

INTERESTING GROUPINGS

1. Liturgical groupings

- a. **The Egyptian Hallel** (means praise) Ps. 113-118 Sang on the night of Passover.
- b. **The Great Hallel** Ps. 120-136 includes 15 “Songs of Ascents” Ps. 120-134
- c. **The Final Hallel** Ps. 146-150 The “Hallelujah” psalms.

2. Thematic groupings

- a. **Praise psalms:** A description of the nature and qualities of God. 146-150
- b. **Lament:** expression of sorrow or regret. Includes a petition, description of distress, and an expression of trust. 44, 74, 79, 80, 137
- c. **Penitential psalms:** Psalmist asking forgiveness for his own unrighteousness and failure. 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143
- d. **Messianic psalms:** prediction of the Messiah, the “Anointed One”, the coming king, priest and prophet. 1, 8, 16, 22, 31, 40, 45, 69, 72, 89, 102, 109, 110, 132
- e. **Wisdom (proverb):** teaching that through prayer and praise man can approach God and live by faith and obedience to the law. 1, 19:7-14, 37, 49, 73, 112, 119, 127, 133, 139
- f. **Davidic psalms with historic settings.** Specific time in history. 3, 7, 18, 30, 34, 51, 52, 54, 56, 57, 59, 60, 63, 142 (not all historical psalms are David’s).
- g. **Social psalms:** A general history of Israel. Speaks of the origin, nature, purpose, and destiny of man. These lead to thanksgiving or supplication.
- h. **Imprecatory psalms:** crying out to God for justice for the failure of other men, or prayer for the defeat and overthrow of the wicked. 35, 59, 69, 109