RJM Cover *to* Cover
WITH ROBERT J. MORGAN

Psalms

Purpose

To give us songs of the kingdom that gather all the emotions and circumstances of life and transform them through prayer into praise.

Key Verse

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.

PSALM 150:6

Notes

- The ancient Hebrew title for this book is "Praises!" The Greek translators called it Psalmoi, "Plucking of Strings," i.e., sacred poems set to music. It's located in the very heart of the Bible.
- Poetry is a literary form conveying emotion. Hebrew poetry depends on the repetition of thoughts more than sounds. This is parallelism.
- The Psalms touch on every human emotion, condition, heartache, and hallelujah. They run the emotional scale, always pointing the soul upward to God.
- Many Psalms have superscriptions, which are so old the LXX translators didn't understand some of the technical Hebrew terms.
- The oldest Psalm (90) is attributed to Moses; the most recent after the destruction of Jerusalem and probably into the Second Temple Period and the days of Ezra, so the writings in this book span approximately 1000 years (1400 – 400 BC).
- The final five-book arrangement of the Psalms may have been compiled by Ezra and/or his circle of scribes and scholars in the post-exilic era.
- The book of Psalms is the easiest book in the Bible to divide into its sections; it does it for us. The 150 Psalms are grouped into five books—a poetical Pentateuch. This represents five chronological stages in the development of the Psalter. Each book begins with a new author and ends with a concluding doxology of praise

BOOK 1	BOOK 2	BOOK 3	BOOK 4	BOOK 5
RISE	**RULE**	**RUIN**	**REIGN**	**REJOICE**
PSALMS 1–41	PSALMS 42–72	PSALMS 73–89	PSALMS 90–106	PSALMS 107–150
David's rise to the throne and the personal struggles as he approaches the kingship.	The rule of David's kingdom established; let all the earth know the LORD.	The kingdom in ruin. Struggling to trust in God in the midst of life's hardships.	Awareness that the LORD reigns even when everything has gone wrong.	God's people rejoice in their present and future restoration and redemption.

SUBJECTIVE → **OBJECTIVE**

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The Torah

The Five Books of Moses

Genesis	Exodus	Leviticus	Numbers	Deuteronomy
Beginnings and the Patriarchs	Redemption from Egypt	Worship and Holiness	Wilderness and Guidance	Renewal and Obedience

The Promises to the Patriarchs

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Genesis)

c. 2000 BC

The Law of Moses

(Exodus – Deuteronomy)

c. 1400 BC

Deuteronomy 17:18-20

GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS FOR A KING

"He shall write for himself a copy of this law and read it all the days of his life."

↓

David

Anointed King by Samuel

c. 1000 BC

1 Samuel 16

↓

David was...

A shepherd
A warrior
A king
A poet
A musician
A theologian
A man filled with the Holy Spirit

2 Samuel 23:2

The Psalter — A Singable Torah

David and the later psalmists took the truths of the Torah—its promises, law, and history—and under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit turned them into prayers, principles, and songs of praise.

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WORLD OUTREACH CHURCH

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