

Psalms & the Davidic King

1. Introduction: 2 Samuel. 23:1-2

David as Israel's Premier Psalmist

cf. **1Sam. 16:14-23**; **1Chron.23:4-5**; **2Chron.29:25-30**; **Neh.12:36**; **Amos 6:5**

David as Divinely Inspired

cf. **Mt.22:43ff**; **Act.1:16**; **2:25, 34**; **4:24f**; **Rom.4:6**; **11:9**; **Heb.4:7**

→ e.g., **Ps.3:1**: "A Psalm of David"

2. The Superscripts of the Psalms

Categories of Information: Composition & Performance

***Ps.4** "To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. A Psalm of David."

***Ps.5** "To the choirmaster: for the flutes. A Psalm of David."

***Ps.6** "To the choirmaster: w/stringed instruments; acc to The Sheminith. A Psalm of David."

***Ps.7** "A Shiggaion of David, which he sang to the LORD concerning the words of Cush, a Benjaminite."

***Ps.8** "To the choirmaster: according to The Gittith. A Psalm of David."

Genuineness & Reliability

Textual Evidence Unanimous

Standard Practice

***2Sam.22:1-4**

And David spoke to the LORD the words of this song on the day when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. ² He said, "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, ³ my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; you save me from violence. ⁴ I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies...."

***Ps.18:1-3**

A Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD, who addressed the words of this song to the LORD on the day when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. He said: I love you, O LORD, my strength. ² The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. ³ I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies....

*cf. **Hab.3**; **Is.38**

New Testament Affirmation

***Mt.22:43ff**; **Act.1:16**; **2:25, 34**; **4:24f**; **Rom.4:6**; **11:9**; **Heb.4:7**

3. The Life of David in the Superscripts

***Ps. 3, 7, 18, 30, 34, 51, 52, 54, 56, 57, 59, 60, 63, 142**

The Time of David's Election and Exile ***1Sam.16-31**

***Ps.59** "A Miktam of David, when Saul sent men to watch his house in order to kill him."

→ **1Sam.19:11**

***Ps.56** "A Miktam of David, when the Philistines seized him in Gath."

→ **1Sam.21:10-11**

***Ps.34** "Of David, when he changed his behavior before Abimelech, so that he drove him out, and he went away."

→ **1Sam.21:12-22:1**

***Ps.52** "A Maskil of David, when Doeg, the Edomite, came & told Saul, 'David has come to the house of Ahimelech.'"

→ **1Sam.22:7, 9, 18-20**

***Ps.54** "A Maskil of David, when the Ziphites went & told Saul, 'Is not David hiding among us?'"

→ **1Sam.23:19**

***Ps.57** "A Miktam of David, when he fled from Saul, in the cave."

→ **1Sam.22** (Adullam) or **1Sam.24** (Engedi)

***Ps.142** "A Maskil of David, when he was in the cave. A Prayer."

→ **1Sam.22** (Adullam) or **1Sam.24** (Engedi)

The Time of David's Blessing ***2Sam.1-10**

***Ps.60** "A Miktam of David; for instruction; when he strove with Aram-naharaim and with Aram-zobah, & when Joab on his return struck down twelve thousand of Edom in the Valley of Salt."

→ **2Sam.8:5-13**

***Ps.18** "A Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD, who addressed the words of this song to the LORD on the day when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. He said:"

→ **2Sam.22**

David Under Divine Displeasure ***2Sam.11-20**

***Ps.51** "A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba"

→ **2Sam.11-12**

***Ps.3** "A Psalm of David, when he fled from Absalom his son."

→ **2Sam.15-17**

***Ps.63** "A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah."

→ **2Sam.15-17**

Unclassified ***2Sam.21-24**

***Ps.30** "A Psalm of David. A song at the dedication of the temple."

→ **2Sam.24**

***Ps.7** "A Shiggaion of David, which he sang to the LORD concerning the words of Cush, a Benjaminite."

→ (unknown)

4. The Royal Orientation of the Psalms

Meaning

*The Psalms are primarily by and about the king.

Evidence

*Fully half Psalter is Davidic.

*The Work of the Editors

*Many of the Psalms name David or concern him in some way.

*Liturgical setting

*In many psalms “I/ we” alternate.

*The Psalmist’s “Enemies”

*Many psalms are prayers of intercession for king.

Samples

- ***22:25** From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will perform before those who fear him
- ***44:6** For not in my bow do I trust,
nor can my sword save me
- ***92:20** But you have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox;
you have poured over me fresh oil
- ***118:10** All nations surrounded me;
in the name of the LORD I cut them off
- ***119:46** I will also speak of your testimonies before kings
and shall not be put to shame

Importance

Understanding the Psalms

Understanding the Psalms in Canonical / “Big Picture” Perspective

***Ps.22:1** → **Mt.27:46**

***Ps.34:19-20** “Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all. ²⁰He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken.”

→ ***Jn.19:36**

***Ps.40:6ff** “In sacrifice & offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. ⁷ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me: ⁸ I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is w/in my heart.’ ⁹ I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD.”

→ ***Heb.2**

***69:7ff** “For it is for your sake that I have borne reproach, that dishonor has covered my face. ⁸ I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my mother’s sons. ⁹ For zeal for your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.”

→ ***Jn.2; Rom.15**