

Kinds of Psalms

Kind	General Format	Variations	Description	Examples
Lament (a cry of distress)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address to God Complaint Request Expression of trust And sometimes... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vow to praise, sacrifice & instruct others Expression of joy (if the complaint is resolved) Curse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate lament 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community addresses their complaint to God. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12, 44, 60, 74, 79, 80, 83, 85, 90, 94, 123, 126, 129
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual lament 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints about one's own thoughts, the actions of others about God himself. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psalms 3, 4, 5, 7, 9-10, 13, 14, 17, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 36, 39, 40:12-17, 41, 42-43, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 61, 64, 69, 70, 71, 77, 86, 89, 120, 139, 141, 142
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lament of repentance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involves a confession of sin and a desire to change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lament of imprecation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An expression of anger at others to God. Often calls for curses on enemies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 35, 69, 88, 109, 137, 140
Gratitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement of the intention to express gratitude Explanation of God's deliverance Conclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate gratitude 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community thanks God for what he has done. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65, 67, 75, 107, 124, 136
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual gratitude 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usually gratitude for God's help or deliverance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18, 21, 30, 32, 34, 40, 66, 92, 108, 116, 118, 138
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gratitude for God's acts in history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflects on how God has acted in history to provide for and protect his people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8, 105-106, 135, 136
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressions of trust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The psalmist asserts his trust and confidence in God. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11, 16, 23, 27, 62, 63, 91, 121, 125, 131
Wisdom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These psalms are similar in form content to the wisdom books: Job, Proverbs, Song of Songs, and Ecclesiastes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General wisdom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argues for the superiority of God and his ways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1, 10, 12, 15, 32, 34, 36, 37, 49, 50, 52, 53, 73, 78, 82, 91, 92, 94, 111, 112, 127, 128, 139
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extols God's revelation and especially his Law. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1, 19, 119
Praise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call to praise God Reason for the praise, including God's attributes, actions in history, creation, etc. A conclusion – often a repetition of the opening call to praise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hymns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Songs of exuberant praise to the Lord. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8, 19:1-6; 33, 66:1-12, 67, 95, 100, 103, 104, 111, 113, 114, 117, 145-150
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covenant songs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Songs about God's covenant relationships with his people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50, 67, 72:17-19; 78, 81, 89, 132
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hymns of Mount Zion/Temple 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Praises for Mt. Zion, where the temple sits, or the temple itself. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mt. Zion: 46, 48, 76, 84, 87, 122; The temple: 15, 24, 68, 82, 115, 134
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Royal Psalms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Praises a human king or King Yahweh for his protection and rule. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2, 20, 21, 29, 45, 47, 93:1-2; 96-99, 110, 144
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Messianic Psalms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psalms about the "anointed one." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 35, 40, 41, 45, 55, 61, 69, 72, 89, 102, 109, 110, 132

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