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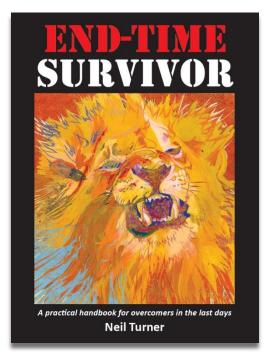


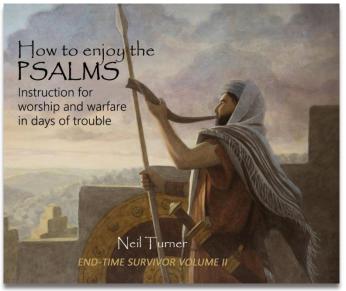
Essential truths of the Christian faith













# The Psalms



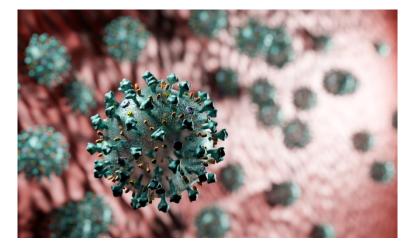
#### **PART #1 - OVERVIEW**

- ➤ what ?
- > when?
- > who?

#### **PART #2 - STRUCTURE**

- > scrolls / Thirtle's Key
- > terms
- > volume themes

# trouble























# The Psalms



# PART #1 - OVERVIEW

# Health Warning



#### please engage your thinking muscles!

- > learning to read the 'map'
- what you do with these skills / knowledge is up to you
- > where will it take you?
- how will you put it to work?









# Kinneret Sea of Galilee



- derived from 'kinnor'
- meaning 'harp'





#### **Jewish Church Bible**

- comprised of LAW, PROPHETS & WRITINGS
- " ... that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the prophets and the Psalms concerning Me"
  Luke 24.44



## What is a Psalm?

#### **Greek NT 'psalmos'**

'twanging' of a stringed instrument

#### **Hebrew OT 'Tehellim'**

'praises' / 'Book of Praise'

#### **Jesus**

- referred to 'the Book of Psalms' His most quoted OT book
- greatest *Messianic* prophetic source

#### the same book we have today

- theirs was in scroll form without verse numbers or any chapter breaks
- ➤ Hebrew Bible '*Tanakh*' comprised 16 scrolls, one for the Psalms



# When were they written?



#### **Context**

- 'sitz im leben' = life situation
- often under tremendous stress
- ➤ all written under Law, from Patriarchs (Ps90), before Church age
- **>** c1450 − 350<sub>BC</sub>
- > longest timespan of any Bible book

#### **Covers**

- ➤ Tabernacle ➤ 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Temple periods
- Exodus, Sojourn, Conquest, David's Kingdom, Divided Kingdom, Babylon, the Return from exile
- Superpowers' Egypt, Syria,Babylon, Medo-Persia, rise of Greece



# **Prophetic Context**

#### **Prophecy**

➤ 242 out of 2526 verses making 59 predictions

#### Jesus / Messianic

- over 100 verses / 16 psalms are Messianic
- greatest *Messianic* single OT prophetic source
- ➤ marked † in HTETP book

#### **Millennial**

- > Jesus' 1000 yr earth reign
- > 39 psalms
- > (5% of Bible as a whole)



## Who wrote the Psalms?

#### A collection

- > 5 volumes, earliest to latest
- > authors, editors, collectors
- musical directors
- > legendary names

#### **David**

- > 'beloved'
- > 75 psalms (probably inc 1&2)

#### **Others**

- > Asaph the 'gatherer' 12x
- > Sons of Korah 11x
- > Solomon, Heman, Ethan, Moses
- ➤ 46 unattributed, possibly inc Jeremiah & Habakkuk







# The Psalms



# PART #2 - STRUCTURE



## Structure of the Psalms

#### **Overall picture**

- ➤ longest book, 8% of the Bible
- > 5 books / volumes / collections
- ➤ Vols I, II, III, IV & V generally from earliest to latest
- (some 'later' psalms contain earlier material)

#### **Chapters & Verses**

- the only legitimate chapters in the Bible
- > 1 Psalm = 1 chapter
- ➤ probably added after 586<sub>BC</sub>
- verses added in medieval times c 1550



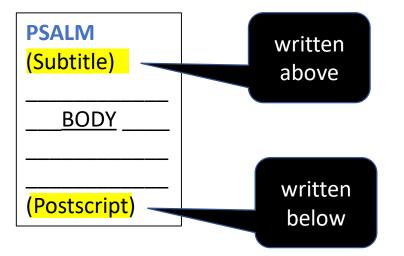


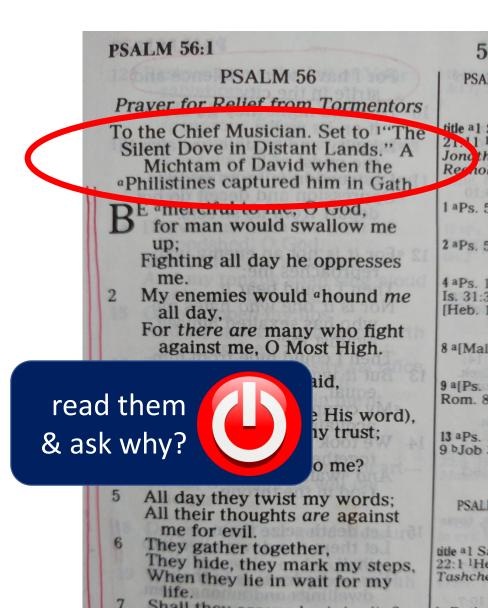
### Structure of the Psalms

#### Subtitle terms (written above) – the bits we ignore!

- > a legitimate part of scripture
- > c18 different terms
- > interpretation isn't always an exact science!
- packed with useful information
- > Gittith, Alamoth, Maschil, Michtam, Shir etc.

#### **TYPICAL FORMAT**







# Dead Sea Scrolls - the 'Great Scroll'



- an abstract from the whole Book of Psalms
- > contains **portions** of 7 Psalms
- shows how they run into each other without a break





# SUBTITLE DEDICATION AS TRADITIONALLY POSITIONED

#### **PSALM 56**

1 To the Chief Musician.

Set to "The Silent Dove in Distant Lands." A Michtam of David when the Philistines captured him in Gath.

Be merciful to me, O God, for man would swallow me up; Fighting all day he oppresses me.

2 My enemies would hound *me* all day, For *there* are many who fight against me, O Most High.

#### J.W. Thirtle contends ...

- dedications of many Psalms are in the wrong place
- judge for yourself!



# Thirtle's Key

#### Habakkuk's Psalm (3.19)

- > The only Psalm to stand alone (but see also Isaiah 38.9-20)
- > 'Chief Musician' dedication is clearly placed at end of the Psalm

#### The Description or subtitle **BEFORE** the Psalm should be limited to

- > describing a song, Psalm, Michtam etc
- > naming its author eg David, Asaph
- > the circumstances of its composition eg Ps 56 David captured by Philistines



#### **ANYTHING ELSE ...**

- belongs to the Chief Musicians 'notes' of the preceding Psalm
- > primarily concerns how Psalm would be used in worship

confused?









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#### PSALM 55 'vv 6 & 7 Wings of a dove'

- **22** Cast your burden on the LORD, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.
- 23 But You, O God, shall bring them down to the pit of destruction; Bloodthirsty and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; But I will trust in You.

To the Chief Musician.
Set to "The Silent Dove in Distant Lands."

#### PSALM 56

**1** A Michtam of David when the Philistines captured him in Gath.

Be merciful to me, O God, for man would swallow me up; Fighting all day he oppresses me.

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# Thirtle's Key — many other Psalms affected!



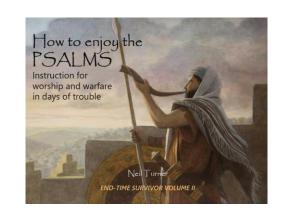
#### 21 – 'the hind of the morning'

- > anticipates the dawning
- > no relation to suffering Messiah of Psalm 22

#### 45 - 'Alamoth' - 'maidens'

- > a love song for the King's wedding
- > no relation to Psalm 46 which deals with conflict in the last days





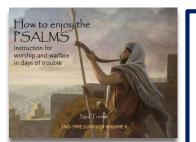
	Author / for	Situatio when use (=derived not st
56	David / Chief Musician ⊶	When the Philistines to him to Gath
57 •	David / Chief Musician ⊶	When he fle from Saul in cave <sup>294</sup>



## Terms: Shoshannim & Gittith

#### Shoshannim = 'relating to lilies'

- flowers appear in spring
- > spring = Passover / Pesach
- > Passover = Israel's deliverance from oppression
- > Applying Thirtle
  - > Ps 68 the Passover story (title moves from Ps 69)
  - Ps 44 'sheep for the slaughter' (title moves from Ps 45)



#### **Rule of Thumb**

Psalms mentioning flowers may generally be associated with Spring / Passover

Passover / Shoshannim Psalms
are marked





# Terms: Shoshannim & Gittith

#### Gittith = 'relating to the winepress'

- fruit & wine come in autumn/fall
- > autumn = Tabernacles / Succoth
- > Tabernacles = Israel's shelter, protection, care & provision
- winepress also concerns judgment / Jesus' return
- > trumpets in Ps 47, 81, 98 etc
- > Applying Thirtle
  - > Ps 83 judgment at harvest time (title moves

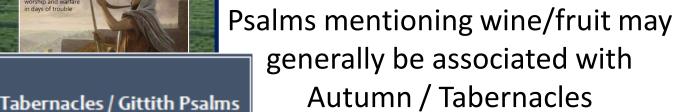
from Ps 84)



are marked

#### **Rule of Thumb**

generally be associated with Autumn / Tabernacles







# Do the 5 Volumes have any significance?

#### the 5 volumes

- > existed in Jesus' day
- took me 3 years to assess / categorise / resolve
- individual themes identified
- > themes aggregated by volume

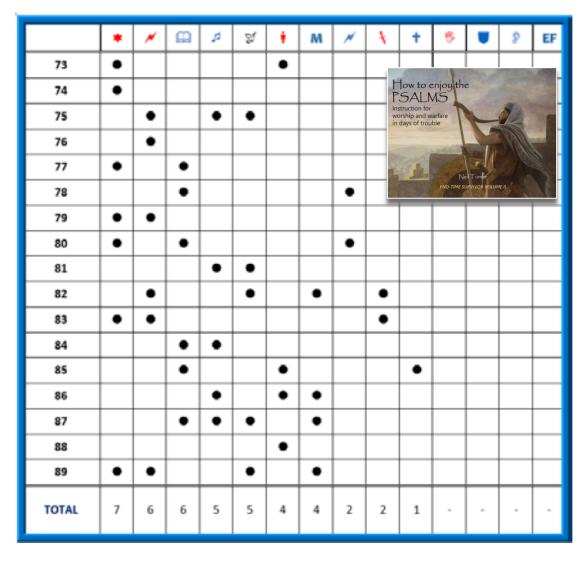
	Key Themes – Icons			
lcon	Concerning PSALMS Instruction for worship and warfare in days of trouble	1		
Ť	Cry for Personal Deliverance / Restoration			
*	Cry for National Deliverance / Restoration	er R VOLUME II		
5	Declaration of Thanksgiving / Praise / Celebration			
ţ	Militant Proclamation to be used in spiritual warfare			
	Declaration of Divine of Protection / Blessing			
Sold.	Penitence / Confession of Sin			
	Declaration of Truth or Israel's History			
P	Waiting on / Listening to God			
NN	God's Judgment: on Israel / on Gentile/Evildoers			
+	Messianic Prophecy			
M	Millennial Prophecy (Jesus' 1000-year earth reign)			
EF	Eternity Future Prophecy (New heaven and earth)			
Ą	God speaks in the first person: 'I'			



# Themes of the Volumes - process

5	Author / for  David / Chief Musician 9	Situation / when used (=derived not stated) (v 3,7 morning)	Arrangement  (=deduced not stated)  Set to Sheminith  With Stringed instruments •	A morn words of but v5 (v7,11) of There is
6 ** †	David	(A proper psalm for Ash Wednesday)		An ang severe Davidh Despite YAHWE
7	David / Chief Musician ⊶	Song to YAHWEH concerning Cush, a Benjeminite <sup>174</sup> (Tabernacles) (Used at Purim)	A Shiggaion (Meditation)  Set to the Gittith <sup>175</sup> (winepress)	The wh of the languag grapes Either r themse Lord of authori
8	David / Chief Musician ⊶		To the tune 'death of the	The firs and His

#### **VOLUME 3 - SUMMARY OF THEMES**





# Structure of the Psalms – headlines only!

#### **Each volume**

- was written at a particular time in Israel's history
- has its own predominant theme and context

#### **Vol II - the Conflict of Faith**

Part I – Personal

- **>** 42-72
- mainly David, Sons of Korah
- personal deliverance
- 'fragmentary' praise despite trouble!
- > judgment on enemies
- probably compiled 1<sup>st</sup> Temple period

#### **Vol I - the Crying of Faith**

- > 1-41
- > entirely Davidic
- the earliest book
- anguished cry for deliverance with praise

#### **Vol III - the Conflict of Faith**

**Part II – National** 

- > 73-89
- Asaph, Sons of Korah
- cry for national deliverance
- judgment on gentile oppressors
- probably compiled during Babylonian Exile



# Structure of the Psalms – headlines only!

#### **Vol IV - the Confidence of Faith**

- > 90-106
- largely unattributed
- hope & certainty of YAHWEH's sovereignty
- blessing, victory & safety
- triumphant praise after trials
- probably compiled 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple period



#### **Vol V - the Crowing of Faith**

- ➤ 107-150
- variety of authors / editors
- belongs to the overcomer who understands the cycle of distress, trust & deliverance
- songs of degrees / ascent (120 134)
- probably compiled 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple period



# Application - example

#### Issues with the BBC

- relentlessly anti-Israel
- promotion of LBGT
- > active suppression / misrepresentation of Christian faith
- agenda-driven not factual
- > wholly unaccountable
- huge national influence

#### **PROCLAMATION**

May all who hate Zion be put to shame and turned backward. Let them be like grass upon the housetops, which withers before it grows up.

Psalm 129.5-6



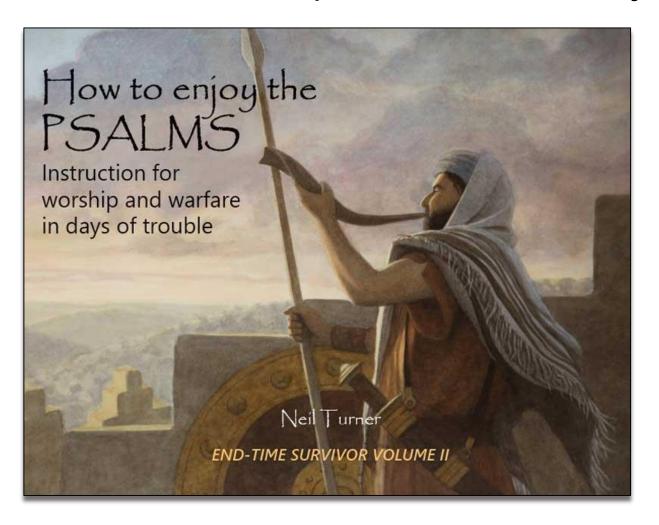
#### **PROCLAMATION**

Let the lying lips be dumb which speak arrogantly against the righteous with pride and contempt. Psalm 31.18





Instruction for Worship & Warfare in Days of Trouble



Available from

amazon.co.uk click the banner on the 'How to Enjoy the Psalms' Page





Waterstones

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(message us via the menu about / contact form)

# Psalms

- > a TRAINING manual for worship AND warfare
- > must be employed, must put to work

READ STUDY MEDITATE MEMORISE DO

#### With our lips ...

- proclaim \(\frac{1}{3}\) praise \(\begin{subarray}{c} \text{pattern prayers} \end{subarray}\)
- With our bodies ...
- > all worship involves our bodies
- > use the 'I will' faith's response statements



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