. Zion, the dwelling place of God and secure fortress of God's people.   |
| Type: | <b>Torah Psalm</b><br>1, 19, 119  | Celebration of the inspired written word, especially the law of Moses.<br>Features contrasts, such as: righteous v. wicked,<br>way of life v. way of death  |

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| Type: | <b>Wisdom Psalm</b><br>37, 49, 73, 112, 127 (possibly 1)                      | These address how to live well and in harmony with God and others (think Proverbs). |
| Type: | <b>Song of Trust</b><br>11, 14, 16, 23, 27:1-6, 52, 62, 63, 91, 121, 125, 131 | Expressions of confidence in God.<br>Related to <i>individual laments</i> .         |
| Type: | <b>Historical Psalm</b><br>78, 105, 106                                       |   |
| Type: | <b>Entrance Liturgy</b><br>15, 24   | Used during entrance to tabernacle or temple.                                       |

Information from OT612: Psalms taught at Asbury Theological Seminary, Spring 2004 and Clifford, Richard J., Psalms 1-72. (Nashville: Abingdon)