

David—Book of Psalms

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By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—There are many lessons in the Bible surrounding the history and prophecies of King David of the Old Testament.

Today, we will talk about David’s contributions to the book of Psalms.

David the musician

The biblical accounts of David reveal that he was a man of many talents. He was a faithful shepherd, a cunning warrior and a courageous king.

Yet, David was also a talented musician.

1 Samuel 16:18, 23—“Then one of the servants answered and said, ‘Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing . . .’ And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him.”

2 Samuel 6:5—Then David and all the house of Israel played music before the LORD on all kinds of instruments of fir wood, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on sistrums, and on cymbals.”

Psalms 6:1—To the Chief Musician. With stringed instruments. On an eight-stringed harp. A Psalm of David . . .

Psalms 12:1—To the Chief Musician. On an eight-stringed harp. A Psalm of David . . .

One of many authors

When a person does a study into the book of Psalms, he realizes that different people wrote the various psalms. David was a prolific writer, having been given credit for writing approximately 73 psalms.

As most Bible students know, the book of Psalms is divided into five sections.

The first section

Notice some of David’s psalms from Section I (psalms 1-41).

- Psalm 3—a psalm of David when he fled from Absalom.
- Psalm 8—a psalm of David when he reflected about God’s purpose for mankind.

- Psalm 15—a psalm of David when he described some of the key characteristics that please God.
- Psalm 18—a psalm of David when God delivered him from his enemies and from the hand of Saul.
- Psalm 22—a psalm of David that described characteristics of the future Savior.
- Psalm 23—a psalm of David that described the beautiful qualities of a shepherd.
- Psalm 37—a psalm of David that described the calamity of the wicked and the heritage of the righteous.

The second section

Here are two of David's psalms from Section II (psalms 42-72).

- Psalm 51—a psalm of David that described his repentance after Nathan approached him about his sins.
- Psalm 57—a psalm of David when he fled from Saul into the cave.

The third section

Here is one of David's psalms from Section III (psalms 73-89).

- Psalm 86—a psalm of David about God's mercy.

The fourth section

Here is one of David's psalms from Section IV (psalms 90-106).

- Psalm 103—a psalm of David about his appreciation for God's mercy.

The fifth section

Here is one of David's psalms from Section V (psalms 107-150).

- Psalm 110—a psalm of David discussing the announcement of the Savior's reign.