

Types of Psalms

1 Chron. 16:4

ESV: “Then he appointed some of the Levites as ministers before the ark of the LORD, to invoke, to thank, and to praise the LORD, the God of Israel.”
= three types of psalms

NIV: “He appointed some of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, to extol, thank, and praise the LORD, the God of Israel.”
= three types of praise

cf. **Psalm 38**, superscript:

NIV: “A Psalm of David. A Petition.”

Psalm 70

NIV: “Of David. A Petition.”

ESV → Three Types of Psalms

Psalms of Petition (Lament): “to invoke”

Psalms of Thanksgiving: “to thank”

Psalms of Praise: “to praise”

1. Praise Psalms

Terminology: Psalms of Descriptive or General Praise, Hymns

General Description: Praise to God as Creator / Ruler / Redeemer

Identifying Mark: The Call to Praise

***Ps.95:1-2**

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

***Ps.96:1-3**

¹ Oh sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth!
² Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!

***Ps.98:1**

Oh sing to the LORD a new song!

***Ps.100:1-2**

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!

***Ps.103:1**

O my soul, and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!

***Ps.113:1**

Praise the LORD! [*“Hallelu-ya”*]
Praise, O servants of the LORD,
praise the name of the LORD!

***Ps.117**

Praise the LORD, all nations!
Extol him, all peoples!

2. Psalms of Petition-Lament

General Description: A plea to God for help in life-threatening circumstances

Identifying Mark: Opening direct address (and often introductory cry for help)

Samples:

***3:1**

“O LORD, how many are my foes!”

***5:1-2**

“Give ear to my words, O LORD;
consider my groaning.

Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God,
for to you do I pray”

***10:1**

“Why, O LORD, do you stand far away?”

***22:1**

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

***80:1**

“Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock.”

3. Psalms of Grateful Praise

General Description: Praise for what God has done

Identifying Mark: Opening Proclamation of Praise

“I will praise the LORD”

Samples:

***Ps.34** I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

***Ps.30** I will extol you, O LORD,
for you have drawn me up
and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

***Ps.92** It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
² to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night,
³ to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.

***Ps.116** I love the LORD, because he has heard
my voice and my pleas for mercy.

Note: Common “Forms” (to be continued!)

***Ps.117**

Call to Praise

1 Praise the LORD, all nations!
Extol him, all peoples!

Cause for Praise

2 For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Renewed Call to Praise

Praise the LORD!