



# Psalms

*The Hymnbook of the Bible*

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## Lesson One — Messianic Psalms

### Introduction to the Psalms

In Hebrew, the title for the book of Psalms is “Songs of Praise.” The English title *Psalms* comes from the Greek translation of the Old Testament. The Greek word *psalmos* means “music of a stringed instrument” and was the word used for the Hebrew word for *Songs*. As is indicated in the inspired heading for many of the Psalms, they were songs, intended to be sung. Often there is even a tune listed that was used for singing the Psalm (these tunes have not been preserved for us).

But the Psalms offer more than just songs. They offer teaching and insight into the whole counsel of God. Martin Luther said, “It (the book of Psalms) is really a fine enchiridion or handbook. In fact, I have a notion that the Holy Spirit wanted to take the trouble himself to compile a short Bible and book of examples of all Christendom or all saints, so that anyone who could not read the whole Bible would here have anyway almost an entire summary of it, comprised in one little book.”

In the Preface to the *Large Catechism*, Luther also said this: “It must be true that whoever knows the Ten Commandments perfectly must know all the Scriptures. So, in all matters and cases, he can advise, help, comfort, judge, and decide both spiritual and temporal matters. Such a person must be qualified to sit in judgment over all doctrines, estates, spirits, laws, and whatever else is in the world. And what, indeed, is the entire Book of Psalms but thoughts and exercises upon the First Commandment? Now I truly know that such lazy “bellies” and arrogant spirits do not understand a single psalm, much less the entire Holy Scriptures. Yet they pretend to know and despise the catechism, which is a short and brief summary of all the Holy Scriptures.” (*Large Catechism, Preface: 17-18*)



There are a variety of types of Psalms. Today we will consider **Messianic Psalms** — that is, Psalms that spoke of the coming Messiah.

Before the writing of the Psalms, Old Testament believers did know a few details about the coming Messiah.

Genesis 3:15

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Genesis 12:3; 49:8-10

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Deuteronomy 18:15

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Numbers 24:17

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But before the Psalms were written, the picture of the Messiah wasn't too clear. The Psalms, written around 1000 B.C. was a major step forward in revealing the work of the Messiah.



## What do these Psalm verses reveal about the Messiah?

Psalm 2:1,2

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Psalm 2:7

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Psalm 2:8,9

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Psalm 8:2

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Psalm 8:4-6

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Psalm 16:10,11

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Psalm 18:50

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Psalm 22:1

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Psalm 22:7,8

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Psalm 22:16

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Psalm 22:18

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Psalm 22:30,31

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Psalm 40:7,8

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Psalm 41:9 and 55:12,13

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Psalm 45:2,6-7

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Psalm 68:18

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Psalm 69:4

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Psalm 69:8

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Psalm 69:9

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Psalm 69:21

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Psalm 72:2-4

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Psalm 72:5-7

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Psalm 72:8-11

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Psalm 72:17

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Psalm 110:1

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Psalm 110:4

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Psalm 118:22,23

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Psalm 118:25,26

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