

God accepteth Job, and
27 He esteemeth iron as straw, and
brass as rotten wood.
28 The arrow cannot make him
flee: slingstones are turned with
him into stubble.
29 Darts are counted as stubble:
he laugheth at the shaking of a
spear.
30 Sharp stones are under him: he
spreadeth sharp pointed things upon
the mire.
31 He maketh the deep to boil like
a pot: he maketh the sea like a pot
of ointment.
32 He maketh a path to shine after
him: one would think the deep to be
dry.
33 Upon earth there is not his like:
he is made without fear.
34 He beholdeth all high waters:
he is a king over all the earth.
35 He is a king over all the earth:
he is a king over all the earth.
36 He is a king over all the earth:
he is a king over all the earth.
37 He is a king over all the earth:
he is a king over all the earth.

JOB, XLII. *doubleth his former blessings.*
thing that is right, as my servant
Job hath.

8 Therefore take unto you now
seven bullocks and seven rams, and
go to my servant Job, and offer up
for yourselves a burnt offering; and
my servant Job shall pray for you:
for him will I accept: lest I deal
with you after your folly, in that ye
have not spoken of me the thing
which is right, like my servant Job.

9 So Eliphaz the Temanite and
Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the
Naamathite went, and did accord-
ing as the LORD commanded them:
the LORD also accepted Job.

10 And the LORD turned the capti-
vity of Job, when he prayed for his
soul.

11 Therefore the LORD gave Job
twice as much as he had before.
12 There came therefore unto him
seven sons, and three daughters.
13 He had also seven sons and
three daughters.
14 And he called the name of the
first, Jemima; and the name of the
second, Kezia; and the name of the
third, Keren-happuch.
15 And in all the land were no wo-
men found so fair as the daughters
of Job: and their father gave them
inheritance among their brethren.
16 After this lived Job an hundred
and forty years, and saw his sons, and
his sons' sons, even four generations.
17 So Job died, being old and full
of days.

CHAPTER XLII.

1 Job submitteth himself unto God. 7 God, preferring
Job's cause, maketh his friends submit themselves, and
accepteth him. 10 He doubleth his blessings upon Job.
16 Job's age and death.

THEN Job answered
and said,
2 I know that all things
can be done by thee, and
nothing can be hid from thee.
3 Who is he that hideth counsel
without knowledge? therefore have
I uttered that I understood not;
things too wonderful for me, which
I knew not.
4 Hear, I beseech thee, and I will
speak: I will demand of thee, and
thou shalt answer me.
5 I have heard of thee by the hear-
ing of the ear: but now mine eye
seeth thee.
6 Wherefore I abhor myself, and
repent in dust and ashes.
7 And it was so, that after the
LORD had spoken these words unto
Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Te-
manite, My wrath is kindled against
thee, and against thy two friends:
for ye have not spoken of me the

THE
BOOK OF PSALMS.

PSALM I.

1 The happiness of the godly. 4 The unhappiness of
the ungodly.

BLESSED is the man that walk-
eth uprightly, nor standeth in the way of
the ungodly, nor sitteth in the seat of
the scornful.

2 But his delight is in the law of
the LORD; and in his law doth he
meditate day and night.

3 And he shall be like a tree planted
by the rivers of water, that bringeth
forth his fruit in his season; his leaf
shall not wither; and whatso-
ever he doth shall prosper.

4 The ungodly shall not so; but are
like the chaff which the wind driveth
away.

5 Therefore shall the ungodly nor sim-
ners stand in the congregation of the righteous:
they shall be cut off like the chaff.

6 For the LORD knoweth the way
of the righteous: but the way of the
ungodly shall perish.

7 I will declare the decree: the
LORD hath said unto me, Thou art
my Son; this day have I begotten
thee.

8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee
the heathen for thine inheritance,
and the uttermost parts of the earth
for thy possession.

9 Thou shalt break them with a
rod of iron; thou shalt dash them
in pieces like a potter's vessel.

10 Be wise now therefore, O ye
kings: be instructed, ye judges of
the earth.

11 Serve the LORD with fear, and
rejoice with trembling.

12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry,
and ye perish from the way, when his
wrath is kindled but a little. Bless-
ed are all they that put their trust
in the LORD.

LORD, how are they troubled
that trouble me! many are
they that rise up against me.
There is no help for him in
distress.

O LORD, art a shield
for me; my glory, and the lifter up
of mine head.

4 I cried unto the LORD with my
voice, and he heard me out of his
holy hill. Selah.

5 I laid me down and slept; I
awaked; for the LORD sustained me.

6 I will not be afraid of ten thou-
sands of people, that have set them-
selves against me round about.

7 Arise, O LORD; save me, O my
God: for thou hast smitten all mine
enemies upon the cheek bone; thou
hast broken the teeth of the ungodly.

2 The kings of the earth set them-
selves, and the rulers take counsel
together, against the LORD, and
against his anointed, saying,

3 Let us break their bands asun-
der, and cast away their cords from
us.

4 He that sitteth in the heavens
shall laugh: the Lord shall have them
in derision.

5 Then shall he speak unto them
in his wrath, and vex them in his
sore displeasure.

6 Yet have I set my king upon my
holy hill of Zion.

A VIRTUAL TEMPLE

THE PSALTER EXPLAINED

Let us begin with prayer



Shine in our hearts, O Master Who loves mankind, the pure light of Your divine knowledge, and open the eyes of our mind that we may comprehend the proclamations of Your Gospels. Instill in us also reverence for Your blessed commandments so that, having trampled down all carnal desires, we may lead a spiritual life, both thinking and doing all those things that are pleasing to You. For You, Christ our God, are the illumination of our souls and bodies, and to You we offer up glory, together with Your Father, Who is without beginning, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Today's Goals

1

**INTRODUCTION
TO PSALMS**

2

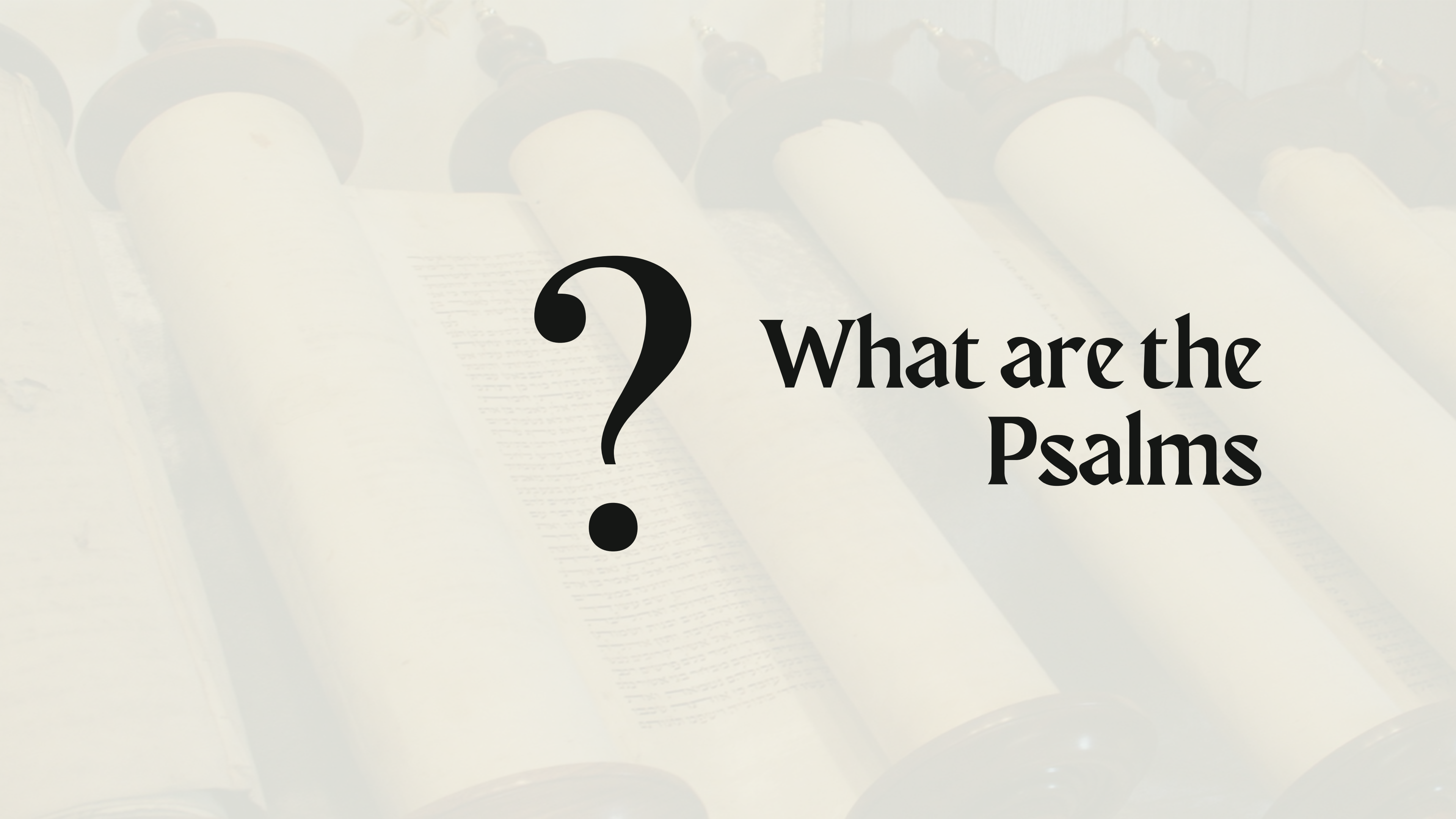
**PSALMS
IN WORSHIP**

3

**PSALMS
EXPLAINED**

Introduction

T O P S A L M S



?

**What are the
Psalms**

Psalms

- **divinely-inspired** songs of the people of Israel.
- traditionally called the “**psalms of David,**” although there are many other authors.
- the Orthodox Church **follows the Septuagint (LXX)** version of the psalter.
- this is why **numbers and the text of certain psalms are different** in Orthodox service books than in the Bibles translated from the Hebrew.



Translations

Septuagint vs. Masoretic Text

The **Septuagint** (LXX) is the 3rd century Greek translation of the Old Testament used by the Orthodox Church to this day.

The **Masoretic Text** (MT) is the Hebrew text of the Jewish Bible (Tanakh). The MT is widely used as the basis for translations of the Old Testament in Protestant Bibles, as well as Catholic Bibles.

Differences

- Most differences between LXX and MT are seen in the chapter divisions.
- The Septuagint also includes an extra **Psalm (151)** said to be written by David after he slew Goliath.

LXX	MT		LXX	MT
1-8	1-8		115	116:10-19
9	9-10		116-145	117-146
10-112	11-113		146	147:1-11
113	114-115		147	147:12-20
114	116:1-9		148-150	148-150

Stats

AUTHORS

- 73 by David
- 12 by Asaph
- 11 by sons of Korah
- 2 by Solomon (72, 127)
- 1 by Moses (90)
- 1 by Ethan (89)
- 50 are anonymous.

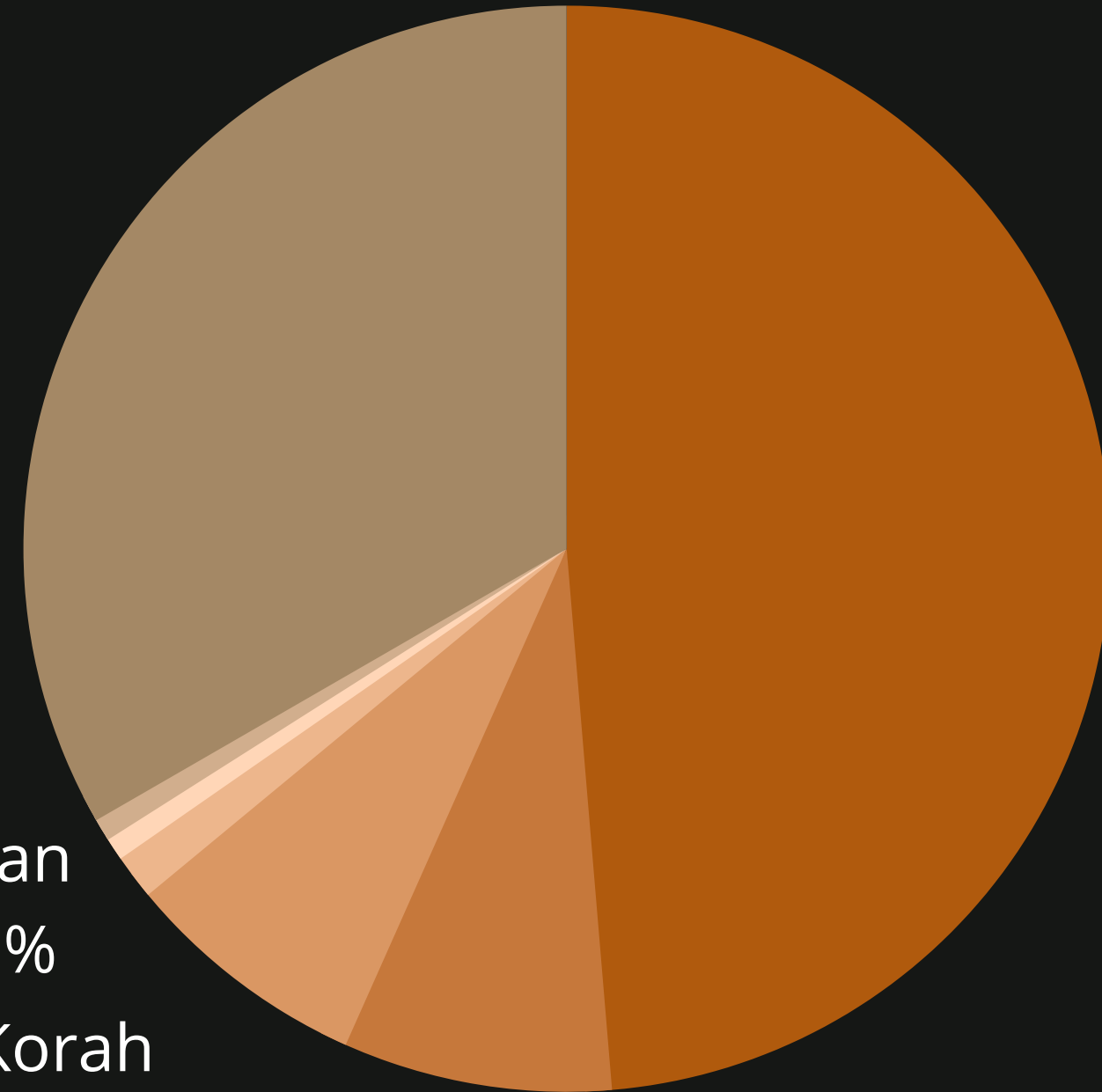
Anonymous
33.3%

Ethan
0.7%

Sons of Korah
7.3%

Asaph
8%

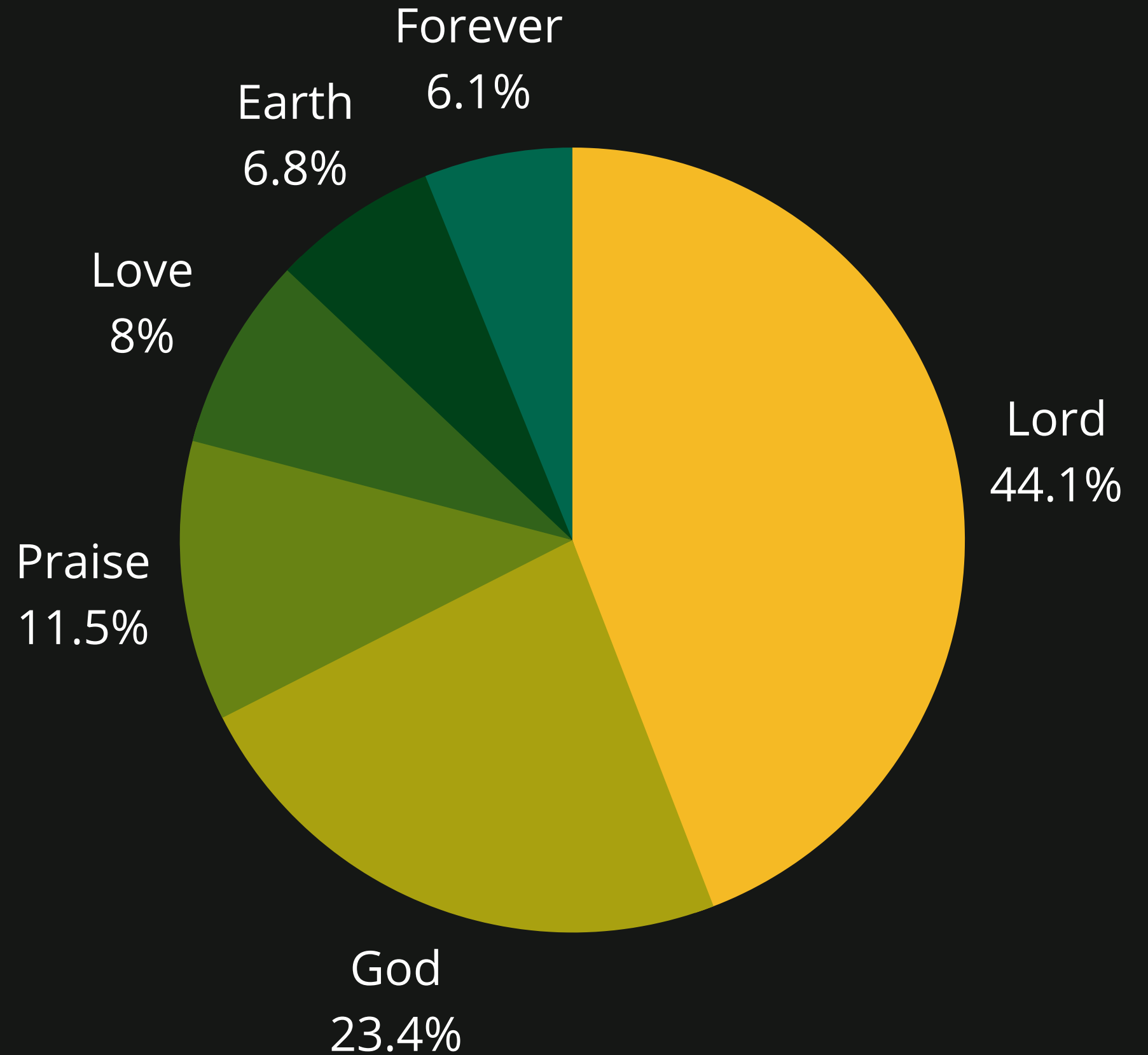
David
48.7%



Stats

MOST COMMON WORDS

1. Lord (795)
2. God (421)
3. Praise (208)
4. Love (144)
5. Earth (123)
6. Forever (110)



Timeline

Creation



> 4000 BC

Abraham



2081 BC

Psalms



< 1000 BC
and on

Christ



5 BC



Theme

SONGS OF PEOPLE

(THE PRAYER BOOK OF THE CHURCH)



Types

Prophecies

**Prayers for
the King**

Lamentations

Praise

**Hymns at
Special
Feasts**

Purpose

Foretell events

History

Laws of life

Doctrine

Repell temptations

Trivia

40% of OT quotes in NT come from Psalms
(283/116)



meant to be sung
(musical instruments mentioned)

TYPES used in the Church today:

3

- 1) **daily** cycle of prayers
- 2) **weekly** morning/evening services
- 3) **yearly** use during feasts

PSALMS

How well God
will bless
the church
and the world
if we
use the
Psalms
in our
prayers

Old Testament Books

Law

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

History

Joshua, Judges, Ruth
1, 2, 3, 4 Kingdoms
1, 2 Chronicles
1, 2 Ezra
Nehemiah
Tobit, Judith, Esther
1, 2, 3 Maccabees

Wisdom

Psalms

Job
Proverbs of Solomon
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs
Wisdom of Solomon
Wisdom of Sirach

Prophets

Hosea, Amos Micah,
Joel, Obadiah, Jonah
Nahum, Habakkuk
Zephaniah, Haggai
Zechariah, Malachi
Isaiah, Jeremiah
Baruch
Lamentation &
Epistle of Jeremiah
Ezekiel, Daniel

Orthodox Perspective



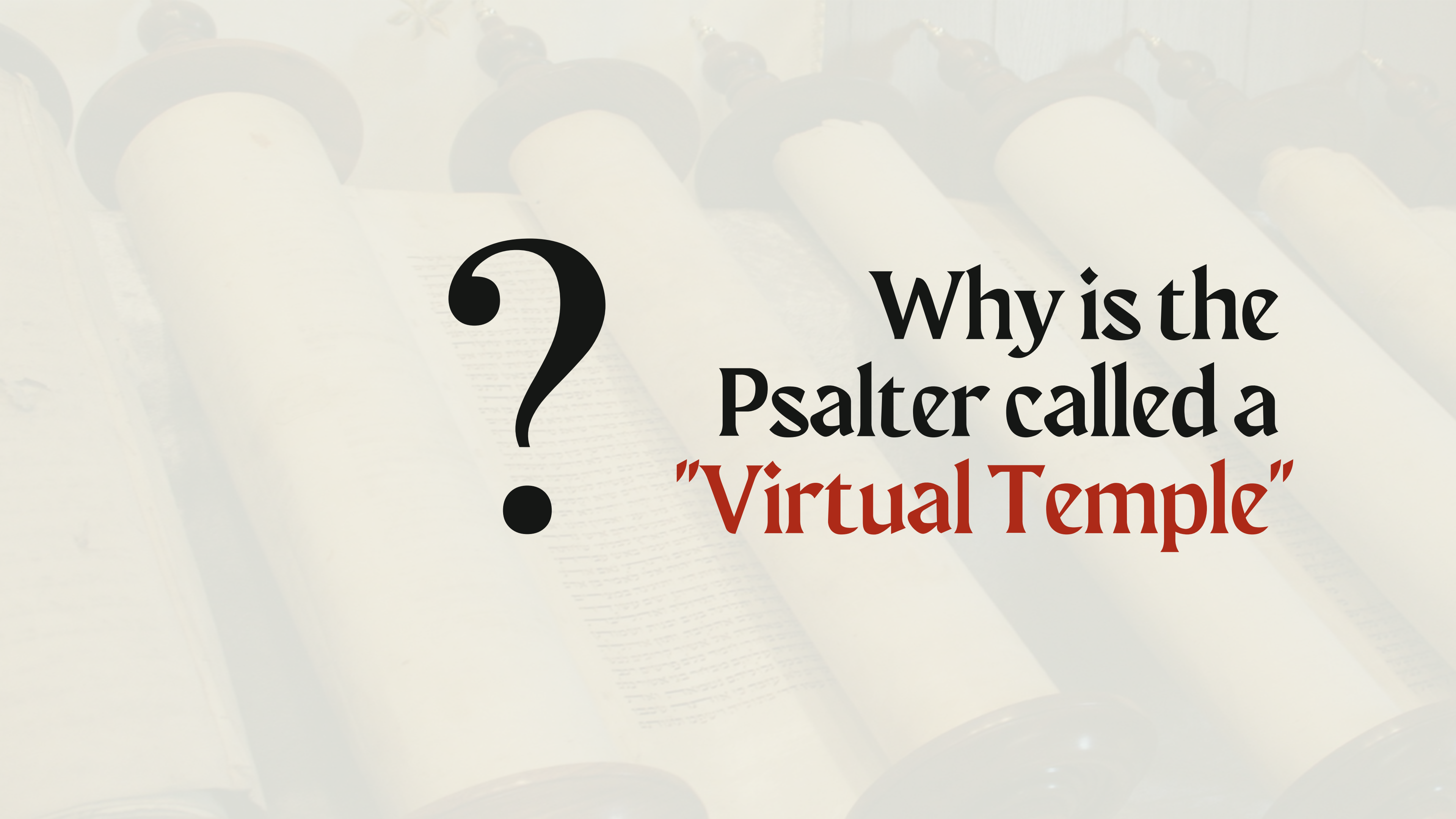
**The Bible is "written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."
(John 20:31)**

**Read the Old Testament
With **Christ** in Mind**

**"The Old (Testament) is in the New (Testament)
revealed, the New is in the Old **concealed**."
(Augustine)**

The Psalms

IN WORSHIP



A large, black, serif question mark is positioned on the left side of the image, partially overlapping the text. The background features an open book with a light-colored cover and pages, with a large, semi-transparent question mark overlaid on it.

●

Why is the
Psalter called a
"Virtual Temple"

The Psalter Travels With Us

Just as the Israelites took the temple with them (God's presence) in the form of Psalm worship during the Babylonian exile, so we carry the Church worship with us by praying the Psalms.

See Psalm 136 (137)





In Worship

In the Orthodox Church, the entire psalter is divided into **twenty sections** and is chanted each week in monasteries and churches which perform the entire liturgical office.

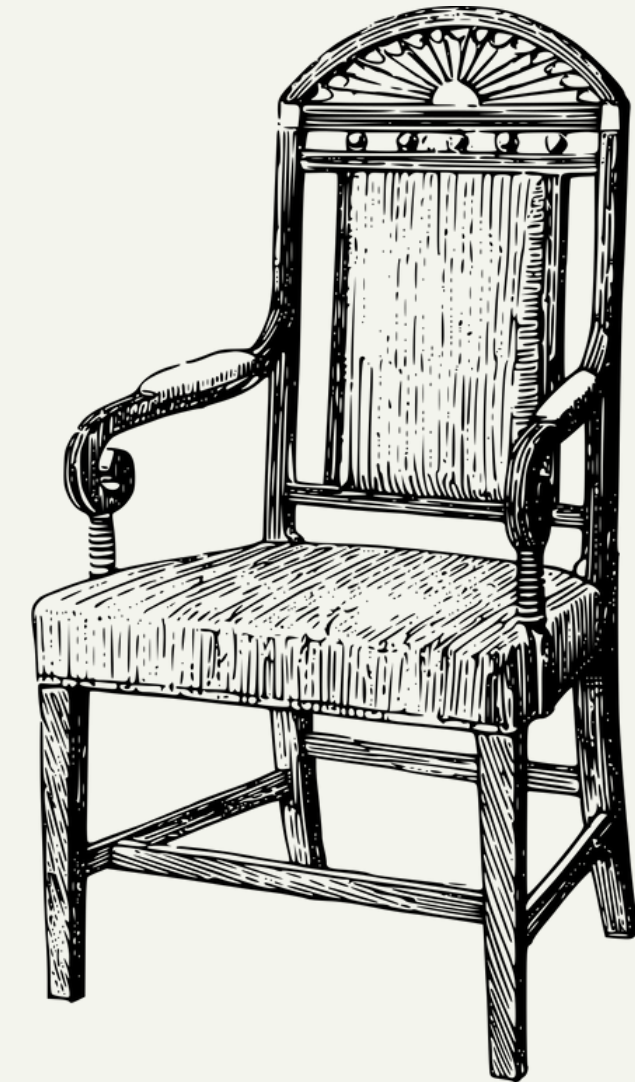
Liturgical Division of the Psalter (20 Kathismas)

The following table is using the Orthodox psalm numbers:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Psalms 1–8 | 11. Psalms 77–84 |
| 2. Psalms 9–16 | 12. Psalms 85–90 |
| 3. Psalms 17–23 | 13. Psalms 91–100 |
| 4. Psalms 24–31 | 14. Psalms 101–104 |
| 5. Psalms 32–36 | 15. Psalms 105–108 |
| 6. Psalms 37–45 | 16. Psalms 109–117 |
| 7. Psalms 46–54 | 17. Psalm 118 |
| 8. Psalms 55–63 | 18. Psalms 119–133 |
| 9. Psalms 64–69 | 19. Psalms 134–142 |
| 10. Psalms 70–76 | 20. Psalms 143–150 |

What are **Kathismas**?

- **Kathisma(s)** comes from the Greek: **κάθισμα** = **seat**.
- Liturgically, the Kathismas are sections of the Psalter read in one sitting or session.
- Each of the twenty kathismas is subdivided into 3 subsections called **stases** (standings).



History of "Kathisma"?

- in ancient practice, monastics recite all 150 psalms on a regular basis.
- originally, the hermits in the desert recited the entire Psalter every day.
- with the establishment of monastic communities, the practice was adopted in their corporate worship.
- the custom became to recite all 150 psalms each week during the course of the services.



The Psalms

EXPLAINED

Structure

According to the original division found in the Hebrew Bible and the Septuagint (probably in imitation of the five books of the Pentateuch) **the Psalms were divided into 5 books***:

* using the MT numbers

- 1 Psalms 1-41
- 2 Psalms 42-72
- 3 Psalms 73-89
- 4 Psalms 90-106
- 5 Psalms 107-150

Psalms*

Book 1

Ps 1-41

The complicated story of David and his royal family.

Book 2

Ps 42-72

Book 3

Ps 73-89

The tragedy of Israel's exile and the downfall of David's royal line.

Book 4

Ps 90-106

Rekindle the hope for the Messiah, a new temple, and God's Kingdom.

Book 5

Ps 107-150

* using the MT numbers



150 Hebrew Poems

- DAVID (73)
- HEMAN & ETHAN (2)
- ASAPH (12)
- SOLOMON & MOSES (3)
- SONS OF KORAH (11)
- ANONYMOUS (49)

MANY WRITTEN FOR CHOIR...

...BUT NOT A HYMNBOOK

(SEE 1 CHRONICLES 25 & NEHEMIAH 11:22-23)



PSALMS

Torah & Messiah

Lament & Praise

Faith & Hope

This chart is using the Masoretic psalm numbers



HOW LONG, O LORD?

LAMENT

- PRAYERS OF PAIN, CONFUSION, & ANGER
- DRAW ATTENTION TO WHAT'S WRONG IN THE WORLD
- ASK GOD TO DO SOMETHING

PRAISE

- PRAYERS OF JOY & CELEBRATION
- DRAW ATTENTION TO WHAT'S GOOD IN THE WORLD
- RETELL THE STORY & THANK GOD



GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD

LAMENT & PRAISE

PRAISE & LAMENT

BOOK 1

3-41

BOOK 2

42-72

BOOK 3

73-89

BOOK 4

90-106

BOOK 5

107-145

1 BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO MEDITATES ON THE TORAH TEACHING 5 BOOKS OF MOSES

PSALMS = A NEW TORAH ABOUT PRAYER

2 POETIC REFLECTION ON 2 SAMUEL 7

MESSIANIC KING

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO TAKE REFUGE IN THE KING

15 CALL TO COVENANT FAITHFULNESS

16-18 DAVID'S PAST DELIVERANCE AND ELEVATION AS KING

PSALM 19 TORAH

20-23 FUTURE KING'S DELIVERANCE AND KINGDOM OVER THE NATIONS

24 CALL TO COVENANT FAITHFULNESS

THE NATIONS

42-43 HOPE FOR A FUTURE RETURN TO THE TEMPLE IN ZION

72 FUTURE REIGN OF THE MESSIANIC KING

ECHOS THE PROPHETS: ISAIAH 11, 45, & 60 • ZECHARIAH 9

FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM (PS 72:17 = GEN 12:3 & 22:17)

73-89 PROMISE OF A MESSIANIC KINGDOM VERSUS EXILE & DOWNFALL OF DAVID'S KINGDOM

ZION

DON'T FORGET YOUR PROMISE

90 MOSES HAVE MERCY ON YOUR SERVANTS!

93-99 THE LORD REIGNS AS KING

"LET THE TREES CLAP, LET THE MOUNTAINS & RIVERS SING"

107-110 THE MESSIANIC KING DEFEATS EVIL & BRINGS GOD'S KINGDOM

113-118 THE HALLEL

118 MESSIANIC KINGDOM

SUSTAIN HOPE IN A FUTURE EXODUS WHEN GOD REDEEMS HIS PEOPLE

PSALM 119 TORAH

120-136 THE SONGS OF ASCENTS

132 MESSIANIC KINGDOM

146 HALLELU-YAH

147 HALLELU-YAH

148 HALLELU-YAH

149 HALLELU-YAH

150 HALLELU-YAH

"GOD HAS RAISED UP A HORN FOR HIS PEOPLE" (118:19)

SEE 1 SAM 2:10 & PS 132:17

HALLELU - YAH PRAISE + YAHWEH

PSALMS: THE PRAYERBOOK OF GOD'S PEOPLE WHO ARE STRIVING TO BE FAITHFUL TO THE TORAH, AND WAITING FOR THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM

MAY THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL BE BLESSED FOREVER, AMEN AND AMEN




LAMENT & PRAISE

BOOK 1

3-41

1 BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO MEDITATES ON THE TORAH



TEACHING
5 BOOKS OF MOSES

PSALMS = A NEW TORAH ABOUT PRAYER

15 CALL TO COVENANT FAITHFULNESS

16-18 DAVID'S PAST DELIVERANCE AND ELEVATION AS KING



20-23 FUTURE KING'S DELIVERANCE AND KINGDOM OVER THE NATIONS

24 CALL TO COVENANT FAITHFULNESS



41:13

2 POETIC REFLECTION ON 2 SAMUEL 7

MESSIANIC KING



EVIL

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO TAKE REFUGE IN THE KING

PSALMS: THE PRAYERBOOK OF GOD'S PEOPLE WHO ARE STRIVING TO BE FAITHFUL TO THE TORAH, AND WAITING FOR THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM

MAY

BOOK 2

42-72

42-43



HOPE FOR A FUTURE RETURN TO THE TEMPLE IN ZION

72 FUTURE REIGN OF THE MESSIANIC KING



ECHOES THE PROPHETS:
• ISAIAH 11, 45, & 60
• ZECHARIAH 9

FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM
(PS 72:17 = GEN 12:3 & 22:17)

72:18-19

BOOK 3

73-89

89

ZION

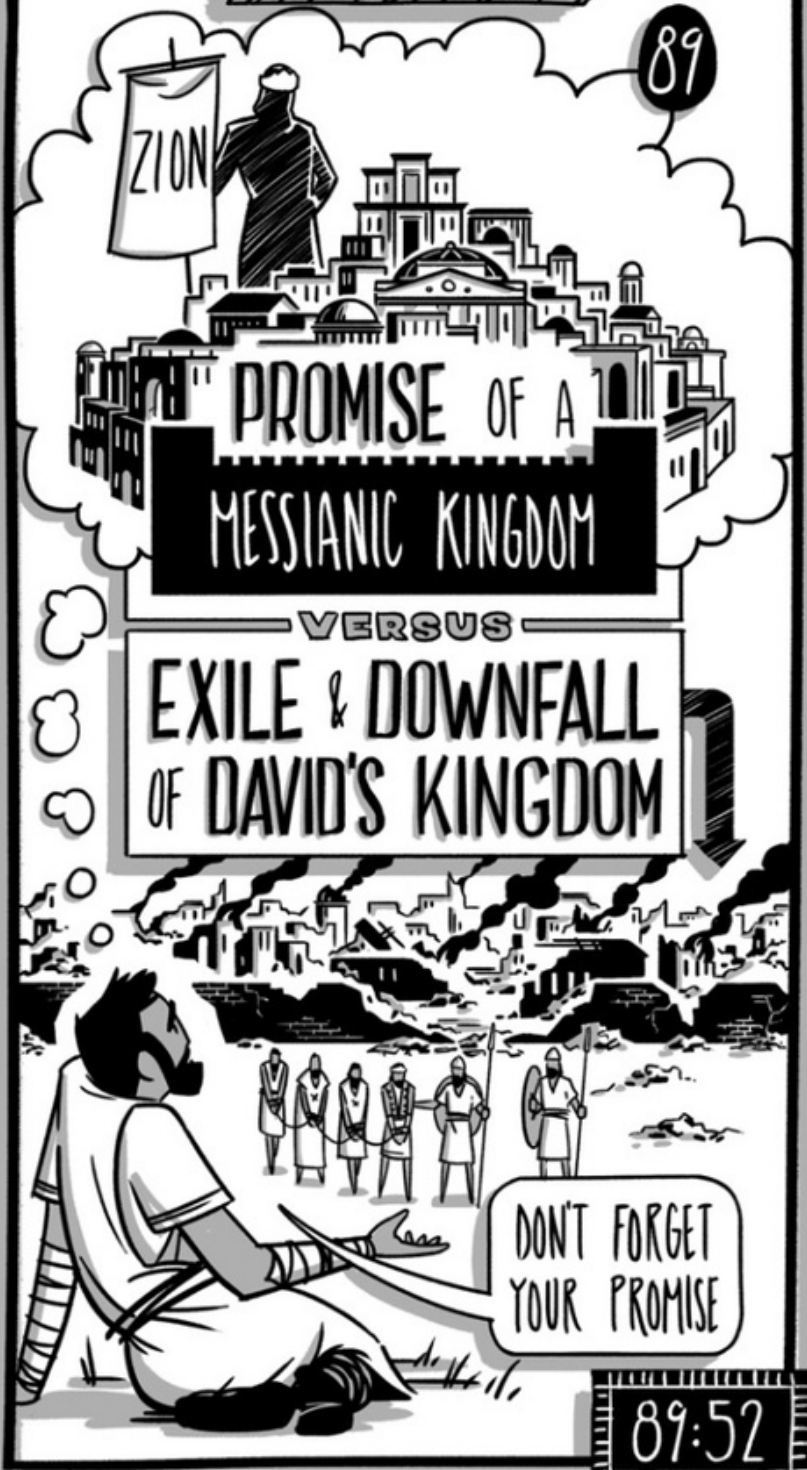
PROMISE OF A
MESSIANIC KINGDOM

VERSUS

EXILE & DOWNFALL
OF DAVID'S KINGDOM

DON'T FORGET
YOUR PROMISE

89:52



BOOK 4

90-106

90

MOSES

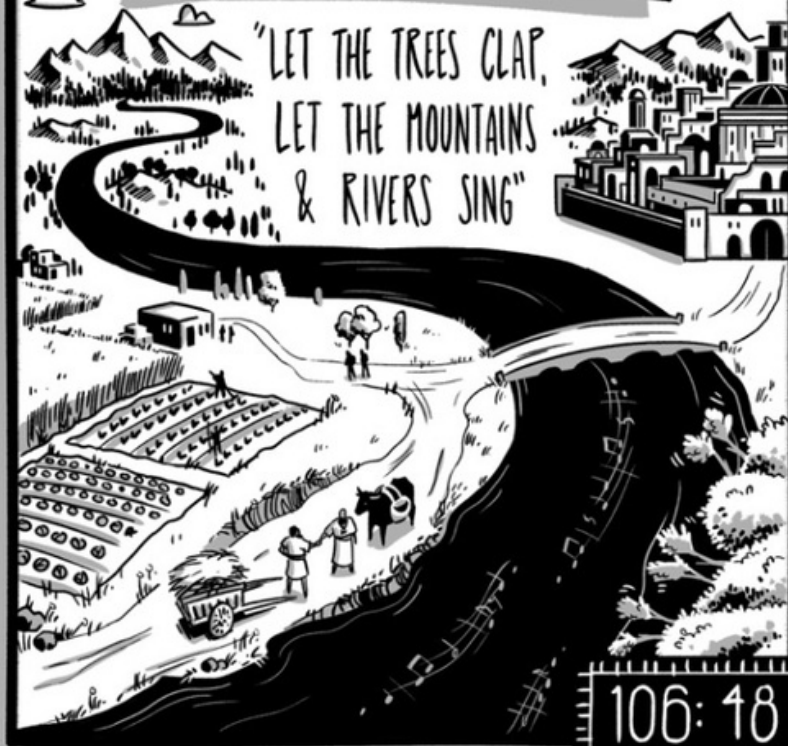


HAVE MERCY ON YOUR SERVANTS!

93-99

THE LORD REIGNS AS KING

"LET THE TREES CLAP, LET THE MOUNTAINS & RIVERS SING"



106: 48

BOOK 5

PSALMS & LAMENT

107-110

107-145

THE

MESSIANIC KING

DEFEATS EVIL & BRINGS GOD'S KINGDOM



HALLELU-YAH
146
HALLELU-YAH

113-118

THE HALLEL

HALLELU-YAH
147
HALLELU-YAH

118

MESSIANIC KINGDOM

SUSTAIN HOPE IN A FUTURE EXODUS WHEN GOD REDEEMS HIS PEOPLE



"GOD HAS RAISED UP A HORN FOR HIS PEOPLE" (118:14)
SEE 1 SAM 2:10 & PS 132:17



HALLELU-YAH
148
HALLELU-YAH

120-136

THE SONGS OF ASCENTS

132

MESSIANIC KINGDOM

HALLELU -YAH
PRAISE + YAHWEH

HALLELU-YAH
149
HALLELU-YAH

HALLELU-YAH
150
HALLELU-YAH

AND AMEN





Christ in Psalms*

- “You are my Son; today I have become your Father” (Ps. 2:7; Acts 13:33).
- “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Ps. 21:1; Matthew 27:46).
- “They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing” (Ps. 21:19; John 19:24).
- “Your Throne, O God, will last for ever and ever” (Ps. 44:7; Hebrews 1:8).
- “They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst” (Ps. 68:22; Matthew 27:34, 48).

* using the LXX numbers



Christ in Psalms*

- “The LORD says to my LORD: ‘Sit at my right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for your feet’” (Ps. 109:1; Matthew 22:44).
- “The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: ‘You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek’” (Ps. 109:4; Hebrews 7:17).
- “The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone” (Ps. 117:22; Matthew 21:42).
- “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD” (Ps. 117:26; Matthew 21:9).

* using the LXX numbers

Spiritual Interpretation

The Orthodox Church views the Book of Psalms fulfilled in Christ:

- the psalms referring to the king are sung in the Church in reference to Christ's as King of Glory.
- the psalms referring to Israel's deliverance are sung in reference to Christ's redemption of humanity.
- the psalms calling for victory over the enemies in battle refer to real enemy, the devil.
- Babylon signifies the realm of Satan, and Jerusalem, the eternal Kingdom of God.
- the psalms lamenting the innocent suffering of the righteous are sung as the plea of the Lord Himself and all those with Him who will rise up to rule the earth on the day of God's terrible judgment.

Psalms

A Virtual Temple

God deserves

Praise at all times.

Let us sing to the Lord
wherever we are.

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- oca.org
- icons of Deisis and Pantocrator by Themis Petrou (St. Nicholas, Ann Arbor)
- other graphics by canva.com

A circular religious mosaic, likely from a dome or apse, featuring a central figure of Christ Pantokrator. The central figure is seated, holding a book, and is surrounded by a circular border containing the Greek text "Ω ΙΧΘ Ο Ν ΧΘ Ο ΠΑΝΤΟ ΚΡΑΤΩΡ". The mosaic is set within a circular frame, and the background is a dark, textured surface. The text "Glory to God!" is overlaid in white, serif font on the central figure.

Glory to God!