

Psalms

LOOKING FORWARD TO JESUS

Written as many as 1000 years before His birth, several of the psalms clearly point to the coming Messiah. These include psalms 2, 8, 16, 22, 45, 69, 72, 89, 110, 118, and 132.

The New Testament validates the prophetic nature of many of the psalms, referencing at least seventeen places in *Psalms* that refer to Christ. For instance, consider this excerpt from *Psalms* 22:

Dogs have surrounded me;
a band of evil men has
encircled me,
they have pierced my hands
and my feet.

I can count all my bones;
people stare and gloat
over me.
They divide my garments
among them
and cast lots for my clothing.

As *The Gospel of John* indicates, Psalm 22 depicts the crucifixion of Christ in surprising detail hundreds of years before the event.

The Book of *Psalms* is a collection of 150 usually brief hymns from ancient Israel, expressing a wide range of human emotion, from joy to depression.

The poems were collected over a 600 year period, from the time of David to the time of Ezra. The messages found in *Psalms* are timeless, making it one of the best loved, most-read books of the *Bible*. As you read through *Psalms*, mark the ones that are particularly relevant to you, so you can return to them for further perusal at a later date.

Blessed is the man
who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked
or stand in the way of sinners
or sit in the seat of mockers.
But his delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law he meditates day and night.
He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither.
Whatever he does prospers.

Psalms 1:1-3

Old Testament Timeline

Exile and return

| | | | | | |
|--|--|------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| BC | 2000-1700 | 1700 | 1250 | 1210 | 1030 |
| Creation/Fall Adam & Eve Noah | Patriarchs Abraham Isaac Jacob Joseph | Israel in Egypt | The Exodus Moses The Law | Promised Land Joshua Deborah Gideon Sampson | United Kingdom Samuel Saul David Solomon |

PEOPLE

Aaron Moses' older brother (by three years); priest and spokesman for Moses; a Levite, his descendants carry on his duties as priest **Abimelech** a Philistine king **Ahimelech Abiram** with Dathan and other Reubenites, conspired against Moses and Aaron and was destroyed **Abraham** founder of the Hebrew nation; father of Isaac; grandfather of Jacob **Ab-salom** a son of David who fails in his attempt to succeed him **Anointed One** Christ **Asaph** a temple musician during the time of David who is credited with have written several of the psalms **Baal of Peor** a Canaanite fertility God **Bathsheba** after committing adultery with David, Bathsheba becomes David's queen, the mother of Solomon, and an ancestor of Christ **Dathan** with Abiram and other Reubenites, conspired against Moses and Aaron and was destroyed **David** slayer of Goliath and second king of Israel, David is flawed yet demonstrates a great heart for God; father of Solomon; ancestor of Christ **Ethan** a temple musician during the time of David, he is a psalm writer **Goliath** a giant Philistine warrior whom young David defeats with a stone thrown from his sling **Jacob** also known as Israel, he is the father of the twelve tribes of Israel; son of Isaac; grandson of Abraham **Jeduthun** a temple musician during David's time who writes several psalms **Korah** great grandson of Levi, he led a rebellion against Moses and Aaron and was swallowed up by the earth; some of his descendants became sacred musicians **Levi** (write) **Melchizedek** priest and king of ancient Salem (which becomes Jerusalem) **Moses** under God's direction, leads Israel out of Egypt to the Promised Land **Nathan** a prophet in the court of both David and Solomon; he enlightens David regarding David's sinfulness by telling the parable of the ewe lamb **Philistines** settlers in Canaan, the people of Philistia battle with Israel throughout the ages of the judges and kings **Phinehas** a high priest who was the grandson of Aaron **Samuel** prophet, priest, and Israel's last judge, Samuel anoints Saul and then David as king **Saul** Israel's first king, he loses God's support by not following Him faithfully and then failing to repent **Savior** Christ **Solomon** son of David and Bathsheba, third king of Israel (David's successor); becomes the wisest and richest man in the world

TERMS

blessed favored by God **consecrated** set apart for God **Ham** poetic name for Egypt **pot-herd** piece of broken pottery **prophet** person who speaks as inspired by God **psalm** a song, hymn **righteousness** (write) **Sabbath** the seventh day of the week, set aside for no work **Salem** ancient Jerusalem **scepter** a royal staff signifying authority **Selah** an unidentified musical notation **Meribah** the place where the Hebrews rebelled against Moses and Aaron **Zion** one of the hills on which Jerusalem is built; alternative name from Jerusalem

Genealogy of Christ



930

Divided Kingdom

North: Ahab
Elijah
South: Hezekiah
Isaiah

722

Samaria falls to Assyria, scatters

587

Jerusalem falls to Babylon, exiled

538

Judeans return Esther
Ezra
Nehemiah

336

Greek rule

63 BC

Roman rule