

## **Poetry – Lesson #2: “Psalms: The Hymns of Faith”**

*“How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season, And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.”*

*Psalm 1:1-3*

### **I. Types of Hebrew Poetry: Type 2 – Lyric Poetry**

Psalms present us with the second kind of Hebrew poetry, the **LYRIC POEM**. In the Book of Job we saw Dramatic Poetry where the events are recounted in a poetic structure. In Psalms, we see writings that were originally set to music, thus the term “Lyric”. Lyric poetry features all of the three key aspects of Hebrew poetry listed below and it expresses personal and corporate faith in beautiful and varied ways. The main theme of the Lyric Poetry in the Psalms is “WORSHIP”.

### **II. Three Key Aspects of Hebrew Poetry:**

- Parallelism –
- Figures of Speech –
- Acrostic Poems –

**III. Overview** – The book of Psalms is structured in **five** (5) separate Books that total 150 Psalms. The five sections may be divided as follows:

- **Book 1** – Psalms about man and creation (1-41)
- **Book 2** – Psalms about Israel and redemption (42-72)
- **Book 3** – Psalms about worship and the Temple (73-89)
- **Book 4** – Psalms about our sojourn on the earth (90-106)
- **Book 5** - Psalms about praise and the Word of God (107-150)

The Book of Psalms is the largest book in the whole Bible and is quoted more often by the N.T. writers than any other. The Psalms have been read, quoted and put to song from the time of the early church until today. There are many kinds of Psalms – petition, lament, thanksgiving, teaching, and messianic – addressing issues that are both personal and national. In the Psalms we have a very intimate expression of faith, worship and a vibrant spiritual life. Reading, singing and praying the Psalms is a wonderful way to worship our great God and Savior and it reflects for us the hearts of some of the great people of faith in the Bible.

**Conclusion:** Some great Psalms to read, sing, pray and meditate upon:

Ps. 1; 2; 19; 22; 23; 24; 37;

Ps. 51;

Ps. 78;

Ps. 91; 100; 103;

Ps. 119; 121; 136; 139; and 150.