



PSALMS

SONGS FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

LIKE A HYMNAL

The Hebrew title: “the book of praises” (*tehillim*)

In addition to prayers and praises, we also find

history

prophecy

instruction

personal testimony



IS MUSIC IMPORTANT?

- Psalms accounts for over 7 percent of the Old Testament.
- In the New Testament, we have song lyrics recorded in Revelation 5, 7, and 15.
- Jesus and the disciples sing in Matthew 26:30
- The apostles sing in Acts 16:25
- The church is commanded to communicate with each other “with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord”
Ephesians 5:19

IS MUSIC IMPORTANT?

- The first reference to a musician in the Bible is in Genesis 4:21. Jubal is recorded as “the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe.”
- Exodus 15 records Moses and the Israelites singing a song of victory after the overthrow of the Egyptian army in the Red Sea.
- David’s victories were celebrated in song in 1 Samuel 18:6-7
- Music was used at coronations, events in the royal court, and feasts
- Trumpets sounded when the walls of Jericho fell down

IS MUSIC IMPORTANT?

- Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn at the end of the Last Supper.
- Paul gave instructions regarding the use of music during Christian gatherings in Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16.
- In Ephesians and Colossians, we see that addressing each other with hymns and songs is an indication of being Spirit-filled.
- In James 5:13 we have this command: “Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.”
- It will be a musical instrument (trumpet) that will announce Jesus’ return.

A SPECIAL SONG IN HEAVEN

²I saw before me what seemed to be a glass sea mixed with fire. And on it stood all the people who had been victorious over the beast and his statue and the number representing his name. They were all holding harps that God had given them. ³And they were singing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb:

“Great and marvelous are your works,
O Lord God, the Almighty.
Just and true are your ways,
O King of the nations.
⁴Who will not fear you, Lord,
and glorify your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come and worship before you,
for your righteous deeds have been revealed.”

Revelation 15:2-4

GROUP TALK

In what way has praise music impacted your life?

Share some of your current favorites.

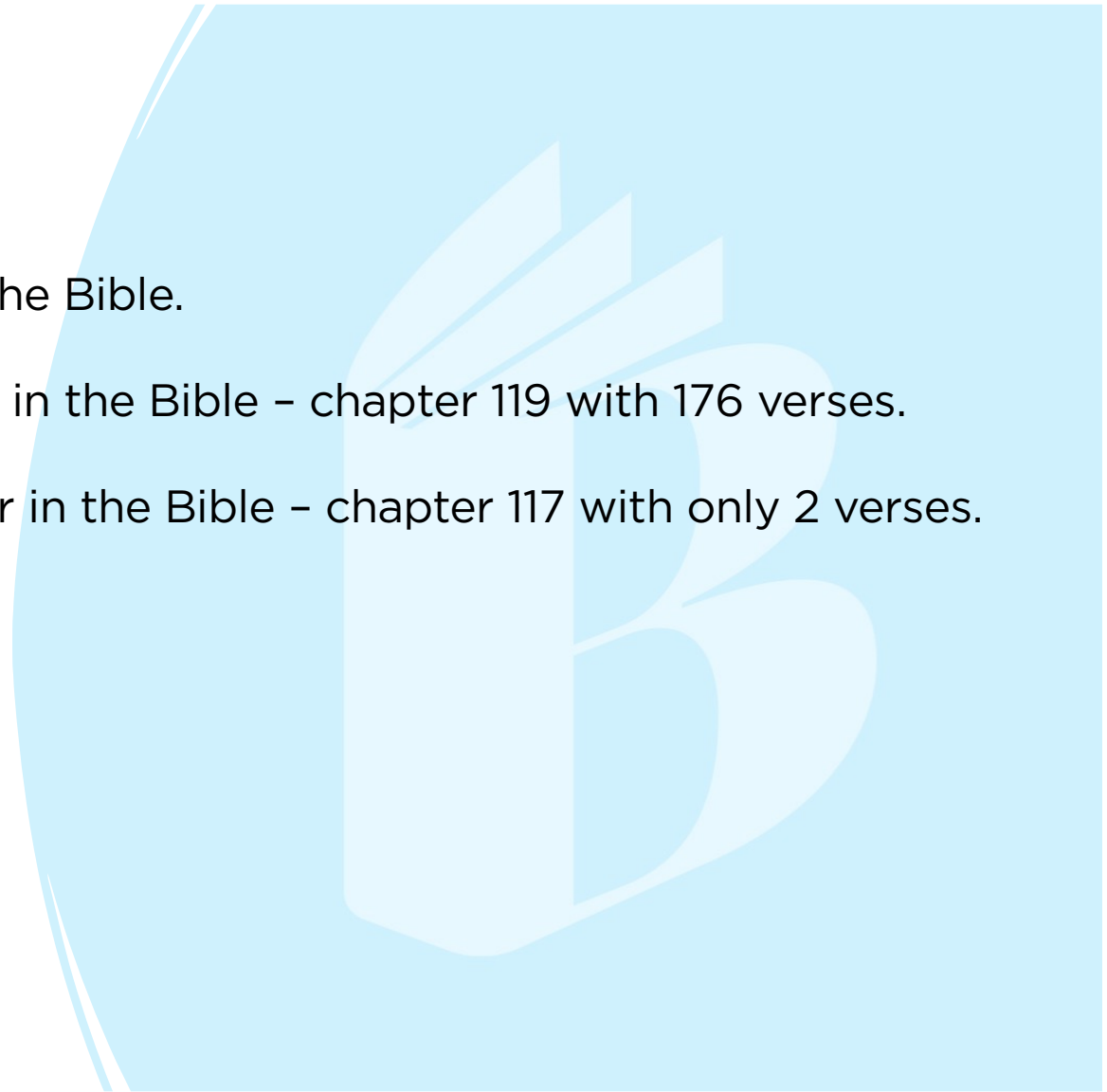


IT'S LONG!

Psalms is the longest book in the Bible.

It contains the longest chapter in the Bible – chapter 119 with 176 verses.

It contains the shortest chapter in the Bible – chapter 117 with only 2 verses.

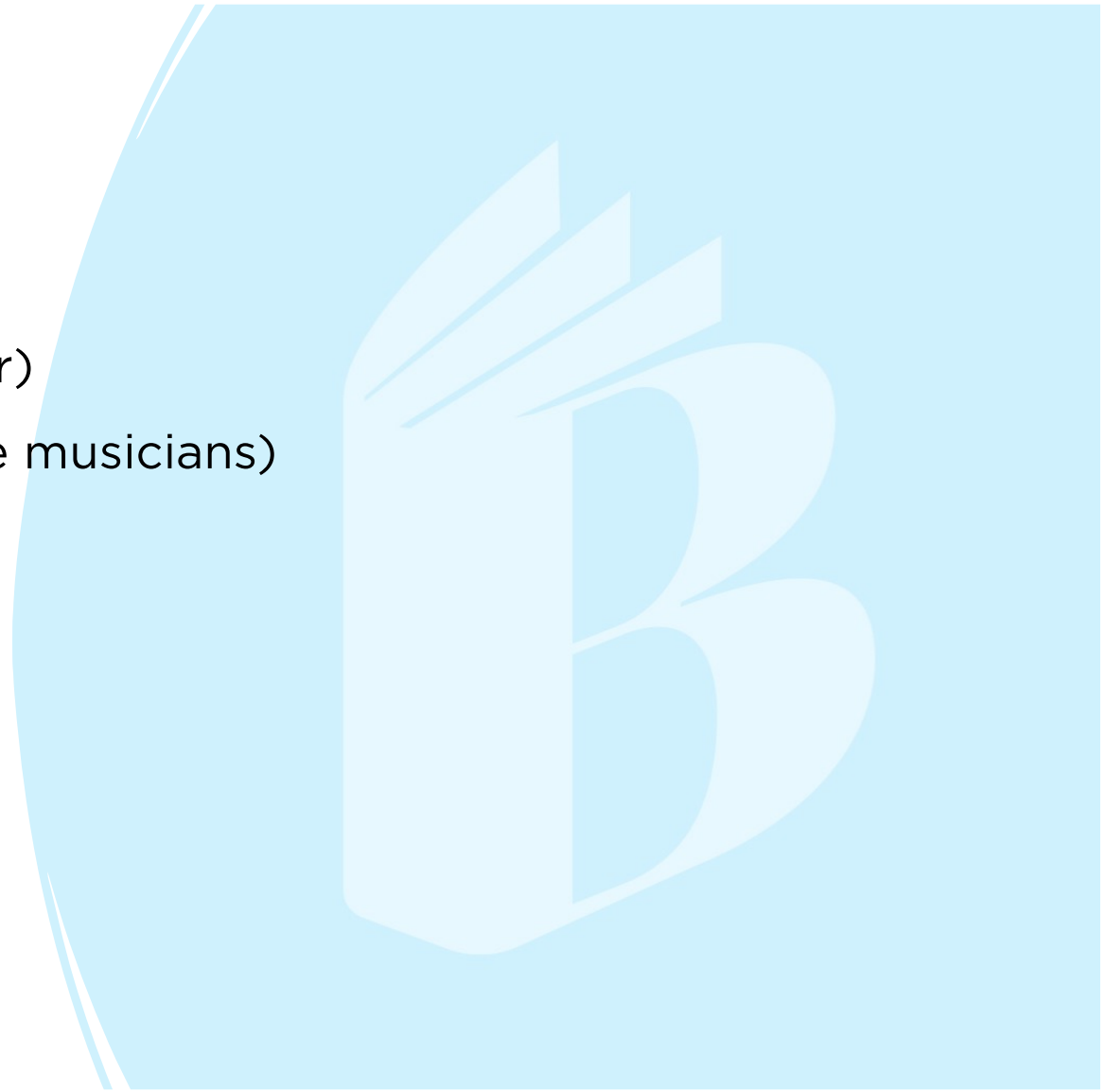




WHO WROTE PSALMS?

THE WRITERS

73	David
12	Asaph (worship leader)
12	Sons of Korah (temple musicians)
2	Solomon
1	Heman
1	Ethan the Ezrahite
1	Moses
48	Anonymous



NOT ONE, BUT FIVE BOOKS

The collection of Psalms is divided into five books.

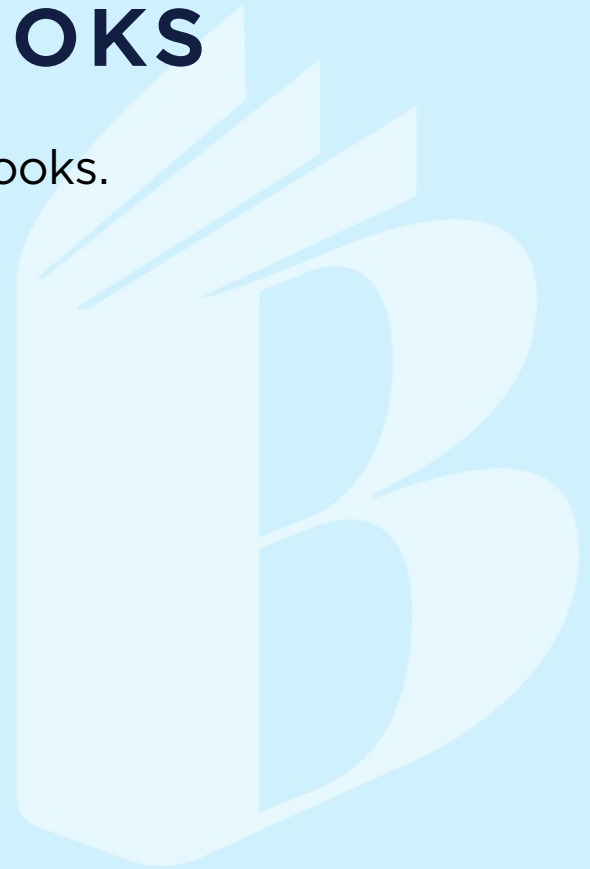
Book One (chapters 1-41)

Book Two (chapters 42-72)

Book Three (chapters 73-89)

Book Four (chapters 90-106)

Book Five (chapters 107-150)





READING POETRY

UNDERSTANDING HEBREW POETRY

Parallelism

Rather than using rhyme and rhythm, Hebrew poetry compares ideas.



KINDS OF PARALLELISM

Synonymous (repeats similar idea)

Show me the right path, O LORD;
point out the road for me to follow.

Psalm 25:4

Synthetic (clarifies and expands)

The LORD is my shepherd;
I have all that I need.

Psalm 23:1



KINDS OF PARALLELISM

Antithetic (contrast)

For the LORD watches over the path of the godly,
but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.

Psalm 1:6

Comparative [Emblematic] (uses illustration)

As the deer longs for streams of water,
so I long for you, O God.

Psalm 42:1

FIGURES OF SPEECH

Simile: a comparison between two unlike things

But he led his own people like a flock of sheep,
guiding them safely through the wilderness.

Psalm 78:52

Metaphor: one thing is said to be another

The Lord is my shepherd

Psalm 23:1



FIGURES OF SPEECH

Hyperbole: deliberate overstatement for emphasis

All night I flood my bed with weeping,
drenching it with my tears.

Psalm 6:6

Rhetorical question: asking a question for the purpose of making a statement

Who can list the glorious miracles of the LORD?

Who can ever praise him enough?

Psalm 106:2

FIGURES OF SPEECH

Personification: assigning characteristics of a human to lifeless objects

... the sun knows when to set.

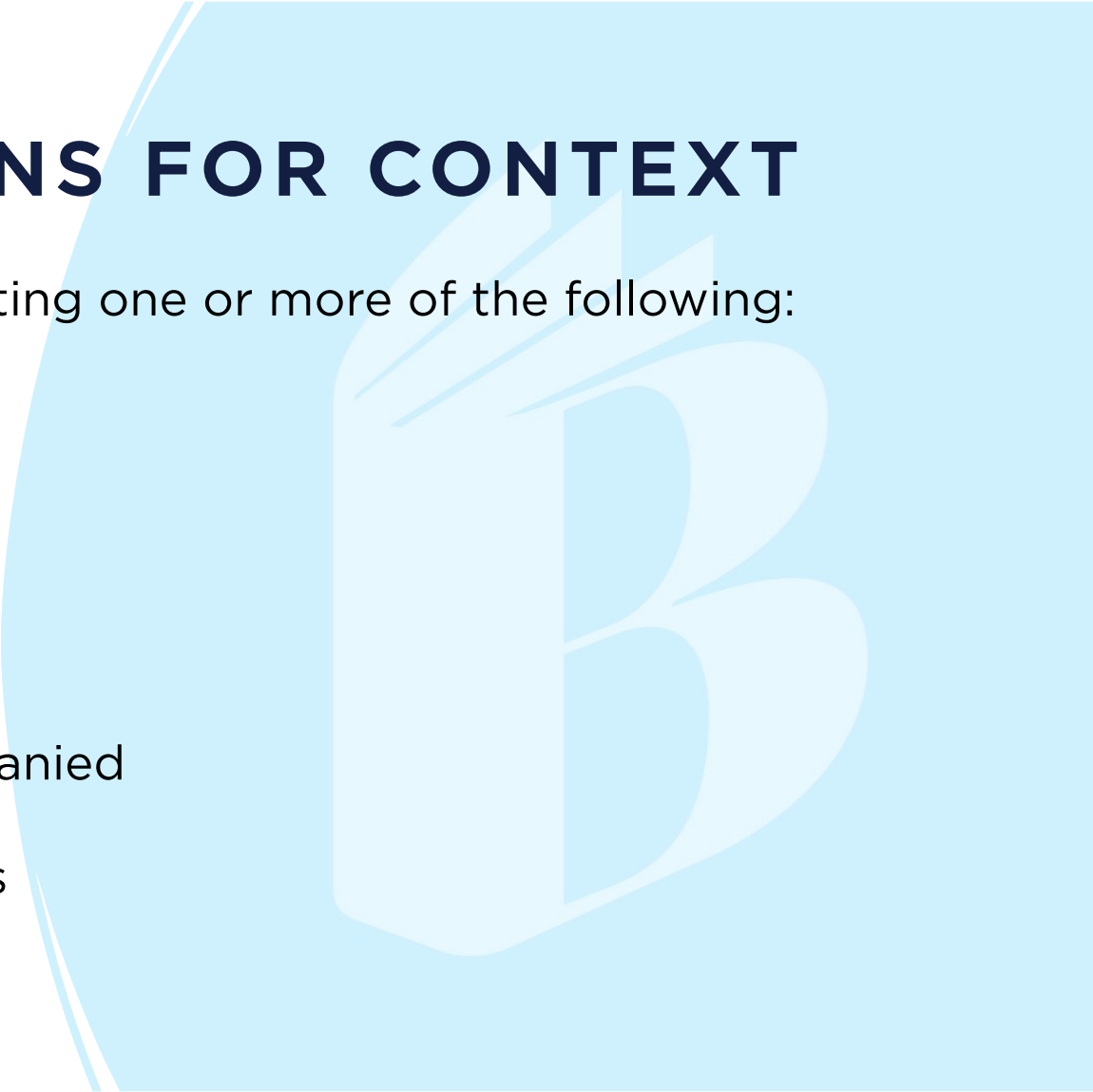
Psalm 104:19b



SUPERSCRIPTIONS FOR CONTEXT

Above certain Psalms indicating one or more of the following:

- The composer
- The occasion
- Who it is for
- How it is to be accompanied
- What kind of psalm it is





LYRICS THAT MATTER

HISTORY

- Psalm 78 God and his chosen people, from Jacob to King David
- Psalm 105 God's people from Abraham to deliverance from Egypt
- Psalm 106 From the wilderness to the captivity
- Psalm 135 God acted on behalf of his people against their enemies
- Psalm 136 Israel's History combined with responsive recitation

INSTRUCTION

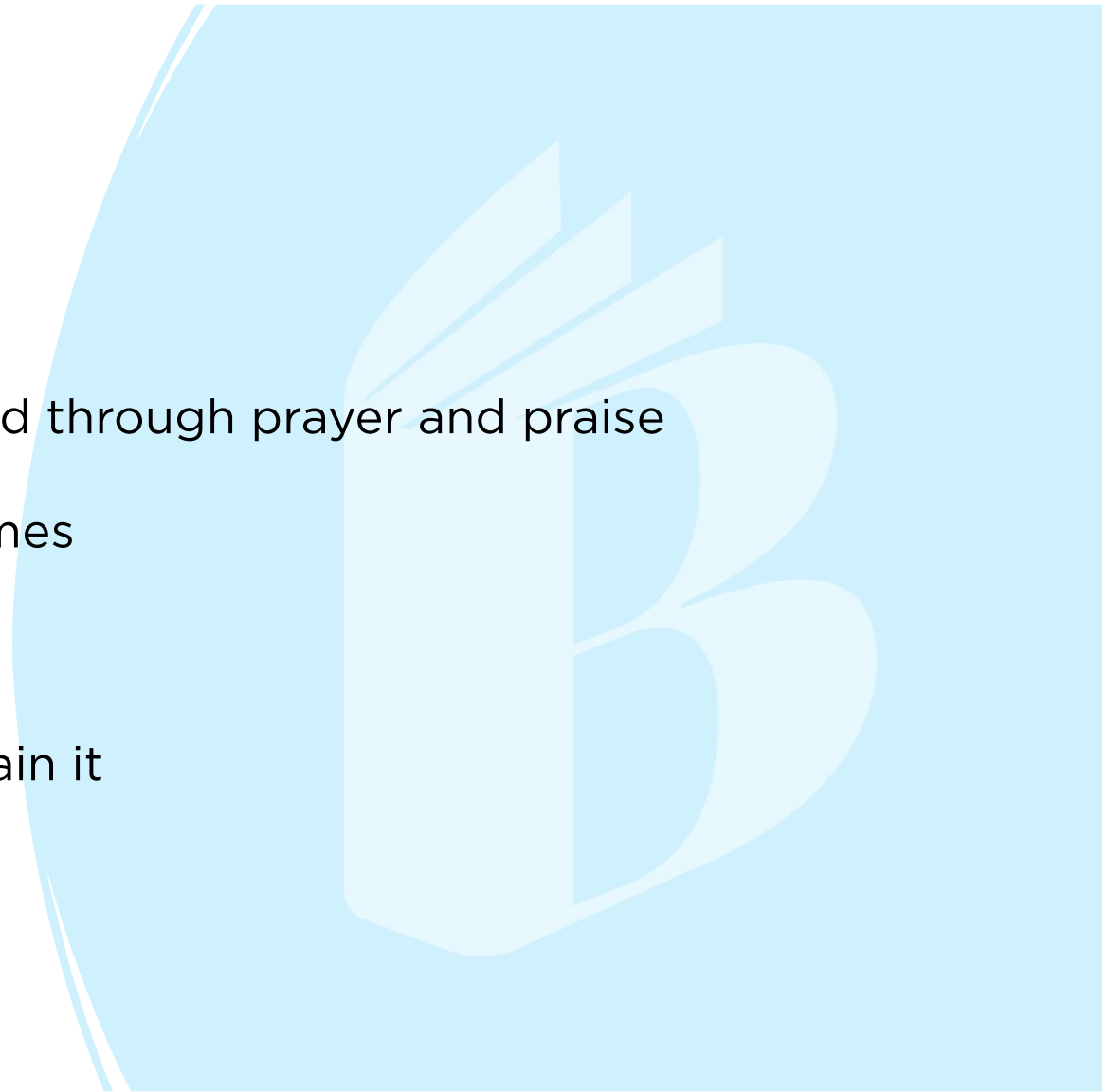
Follow God's Commands

Express our Emotions to God through prayer and praise

Trust God during difficult times

Turn away from evil

Search for peace and maintain it



PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Psalm 32 A Testimony of God's forgiveness

Psalm 34 A Testimony of God's Deliverance from fear and trouble

Psalm 116 God's presence while in trouble

PROPHECY

44 Then he said, “When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled.”

Luke 24:44

Psalm 2 Messiah is God’s Son

Psalm 16 Messiah’s resurrection

Psalm 22 Messiah’s crucifixion

Psalm 35 False witnesses against Messiah

PROPHECY

Psalm 40 Messiah comes to do God's will

Psalm 41 Betrayed by friends

Psalm 45 Messiah will reign forever

Psalm 68 Messiah's ascension

Psalm 69 Sour wine offered

Psalm 110 Messiah's priesthood

Psalm 118 Messiah's rejection

