

Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs



**The Master
Musician's
Melodies**



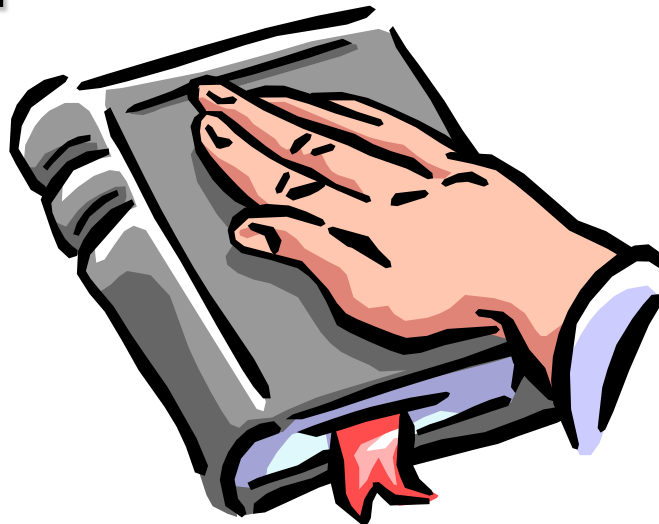
Psalms, Hymns, & Spiritual Songs

- **Ephesians 5:18–21**

Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

Mission Statement

- **Reading, understanding, meditating, singing, and praying the Psalms for heightened worship of God and changed lives.**





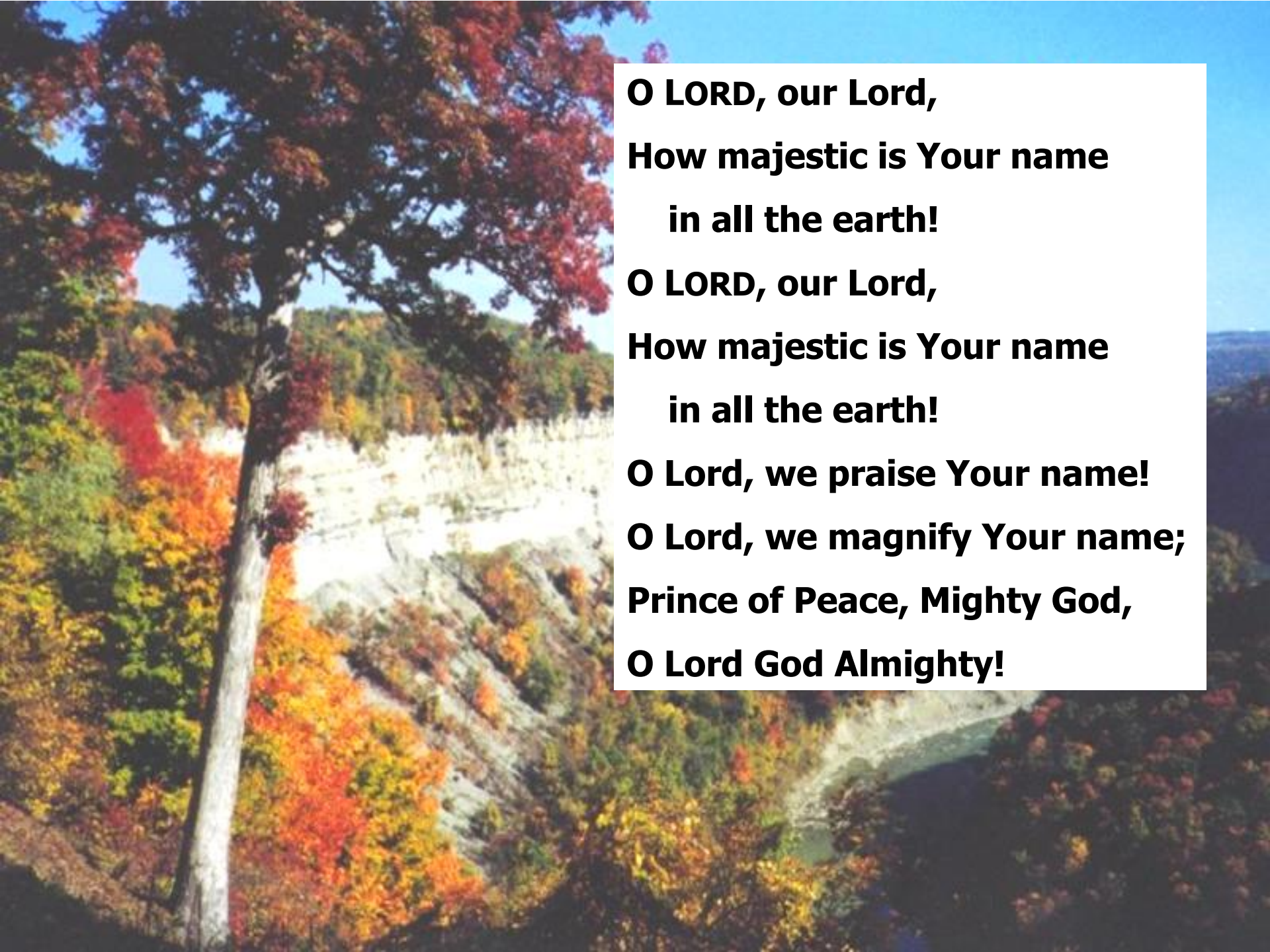
Daily Meditation

- **Augustine spent an hour of every day for several decades meditating on the Book of Psalms verse by verse. In this fashion he put into writing his reflections on the psalms.**



"O LORD, OUR LORD,
HOW MAJESTIC
IS YOUR NAME
IN ALL THE EARTH"

PSALM 8:1, 9



**O LORD, our Lord,
How majestic is Your name
in all the earth!**

**O LORD, our Lord,
How majestic is Your name
in all the earth!**

**O Lord, we praise Your name!
O Lord, we magnify Your name;
Prince of Peace, Mighty God,
O Lord God Almighty!**



Soul Music

- **“To be saved singing is to be saved indeed.” – Charles H. Spurgeon, *Treasury of David* (on 18:3)**

**Our God is an awesome God –
He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom, pow’r and love –
Our God is an awesome God!**

Based on Psalm 68:35



Musical Psalms

- **Augustine approved of putting the psalms to music, but whenever he found “the singing itself more moving than the truth which it conveys, ... [he] preferred not to hear the singer.” – Stanley L. Jaki, *Praying the Psalms*, 5**



Psalms as Prayers

- **Although there are prayers of various lengths found throughout the Scriptures, only the Book of Psalms is itself a series of prayers.**

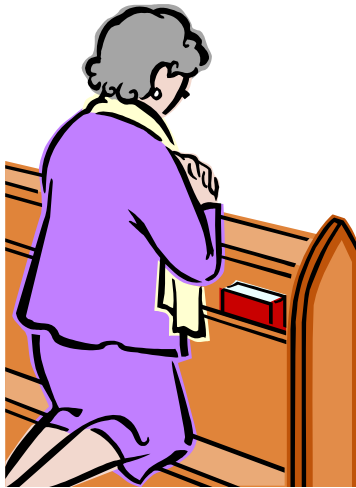


Psalms as Prayers

- Although there are prayers of various lengths found throughout the Scriptures, only the Book of Psalms is itself a series of prayers.
- The book's Hebrew name is ***Tehillim* = Praises.**



Psalms as Prayers



The psalms act as a catalyst for prayer. The prayers of the Hebrew psalmists echo the spoken and unspoken words of the believer's own heart.

Like the prayers of Jesus and the prayers of Paul, the psalms become model prayers for us.



Psalms as Prayers

1 A Psalm for Thanksgiving.

**Shout joyfully to the LORD,
all the earth!**

**2 Serve the LORD with gladness;
Come before Him with joyful singing.**

**3 Know that the LORD Himself is God;
It is He who has made us,
and not we ourselves;
We are His people
and the sheep of His pasture.**



Psalms as Prayers

- 4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving,
And His courts with praise.
Give thanks to Him, bless His name.**
- 5 For the LORD is good;
His lovingkindness is everlasting,
And His faithfulness to all
generations.**

- Psalm 100



Psalms as Prayers

1 Salmo de louvor

Celebrai com júbilo ao SENHOR,
todas as terras.

**Father, accept my prayer of thanksgiving
today.**

I shout for joy while giving thanks to You.

**On this Lord's day, may all believers from all
lands bring their thanks to you with great
joy.**



Psalms as Prayers

2 Servi ao SENHOR com alegria;
e entrai diante dele com canto.

**Lord, help me to serve You with gladness
today.**

**Give me a joyful heart and fill my mouth with
songs of praise.**

**As I prepare for church this morning, help me
to sing Your praises rather than to be
impatient and complaining.**

Psalms Outside the OT

- **The Dead Sea Scrolls (from Qumran) more frequently contain Psalms than the text of any other book of the OT.**





Psalms Outside the OT

- **The Dead Sea Scrolls (from Qumran) more frequently contain the Psalms than the text of any other book of the OT.**
- **Of the NT's approximately 360 quotations from the OT, one-third are from Psalms.**

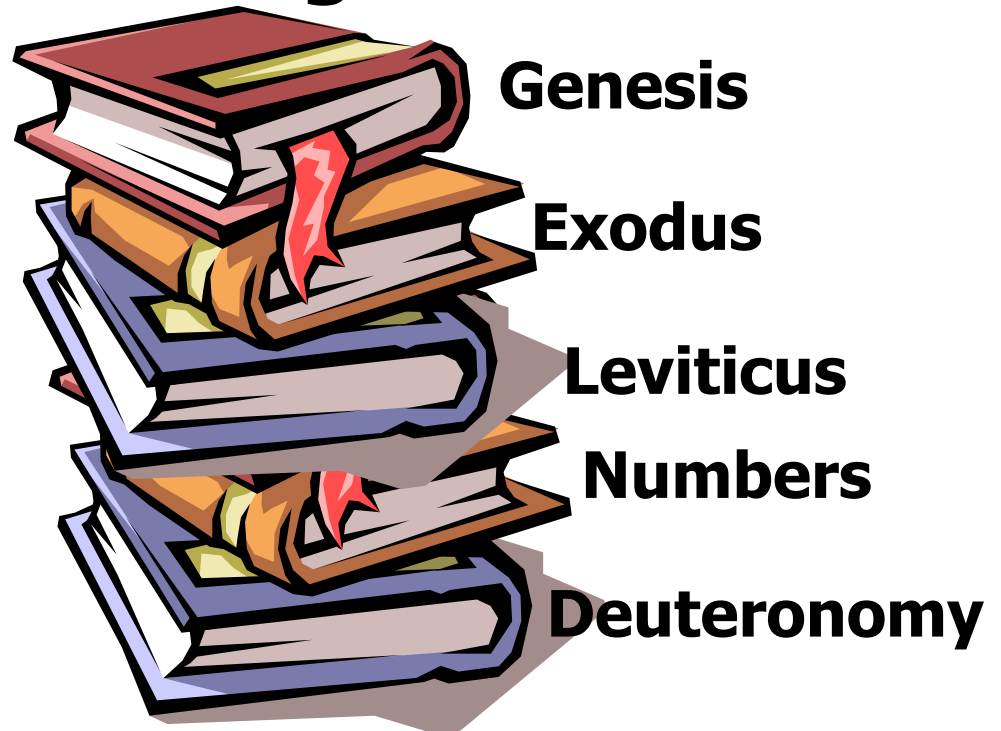
The Book of Psalms

- **150 psalms**



The Book of Psalms

- 150 psalms
- 5 “books” imitating the 5 books of Moses





The Book of Psalms

- 150 psalms
- 5 “books” imitating the 5 books of Moses
- Each “book” concludes with a doxology



The Book of Psalms

Book

■ **I**

Psalms

Psalms 1–41

Doxology

> 41:13



The Book of Psalms

Book

Psalms

Doxology

■ **I**

Psalms 1-41

> 41:13

■ **II**

Psalms 42–72

> 72:18–20



The Book of Psalms

Book

Psalms

Doxology

■ **I**

Psalms 1-41

> 41:13

■ **II**

Psalms 42-72

> 72:18-20

■ **III**

Psalms 73–89

> 89:52



The Book of Psalms

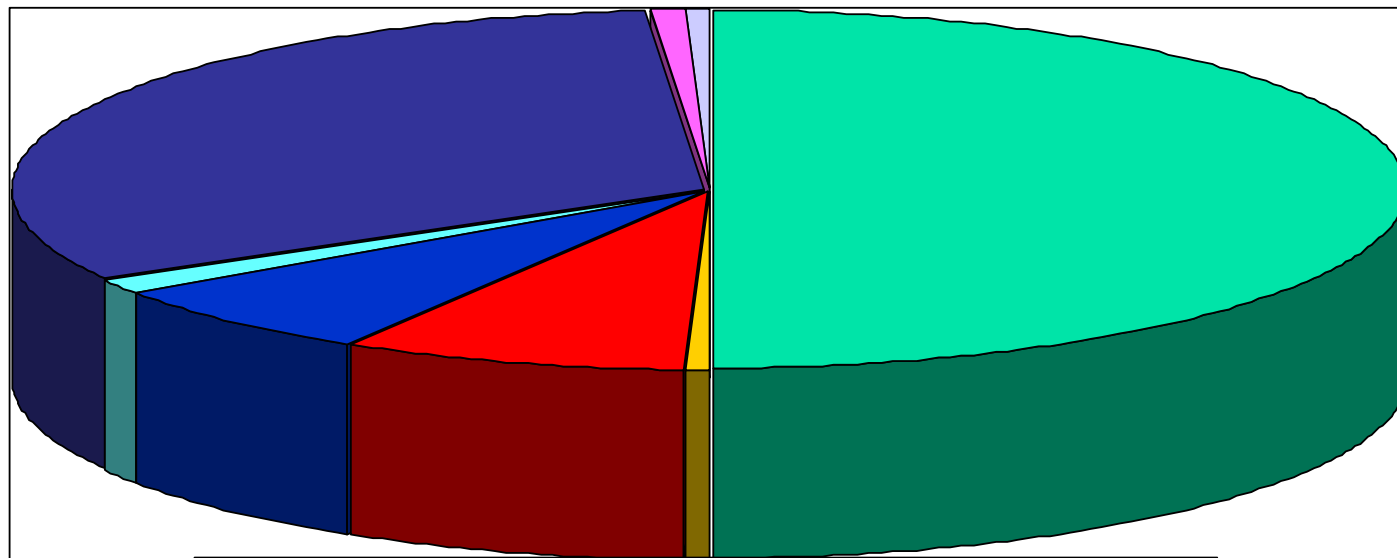
Book	Psalms	Doxology
■ I	Psalms 1-41	> 41:13
■ II	Psalms 42-72	> 72:18-20
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The Book of Psalms

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■ III	Psalms 73–89	> 89:52
■ IV	Psalms 90–106	> 106:48
■ V	Psalms 107–150	> 150:1–6

Psalm Composers



■ David 75	■ Heman 1
■ Asaph 12	■ Sons of Korah 10
■ Solomon 2	■ Anonymous 48
■ Moses 1	■ Ethan 1



Psalm Titles

- **116 psalms have titles/headings**



Psalm Titles

- **116 psalms have titles/headings**
- **Psalm titles are Scripture**



Psalm Titles

- **116 psalms have titles/headings**
- **Psalm titles are Scripture**
 - **Authentic**



Psalm Titles: Authentic

2 Samuel 22:1

**And David spoke
the words of this
song to the LORD**

**in the day that the
LORD delivered him
from the hand of
all his enemies and
from the hand of
Saul.**

Psalm 18

***A Psalm* of David
the servant of the
LORD, who spoke to
the LORD the words
of this song**

**in the day that the
LORD delivered him
from the hand of all
his enemies and
from the hand of
Saul.**



Psalm Titles

- **116 psalms have titles/headings**
- **Psalm titles are Scripture**
 - **Authentic**
 - **Ancient**



Psalm Titles: Ancient

Psalm 46

**For the choir director. *A Psalm*
of the sons of Korah, set to
Alamoth.**

Psalm 58

**To the choir director, *set to Al-*
tashheth. A Mikhtam of David.**



Psalm Titles

- **116 psalms have titles/headings**
- **Psalm titles are Scripture**
 - **Authentic**
 - **Ancient**
 - **Accurate**



Psalm Titles: Accurate

Luke 20:42

“For David himself says in the book of Psalms, ‘THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, ...””

Psalm 110

**A Psalm of David.
The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand ...”**



Psalm Headings

- **116 psalms have headings**
- **Psalm headings are Scripture**
 - **Authentic**
 - **Ancient**
 - **Accurate**
- **Thirtle's Theory**



Psalm Titles:

Thirtle's Theory

Habakkuk 3

Verse 1: Oração do profeta Habacuque sobre Sigionote.

...

Verse 19: O SENHOR Deus é a minha força, e fará os meus pés como os das cervas, e me fará andar sobre as minhas alturas. (Para o cantor-mor sobre os meus instrumentos de corda).



Psalm Titles:

Thirtle's Theory

Habakkuk 3

Verse 1: Oração do profeta Habacuque sobre Sigionote.

Superscription

...

Verse 19: O SENHOR Deus é a minha força, e fará os meus pés como os das cervas, e me fará andar sobre as minhas alturas. (Para o cantor-mor sobre os meus instrumentos de corda).



Psalm Titles:

Thirtle's Theory

Habakkuk 3

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Subscription



More on Psalm Titles

- **Psalm Headings Elsewhere in Scripture**



Isaiah 38:9, 20

9 O escrito de Ezequias, rei de Judá, de quando adoeceu e sarou de sua enfermidade:

Superscription

■ ■ ■

20 “O SENHOR veio salvar-me; **por isso, tangendo em meus instrumentos,** nós o louvaremos todos os dias de nossa vida na casa do SENHOR.”

Subscription



Ezekiel 19:14

‘And fire has gone out from *its* branch;

**It has consumed its shoots and fruit,
So that there is not in it a strong
branch,**

A scepter to rule.””

**This is a lamentation, and has
become a lamentation.**



More on Psalm Titles

- **Psalm Headings in the Ancient Near East**

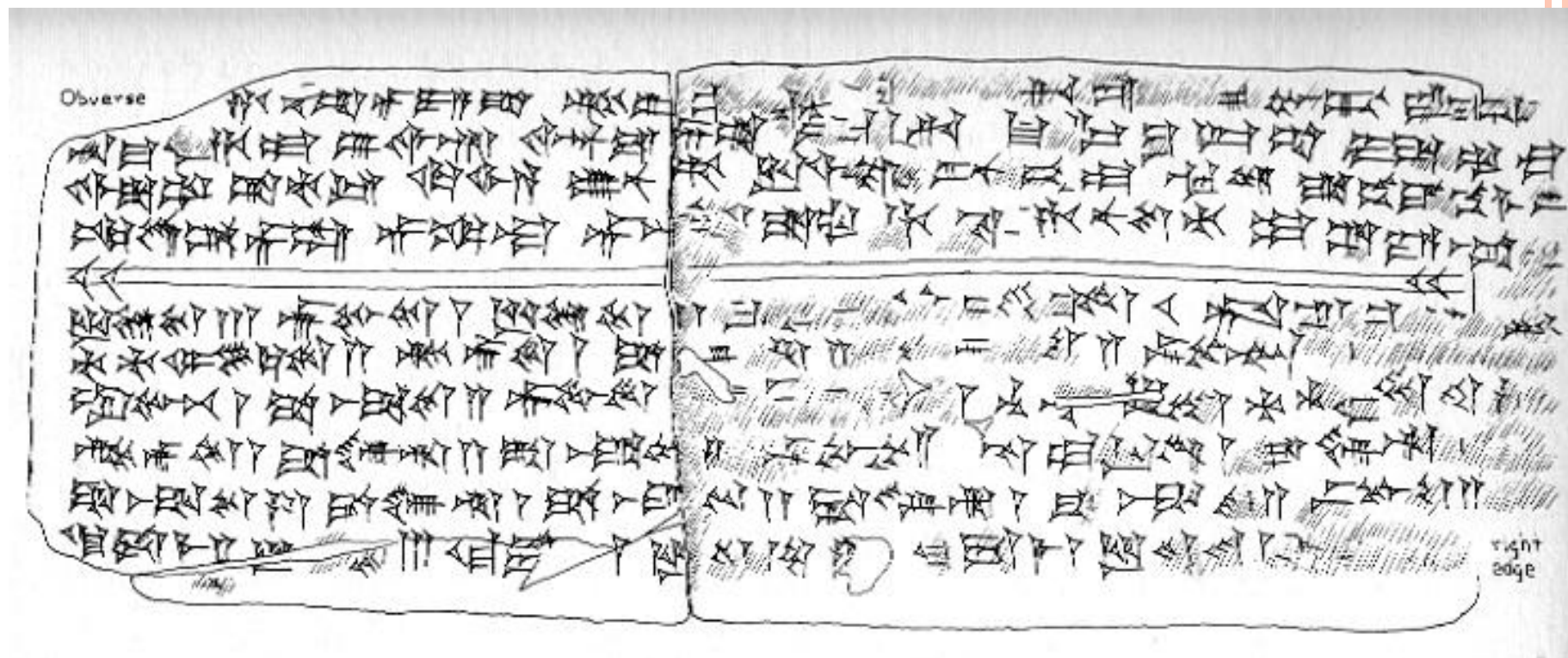
HURRIAN CULT SONG



FOR MORE INFO...

Anne Draffkorn Kilmer, Richard L. Crocker, and Robert R. Brown, *Sounds from Silence: Recent Discoveries in Ancient Near Eastern Music* (Berkeley, Calif.: Bit Enki Publications, 1976)

HURRIAN SONG TABLET FROM RAS SHAMRA



Obverse

HURRIAN SONG TABLET FROM RAS SHAMRA

Figure 16. Transcription and Partial Translation of the Song Text RS 15.30 + 15.49 + 17.387 (by Kilmer)

Lyrics (in Hurrian)

1. [x (x)] *han[u]ta niyaša ziwe š[i]nute 'zutu'riya ubugara 'kud' -*
2. *HUMARUḤAT UWARI wanda[n]ita ukuri kurkurta išalla*
3. *WEŠAL TATIB TIŠIYA unu[g]a kabšili unugat akli šamšam me[x] -*
4. *KALITANIL NIKALA ni[hura?]šal ḥana ḥanuteti attayaštal*

Notation (using Hurrianized Akkadian terms)

5. (a) *qablite 3 irbute 1 qablite 3 'ša? šini?' (b) titimišarte 10 uštamari*
6. *titimišarte 2 zirte 1 šaḥri 2 zi[rt]e 2 irbute 2?*
7. *umbube 1 šaššate 2 irbute [1] ša[šš]ate 2? titarqabli 1 titimišarte 4*
8. *zirte 1 šaḥri 2 šaššate 4 irbute 1 nadqabli 1 šaḥri 2?*
9. *šaššate 4? šaḥri 1 šašš[at]e 2 šaḥri 1 šaššate 2 irbute 2*
10. *kitme 2 qablite 3 kit[me] 1 qablite 4 kitme 1 qablite 3? [x x x (x)]*

lower edge of obverse

Obverse



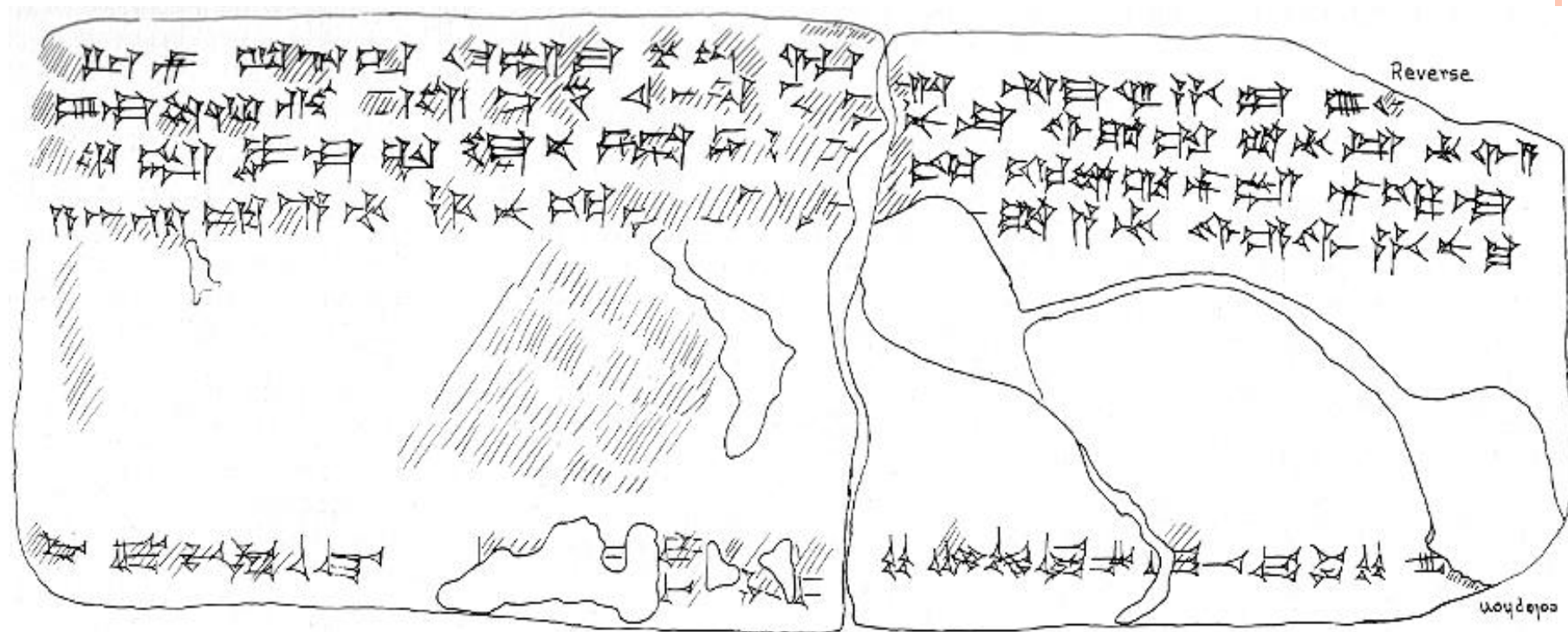
HURRIAN SONG TABLET FROM RAS SHAMRA



Reverse



HURRIAN SONG TABLET FROM RAS SHAMRA



Reverse



HURRIAN SONG TABLET FROM RAS SHAMRA

urni tašal killa [z]ili šipri HUMARUḤAT UWA[R]I
ulali kabgi a[l]li[x]gi širit [mur²]nušu WEŠAL TATIB TIŠIYA
lil uklal tununita¹ka² [ḥanu²]ka KALITANIL NIKALA
attari ta(?)eti ḥanuka [x x x x x x x x]-šati WEWE ḤANUKU

Translation of Notation

5. (a) “middle” 3; “fourth” 1; “middle” 3; repeats(?). (b) “bridge of the normal” 10: closing phrase(?).
6. “bridge of the normal” 2; “. . . .” 1; “song” 2; “. . . .” 2; “fourth” 2
7. “reed pipe” 1; “third” 2; “fourth” [1]; “third” 2; “bridge of the middle” 1; “bridge of the normal” 4
8. “. . . .” 1; “song” 2; “third” 4; “fourth” 1; “fall of the middle” 1; “song” 2
9. “third” 4; “song” 1; “third” 2; “song” 1; “third” 2; “fourth” 2
10. “closed” 2; “middle” 3; “closed” 1; “middle” 4; “closed” 1; “middle” 3

“This is a song of the Fall-of-the-Middle (tuning/scale), a hymn(?) of the gods, from Urḫiya; copied by Ammuṣarpi.”

11. [am]ā zammaru ša nid-qibli za[luzi] ša DINGER.MEŠ TA mUrḫiya] ŠU mAmmu-ṣarpi
Colophon (in Akkadian)

Reverse



HURRIAN SONG TABLET FROM RAS SHAMRA

Colophon (in Akkadian)

11. [ann]û zammaru ša nid-qibli za[luzi ša DINGER.MEŠ TA ^mUr̥hiya] ŠU ^mAmmu-rapi

"This is a song of the Fall-of-the-Middle (tuning/scale), a hymn(?) of the gods, from Ur̥hiya; copied by Ammurapi."

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urni rašal killa [z]ih šipri ĦUMARUĦAT UWA[R]I
 ulali kabgi a[l]i[x]gi širit [mur?]nušu WEŠAL TATIB TIŠYA
 hi ukal tumunita'ka? [ĥanu?]ka KALITANIL NIKALA
 attari la(?)eti ĥanuka [x x x x x x x] šan WEWE ĦANUKU

Reverse



SONG HEADINGS

- Other ancient Near Eastern poetic texts with musical subscriptions.
 - “the ancient tendency to place generic labels in the superscripts or subscripts of the texts.” (Sparks, 85)

FOR MORE INFO...

Kenton L. Sparks, *Ancient Texts for the Study of the Hebrew Bible: A Guide to the Background Literature* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2005), 85.




SONG HEADINGS

- Other ancient Near Eastern poetic texts with musical subscriptions.
 - “special subscript at the end of the composition, resembling the superscript of the biblical psalter.”

FOR MORE INFO...

Yitschak Sefati, “Love Poems,” in *The Context of Scripture*, 3 vols., ed. by William W. Hallo and K. Lawson Younger (Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill, 2003), 1:540-43.





More on Psalm Titles

- **Psalm Headings in Light of Thirtle's Theory**

- **Psalm 4**

Salmo de Davi para o músico-mor, sobre Neginote

Para o músico-mor, sobre Neginote. Salmo de Davi.



More on Psalm Titles

- **Psalm Headings in Light of Thirtle's Theory**

- **Psalm 9**

Salmo de Davi para o músico-mor, sobre Mute-Láben

Para o músico-mor, sobre Mute-Láben.
Salmo de Davi.

Ao mestre de canto, segundo a melodia A morte para o filho. Salmo de Davi



More on Psalm Titles

- **Psalm Headings in Light of Thirtle's Theory**

- **Psalm 9 cp. Psalm 8 > Hebrews 2:5–9**

Salmo de Davi para o músico-mor, sobre
Mute-Láben

Para o músico-mor, sobre **Mute-Láben**.
Salmo de Davi.

Ao mestre de canto, segundo a melodia A
morte para o filho. Salmo de Davi



More on Psalm Titles

- **Psalm Headings in Light of Thirtle's Theory**

- **Psalm 30**

- Salmo de Davi

- Salmo de Davi. Cântico da dedicação da casa

- Salmo e canção na dedicação da casa. Salmo de Davi



More on Psalm Titles

- **Psalm Headings in Light of Thirtle's Theory**
 - **Psalm 56**
 - Mictão de Davi para o músico-mor sobre Jonate-Elém-Recoquim, quando os filisteus o prenderam em Gate
 - Ao mestre de canto. Segundo a melodia A pomba nos terebintos distantes. Hino de Davi, quando os filisteus o prenderam em Gate



More on Psalm Titles

- **Psalm Headings in Light of Thirtle's Theory**
 - **Psalm 56**
 - Mictão de Davi para o músico-mor sobre **Jonate**-Elém-Recoquim, quando os filisteus o prenderam em Gate
 - Ao mestre de canto. Segundo a melodia A **pomba** nos terebintos distantes. Hino de Davi, quando os filisteus o prenderam em Gate



Psalm 55:6–7

Assim eu disse: Oh! quem me dera asas
como de pomba!

Então voaria, e estaria em descanso.

Eis que fugiria para longe,
e pernoitaria no deserto.

(Selá.)



More on Psalm Titles

- **Psalm Headings in Light of Thirtle's Theory**

- **Psalm 57**

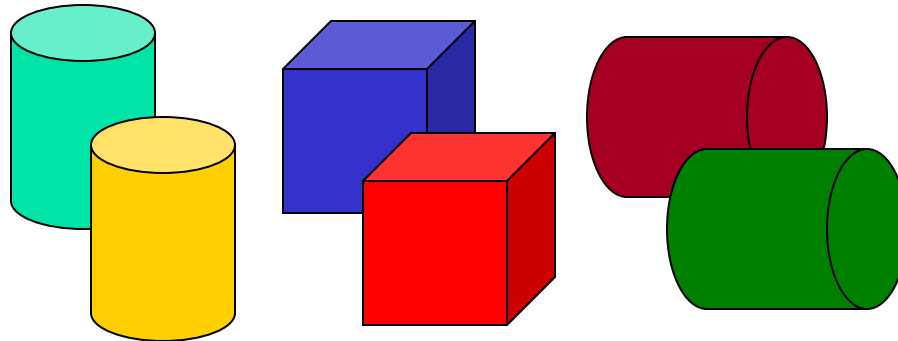
Para o músico-mor. **Al-Tachete**. Mictão de Davi, quando fugia de diante de Saul na caverna

Ao mestre de canto, segundo a melodia **Não destruas**. Hino de Davi, quando fugia de Saul, na caverna



The Poetry of Psalms

- **Parallelism**





The Poetry of Psalms

■ Parallelism - Synonymous

Psalm 6:9

a

O SENHOR já ouviu
o SENHOR aceitará

b

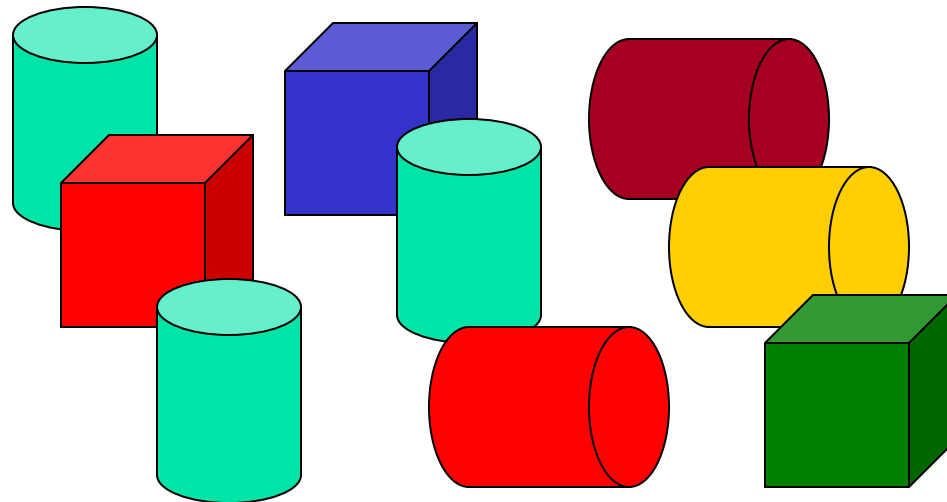
c

a minha súplica;
a minha oração.



The Poetry of Psalms

- **Parallelism**
- **Repetition**





The Poetry of Psalms

■ Repetition

Psalm 29

What is being emphasized?

v. 3 A **voz** do SENHOR ouve-se sobre as suas águas; ...

v. 4 A **voz** do SENHOR é poderosa; a **voz** do SENHOR é cheia de majestade.

v. 5 A **voz** do SENHOR quebra os cedros; ...

v. 7 A **voz** do SENHOR separa as labaredas do fogo.

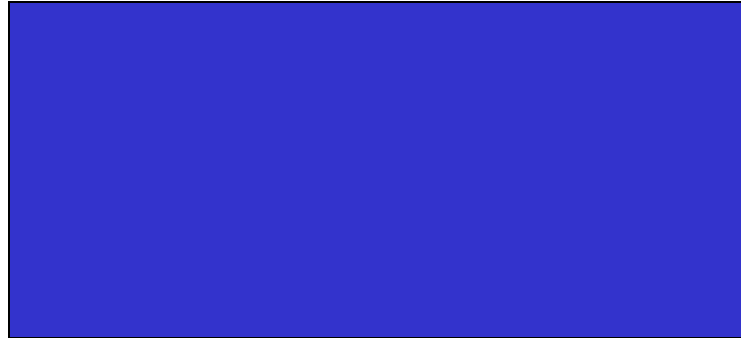
v. 8 A **voz** do SENHOR faz tremer o deserto; ...

v. 9 A **voz** do SENHOR faz parir as cervas, e descobre as brenhas; ...



The Poetry of Psalms

- **Parallelism**
- **Repetition**
- **Refrain**



R



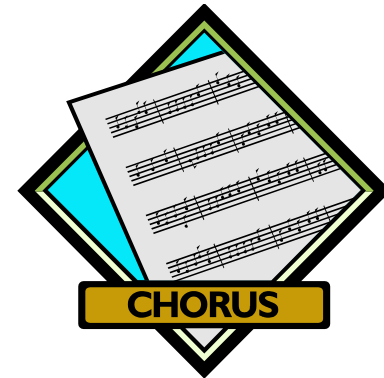
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The Poetry of Psalms

■ Refrain

Psalm 107



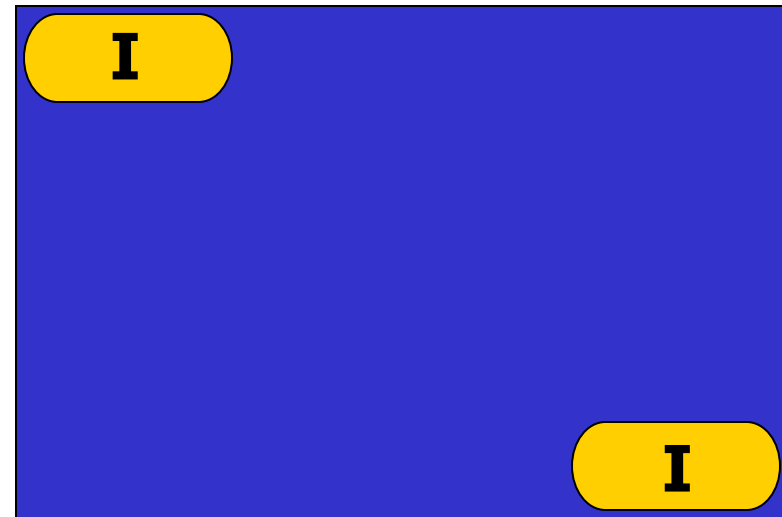
verses 8, 15, 21, 31:

ouvem ao SENHOR pela sua bondade,
e pelas suas maravilhas para com os filhos
dos homens.



The Poetry of Psalms

- **Parallelism**
- **Repetition**
- **Refrain**
- **Inclusio**





The Poetry of Psalms

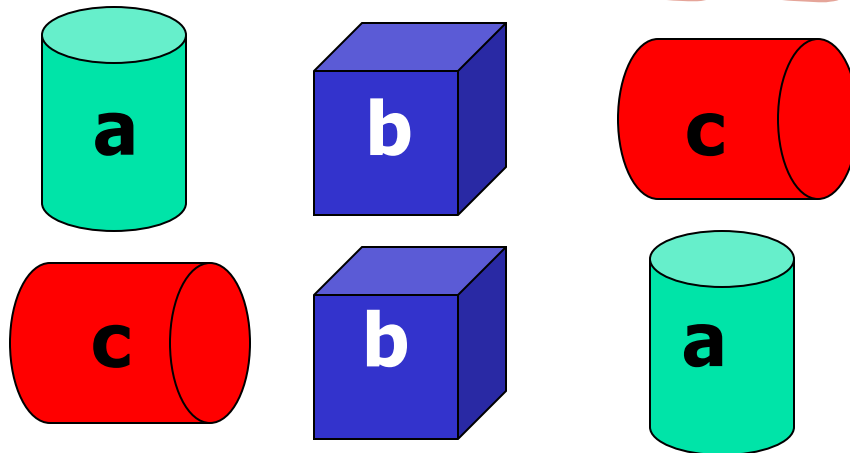
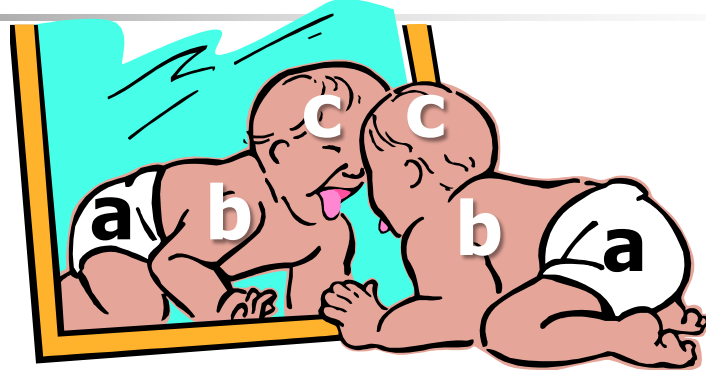
■ Inclusio

Psalm 103

v. 1: Bendize, ó minha alma, ao SENHOR,
↓
v. 22: bendize, ó minha alma, ao SENHOR.

The Poetry of Psalms

- Parallelism
- Repetition
- Refrain
- Inclusio
- Chiasm





The Poetry of Psalms



■ Chiasm

Psalm 19:1

Subject
a Os céus

Verb
b declaram

Object

a glória de Deus
a obra das suas mãos.

a' e o firmamento
Subject

b' anuncia
Verb

Object



The Poetry of Psalms

- **Parallelism**
- **Repetition**
- **Refrain**
- **Inclusio**
- **Chiasm**
- **Metaphor**



The Poetry of Psalms

■ Metaphor

Psalm 23

1 The LORD *is* my **shepherd**; I shall not want. **2** He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. **3** He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. **4** Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You *are* with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

■ Metaphor - Shepherd



**I'm a shepherd.
What do I do?**

**We're sheep.
What are we
like?**



The Five Books of Psalms

**The Seams
in the Garment of Praise**

Introduction

- **Division of Psalms into five books is ancient.**
 - Repeated psalms.
 - Book 2 concludes with “The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended.”
 - 2 Chronicles 29:30 could refer to Books 1–2 and 3.
 - 1 Chronicles 16:35–36 (from Ps 106:47–48) and Book 4.

- **Book 1 (1–41):**
David; Yahweh; lament; 2 ways, faith & trust; prayer
- **Book 2 (42–72):**
David, sons of Korah; God; refuge, King & Judge
- **Book 3 (73–89):**
Asaph, sons of Korah; God reigns; God's mercies, Israel's restoration, forgiveness
- **Book 4 (90–106):**
Moses; Yahweh is King; Israel's praise
- **Book 5 (107–150):**
David; Yahweh's steadfast love; the Word; world's praise, Zion, thanksgiving

Books 1–3

	David	Korah	Asaph
• Book 1	3–41	-----	-----
• Book 2	51–65; 68–70	42–49	50
• Book 3	86	84–85; 87–88	73–83

Books 1–3

Davidic Macro-Collection

• Book 1	Begins with Psalm 2
• Book 2	Ends with Psalm 72
• Book 3	Ends with Psalm 89

Davidic/Messianic Psalms