



**Book Report #2: Psalms**  
**A Guide to Passionate Relationships with God**



# A Plug for the Bible

- Its our church when we are not at church...
- Its our owners manual when stuff in our life breaks...
- It's the flywheel that keeps our faith moving...

... and it's a really good read!



# Why should we focus on the Psalms?

Two reasons...

## ➤ Passion

- They are an expression of the passionate relationships the writers had with God and a signpost for us in our age.

## ➤ Worship

- A blueprint and inspiration in both words and song to worship God



# What are the Psalms?

- Not just a hymn book...
- Psalm 1 introduces the book as a new Torah (teaching)
- Forms: Poetry, Prayers, Songs
- Uses: Chants, Songs, Prayers and Meditation
- Unique – ***entire book dedicated to talking to God***
  - Hymns = Praise and Celebration
  - Laments = Calls in Pain, Anger and Despair



# Where do they come from...?

- 150 Psalms organized in 5 books
- Written by:
  - David – 73
  - Asaph – 12
  - Sons of Korah – 11
  - Solomon and Moses – 3
  - Heman and Ethan – 2
  - Anonymous – 49
- Composed over about one thousand years from the time of Moses (about 1500 B.C.) to the time of Ezra (about 450 B.C.)

# Psalms tell us a story...

<b>Book 1: 1 - 41</b>	<b>Book 2: 42 - 72</b>	<b>Book 3: 73 - 89</b>	<b>Book 4: 90 - 106</b>	<b>Book 5: 107 - 150</b>
<b>Call to the covenant faithfulness</b>	<b>Future reign of the Messianic King</b>	<b>Promise of Messianic Kingdom in context of Israel's exile</b>	<b>Celebration of the Lord's reign as king</b>	<b>Evil is defeated the Messianic Kingdom comes</b>

**Mostly laments**

**Mostly praise and celebration**

**Highly structured and editorially thematic**

# How would the Psalms sounded to Jesus...

- The Assyrian Orthodox Church of the East in Georgia
- Psalm 51: *“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions...”*

<https://youtu.be/locW-9S00VU>





# So why are the Psalms important to us?

- ▶ They are a demand on us praise in passion
  - ▶ They give us the freedom and right to cry out in pain, frustration and anger to God
  - ▶ It connects us with passionate worshipers from the past so we can create psalms for our own lives
  - ▶ Inspiration in words to pursue a relationship with God
- 