

Appendix III The Psalms and their topics

The psalms are prayer-poems and songs reflective of their experience of God and used liturgically by the Hebrews. C.S. Lewis wrote that only Jesus could really pray the psalms perfectly, because only he could claim to have no sin and to be guiltless, and only he could rejoice in the victory over his enemy, Satan. Israel in praying these psalms was then praying them in the name of the One who was to come.

Book I

1. The happiness of the godly, the misery of the wicked
2. Nations conspire against the Lord
3. Confidence facing the enemy
4. Thoughts in the night
5. A morning prayer
6. Prayer for mercy during trouble
7. The prayer of a wronged man
8. God's glory and man's honor
9. Praise to God for deliverance
10. When judgment is delayed
God hears and acts
11. The Lord is our refuge
12. Good thoughts for bad times
13. The deserted soul
14. The fate of the fool
15. The happiness of the holy
16. Joy in God's presence
17. Innocent before God
Deliverance from the wicked
18. Calling upon God in distress
The reward of the righteous
Triumphs of the king
19. The works and the word of God
20. A prayer for the king
21. Splendor and success of the king

22. A cry of anguish
A song of praise
 23. The shepherd psalm
 24. Song to the King of glory
 25. Prayer for guidance and protection
 26. The basis for vindication
 27. David's song of confidence
 28. A prayer for help
 29. The Lord of the thunderstorm
 30. The Lord my helper
 31. Deliverance to the distressed
My times are in thy hand
 32. A prayer during distress
 33. The Lord provides and delivers
 34. A psalm of praise and trust
 35. The Lord delivers the weak
A plea for vindication
 36. Wickedness confronts God's love
 37. The righteous inherit the land
Comparing the wicked and the righteous
The security of the righteous
 38. The burden of suffering
 39. In time of trouble
 40. Delight in the will of the Lord
 41. The psalm of the compassionate
- ### Book II
42. The sorrow of separation
 43. A plea for vindication
 44. Acknowledgment of past mercies
Appeal to God for deliverance
 45. The king's marriage
 46. The presence of God in calamity
 47. God the king of the earth
 48. A song to Mount Zion
 49. The folly of trusting riches
 50. True and false religion

51. The penitent's psalm
 52. The fate of the wicked
 53. The fate of the fool
 54. A prayer for deliverance
 55. Overcome by trouble
The Lord will sustain
 56. A song for the distressed
 57. The love and faithfulness of God
 58. The punishment of the wicked
 59. Triumph over enemies
 60. A prayer for national deliverance
 61. The prayer of the troubled heart
 62. Waiting for God in silence
 63. The thirsty soul
 64. Appeal for aid against enemies
 65. God's provisions for the earth
 66. God's power and deeds
 67. God guides the nations
 68. The God of the exodus, of the wilderness
The God of the conquest, of salvation
The God of the Sanctuary
 69. The plight of the psalmist
The prayer for deliverance
The pronouncement of a curse
Song of praise and assurance
 70. Deliverance from persecutors
 71. The prayer of an aged man
 72. A prayer for the king
- ### Book III
73. The end of the prosperous wicked
God delivers the righteous
 74. Complaint over a devastated land
 75. The justice of God
 76. The victorious power of God
 77. The call to God for help
God's wonders of old

78. God's guidance of His people
Israel's sins, waywardness Israel's
forgetfulness Israel's idolatry in Canaan
Israel's inheritance
79. Destruction of Jerusalem lamented
80. A Call to God for help
81. God's goodness to wayward Israel
82. Unjust judgment rebuked
83. Prayer to defeat Israel's enemies
84. Longing for the sanctuary
85. Prayer for mercy to Israel
86. A prayer for deliverance
87. Privileges of living in Zion
88. A petition to be saved from death
89. God's covenant and promises to David
- Book IV.**
90. Eternal God and mortal man
91. The security of the godly
92. Praise for the Lord's goodness
93. The majesty of the Lord
94. An appeal for God to avenge
95. A call to praise the Lord
96. A call to worship the Lord
97. The power and dominion of the Lord
98. Praise to a righteous Lord
99. Praise to a holy God
100. A song of praise and joy
101. Integrity of heart
102. The sufferings of the psalmist
Zion's refuge in God
God's years and man's days
103. The benefits of the Lord
104. God the creator of the earth
The fruitfulness of the earth
105. The Lord remembers His covenant
- Israel in Egypt, the exodus and wanderings
106. A song of remembrance
Israel's sin at the Red Sea, the golden calf at Horeb
Israel's sins in Canaan
Israel's punishment; God's mercy
- Book V**
107. The promise of the redeemed
Deliverance of the sick
Deliverance from the sea
The Lord's blessings and love
108. A song of confidence in God
109. A cry to God for help
Curses upon the wicked
The cry for help continued
110. The king as priest and victor
111. The Lord's wonderful works
112. The prosperity of the righteous
113. A hymn of praise to God
114. The God of the exodus
115. To God alone belongs the glory
116. Deliverance from death
117. Praise God for steadfast love
118. The Lord's mercy and deliverance
The Lord's mighty right hand
The Lord's blessing
119. Keepers of God's Law are blessed
Prayer for understanding of the Law
Salvation through the Law
The hope and comfort of God's Law
God's Law taught by affliction
God's unchangeable Law
The love of God's Law
God's Law a lamp to the feet
The psalmist has kept God's Law
God's Law is true
Keepirig God's Law in adversity
- Peace in keeping God's Law
120. A prayer for deliverance
121. Help from the Lord
122. The peace of Jerusalem
123. A song of confidence in God
124. Thanksgiving for God's deliverance
125. The Lord the protector
126. The Lord restores Zion's fortunes
127. The vanity of work with God
128. The God-fearing family is blessed
129. For the shame of Israel's enemies
130. Waiting for the Lord
131. A song of the humble
132. David and the ark of the Lord
The promise to David and Zion
133. Brotherly unity
134. Blessing for the night watch
135. Praise to the Lord
The Lord's deeds of deliverance
136. A Litany of God's wonders
137. A hymn of the exiles in Babylon
138. The Lord a faithful God
139. The prayer of a believing heart
Hatred for the wicked
140. For protection against enemies
141. Conduct amidst trial
142. The prisoner's prayer
143. The prayer of a soul in distress
144. The warrior's psalm
145. The goodness of the Lord
The justice of the Lord
146. An exhortation to trust God
147. The might and grace of the Lord
148. Nature's praise of the Lord
149. The Lord's love of Israel
150. Let everything praise the Lord!