

Introduction: The collection of the Psalms is an amazing and real-life illustration of the “seasons of faith” in various men and the community of God’s people. Let’s take a look, listen and walk through the winter, spring, summer, and fall of faith as seen in the Hebrew poetic writings of men just like us.

I. What Is the Book of Psalms?

Collection of Hebrew poems. Our “book” of Psalms is actually _____ books (scrolls) with poems grouped and compiled together. Each individual psalm is it’s own Hebrew poem. Not a book, written by one author. There are _____ chapters.

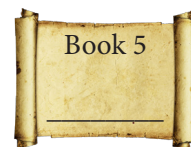
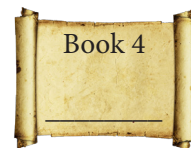
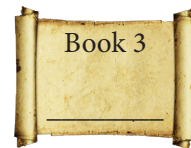
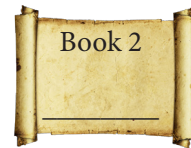
II. Who Wrote Psalms?

- 73 _____ (almost half)
- 12 Asaph
- 10 Sons of _____
- 2 Solomon (2 & 127)
- 1 _____ (90)
- 1 Herman
- 1 Ethan
- 50 anonymous

III. Types of Psalms

- Praise: Songs of praise (Psalms 8; 18; 30)
- Laments: Sadness, complaints, (Psalm 3)
Often note God responding (44:23-24)
- Thanksgiving Psalms: Individual (Psalms 30, 32, and 34) and Community (Psalms 67 and 124). One of the best-known thanksgiving psalms is Psalm 100
- Wisdom: Psalms 37, and 49
- Imprecatory: calling a curse (58, 109)

In this compilation we hear people praise the awesome LORD in worship and thanksgiving. They talked about His creation, kingdom, people and enemies. We hear from hearts in the midst of faith as they deal with sin, trials, struggles and doubts. Real people, living real life, like you and me, crying out to God. What can we learn in our seasons of faith today?



IV. Psalms Lived Out in Your Life & Mine

- A) _____: A time of cold and frozen things where God’s nature still reveals Him
- Psalm 147:12-20
 - Look around at nature and see the organization, beauty and ask the question, “What is man?” Why am I here? Do I have a purpose? What is my purpose?
 - Psalm 8 “O Lord deliver my life”
 - When faith is small or begins to wane don’t be afraid to ask the Lord for more faith.
 - Psalm 6 - Appealing to the LORD for His grace and healing in my weakness and
 - Psalm 31 - Learn to take refuge in the rock and fortress of faith in the midst of the cold.
- B) _____ – Starting new growth and showing the sprouts of life
Faith is fresh, new with signs of new life and wonderful growth by God’s grace. This faith has been combined with what we have learned in the cold days of winter. Spring faith fits with good reasoning and sound judgment seen in God’s word. God is real and His evidence is real in the world he has made. Relationships are needed with God and mankind (concept of a Father, brothers, sisters, illustrative beauty of a wife and mother, family, etc.)
- Psalm 104:10-35
 - Psalm 92:9-15
 - Psalm 71:17-24
 - Psalm 85:7-13
- C) _____ – Roots are getting deeper and seeking more water for life and strength. The tree blossoms and brings forth the beauty of life lived for the LORD.
- Psalm 32:1-7
 - Psalm 28:1-9
 - Psalm 23:1-6
 - Psalm 80:9-19
- D) _____ – Fruit is born and ready for harvest. The healthy tree is showing all the colors of faith and spreading the leaves of faith in many areas of life.
- Psalm 92:12-15
 - Psalm 71
 - Psalm 149
 - Psalm 1 illustrates a life growing like a healthy tree

The faith of every believer should progress through the seasons. Seasons change, but God remains the same. What a comforting truth during times of transition and change. Believers will experienced God’s presence in the valley and on the mountaintop. Wherever you find yourself in your journey walk along side a psalmist who lived real life and who will point you to the Almighty.