



# MAPPING THE PSALMS

Lesson One

Look for the answers to these questions:

1. What biblical category does the Book of Psalms fit into?
2. Did King David write all the psalms? If not, who else wrote them?
3. About how long did it take to write all the psalms?
4. Which is the oldest psalm? Who wrote it?
5. Which is the newest psalm? What is it about?



The Bible story is interesting and dramatic, but most important, it is the Word of God given to transform our lives.



As we meditate upon of the Word of God, his light floods our soul and changes us into his image.



## 2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.



This transformation does not happen overnight. A consistent diet of the Word of God is required.



### Luke 4:4

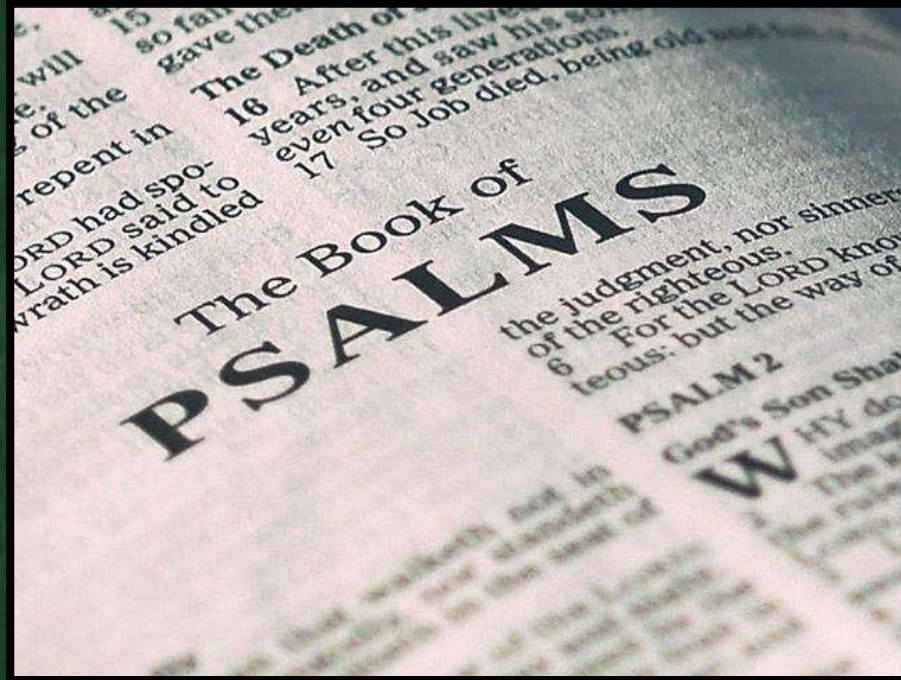
And Jesus answered him, saying,  
It is written, That man shall not live by  
bread alone, but by every word of  
God.



### **Jeremiah 15:16**

Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.



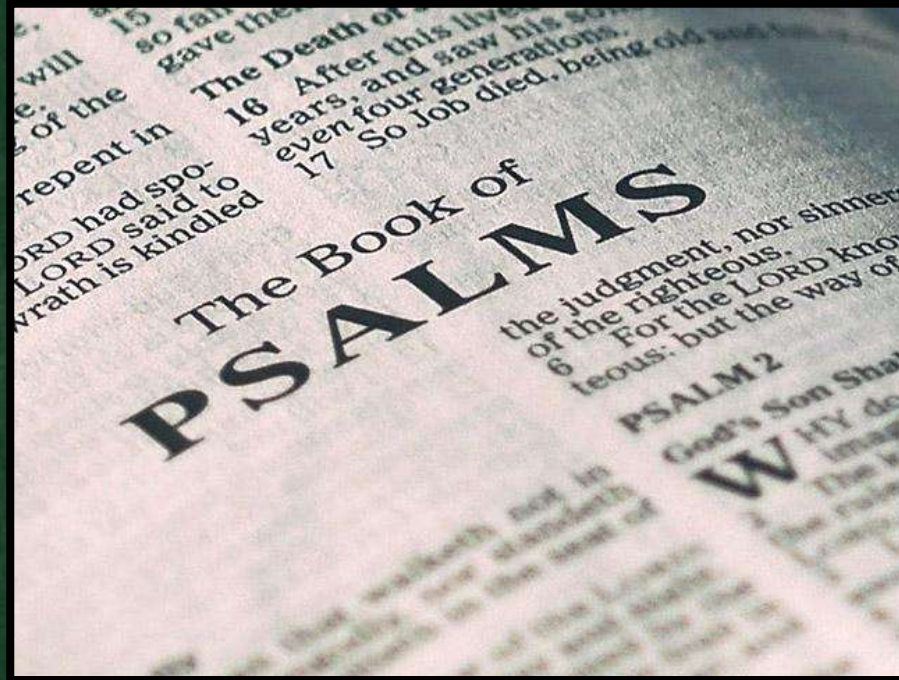


In our pursuit of holy living, we are specifically directed to the Psalms:



## Ephesians 5:18-19

- <sup>18</sup> And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;
- <sup>19</sup> Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;



### **Colossians 3:16**

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.



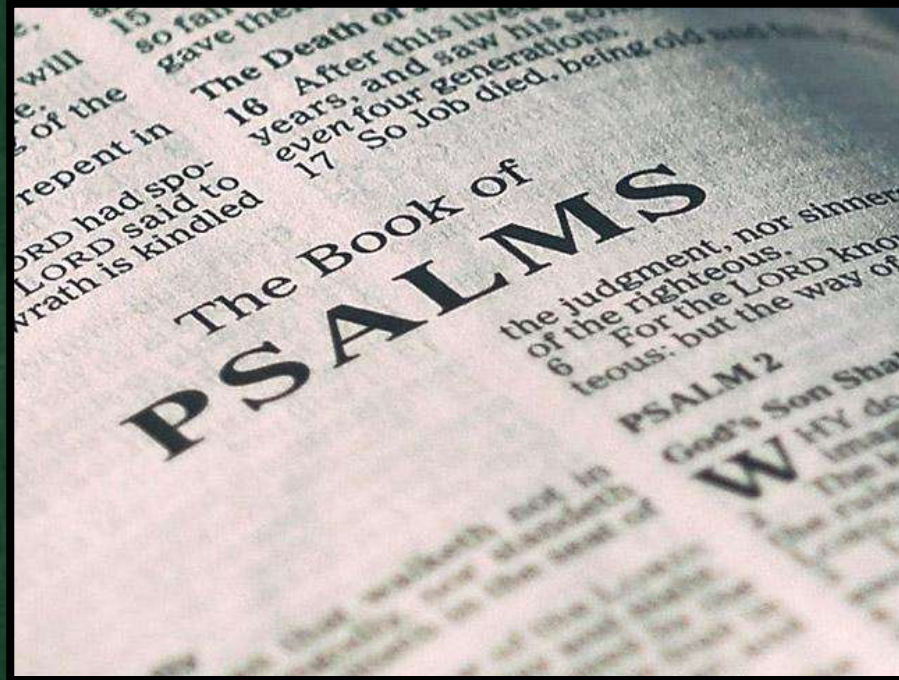
**James 5:13**

Is any among you afflicted?

let him pray.

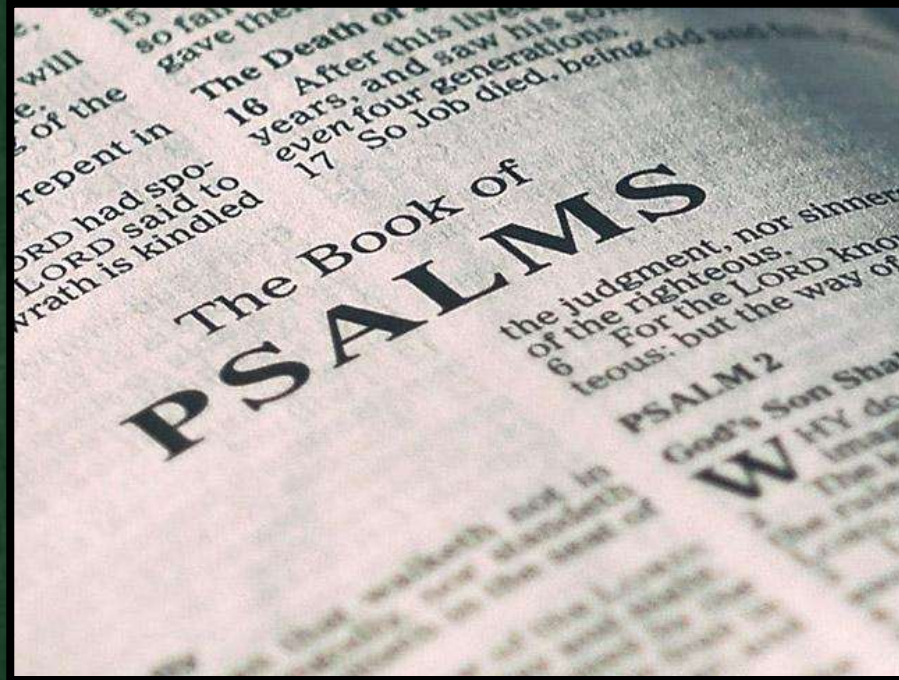
Is any merry?

let him sing psalms.



By definition, “psalms” are lyrical poems sung to the accompaniment of musical instruments.

*THE* Psalms are the 150 chapters conveniently located in the middle of the Bible.



Inspired people can write inspirational songs, but only God can give us his living Word.

*Biblical* psalms have the distinction of being birthed by God, and this puts them in their own unique category.

# Books of the Bible

## Old Testament

## New Testament



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# Books of the Bible

Old Testament

New Testament

Law

Gospels

Church History

History

Letters

Poetry

Major Prophets

Letters

Minor Prophets

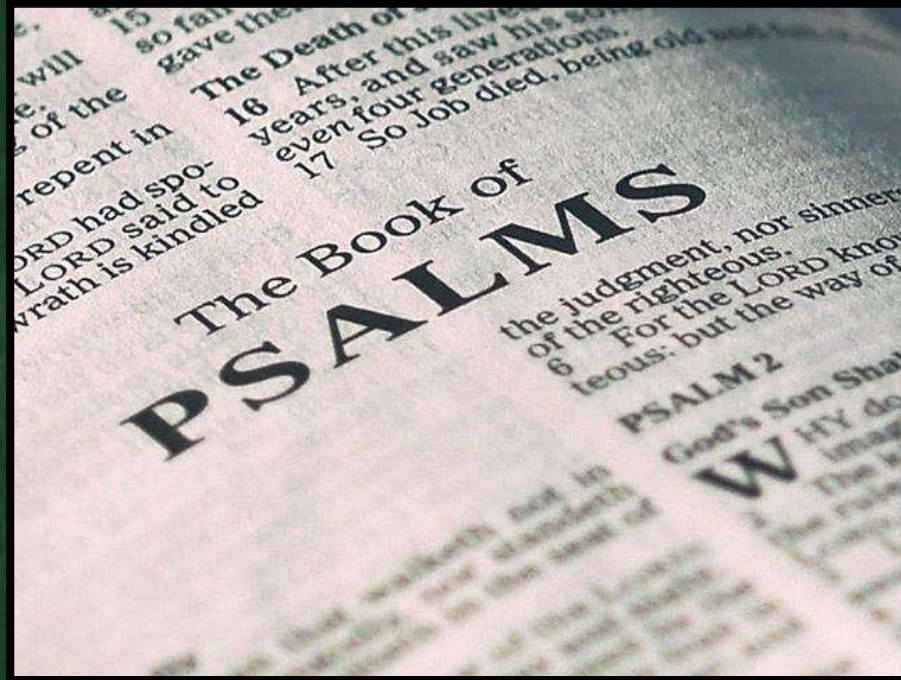
Letters

Prophecy

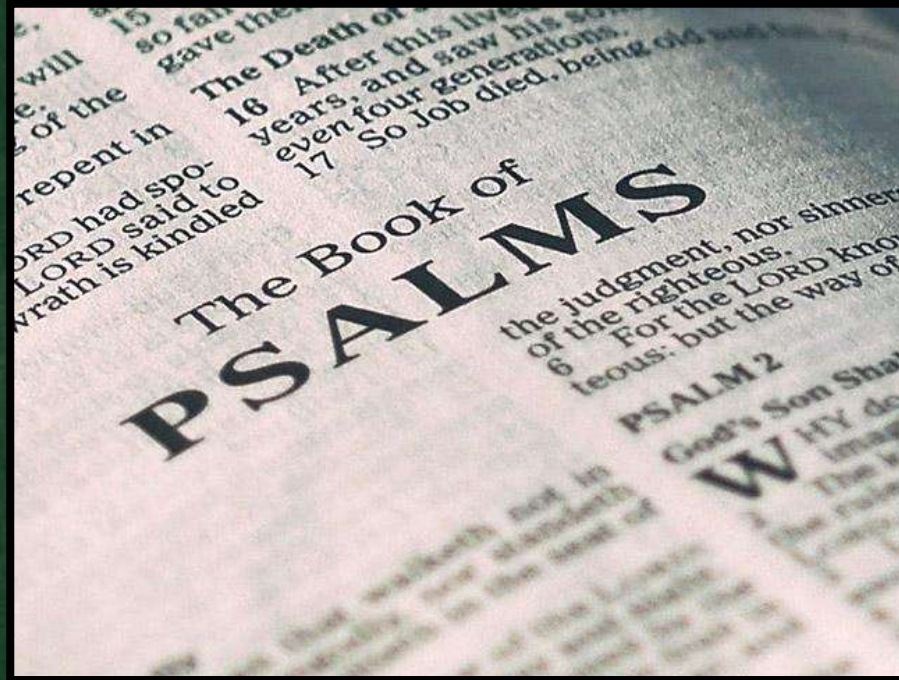


The book of Psalms is classified as one of the five biblical books of Poetry, along with Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon.

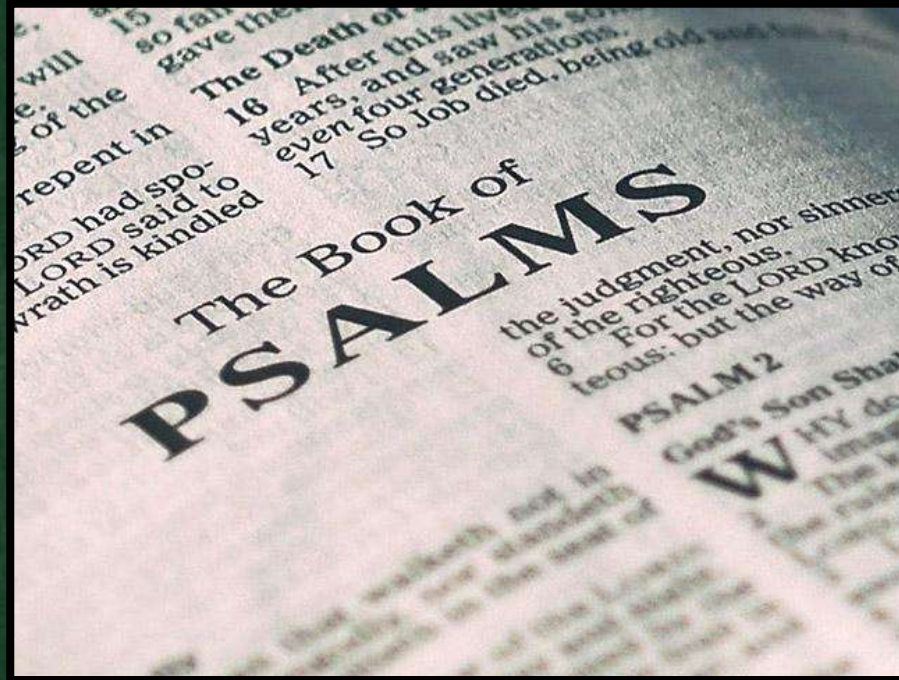




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But who wrote the Psalms?

## Who Wrote the Psalms?

### King David

The man 2 Samuel 23:1 calls “the sweet psalmist of Israel” wrote 75.

73 by name, 2 more are attributed to him by New Testament writers (Ps 2 in Acts 2:25; Ps 95 in Hebrews 4:7).

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### Asaph

This ‘chief musician’ wrote 12.

### The sons of Korah

This Levite family wrote 10.

### Minor Contributors

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Heman the Ezrahite (1)  
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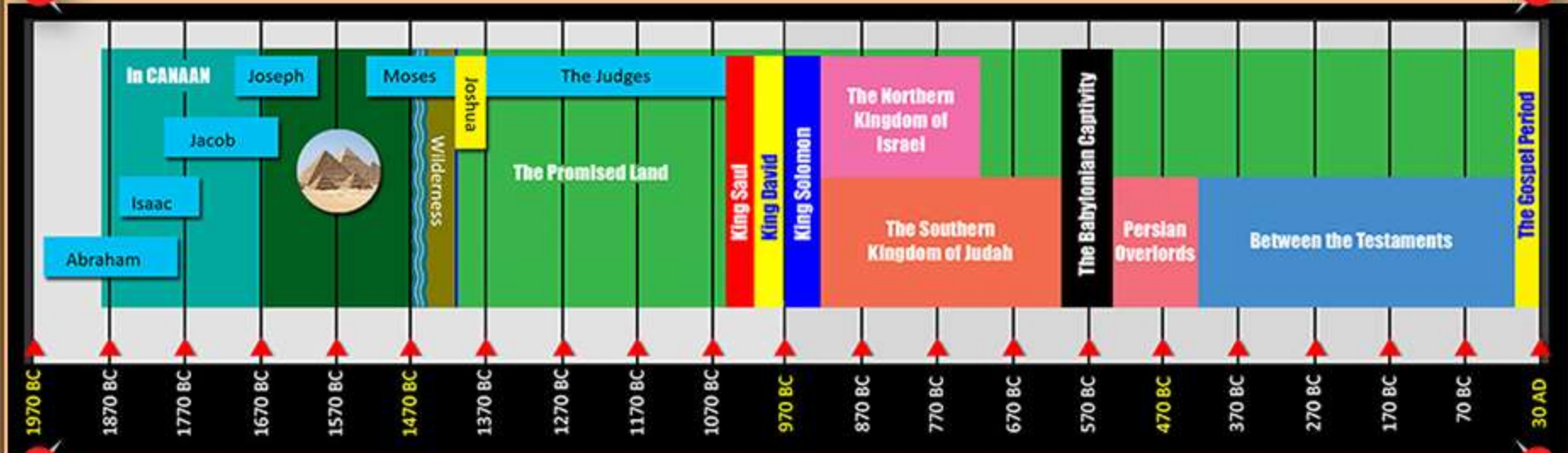
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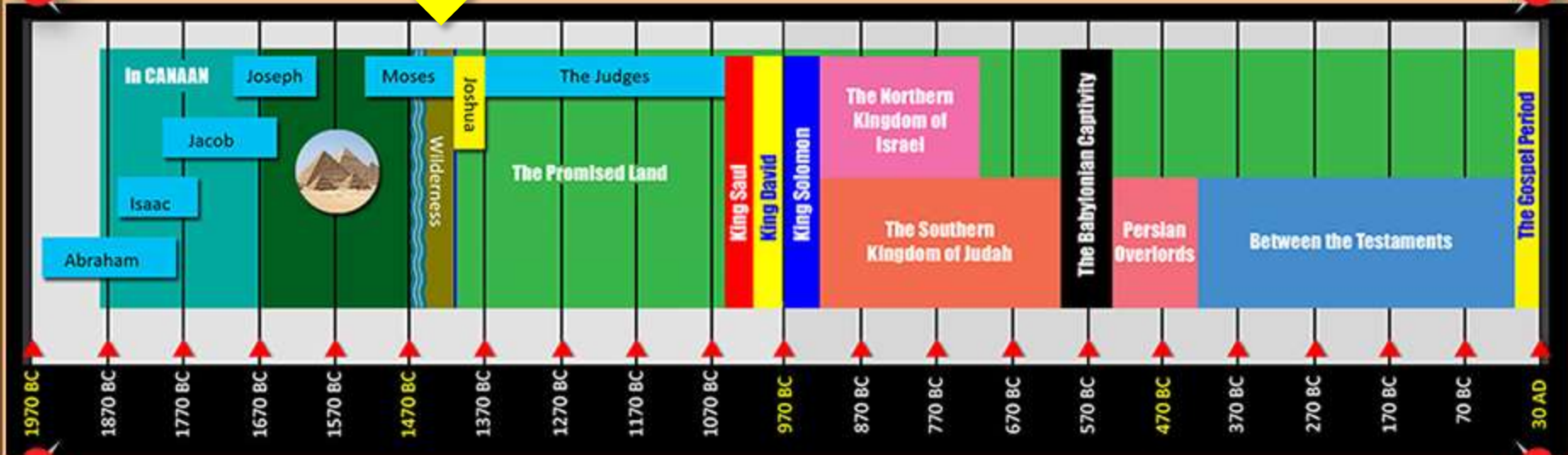
$$75 + 12 + 10 + 3 + 50 = 150$$

The writing of the Psalms took almost 1,000 years.



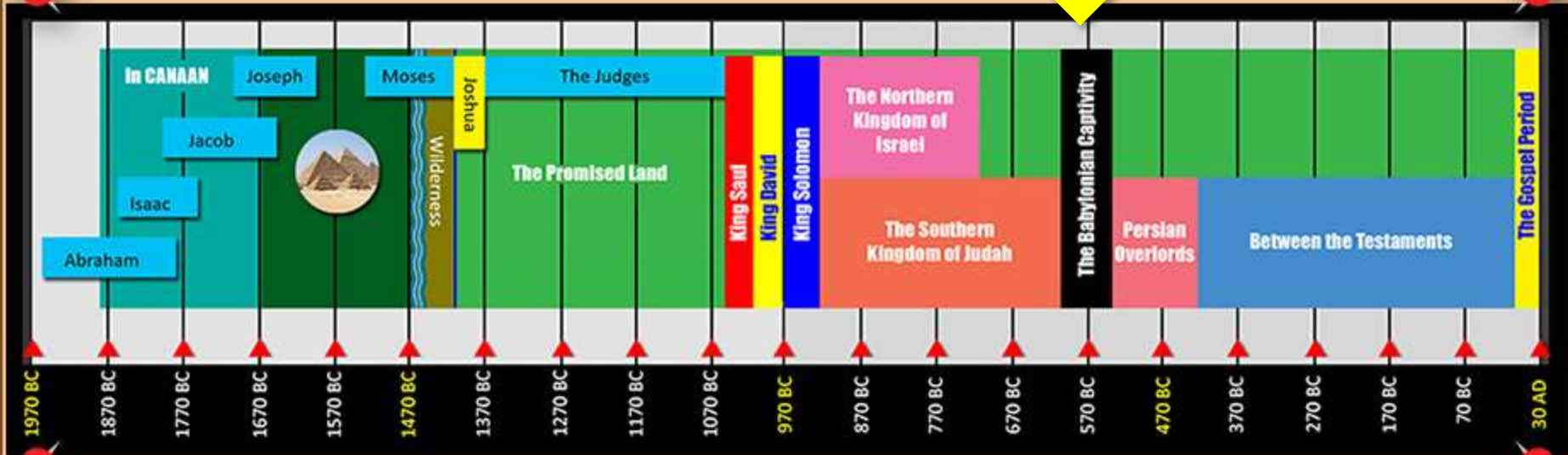


Psalm 90 is the oldest psalm. It was written by Moses.



It begins, “A prayer of Moses the man of God.”

The newest psalm is Psalm 137. It speaks of the Babylonian captivity.

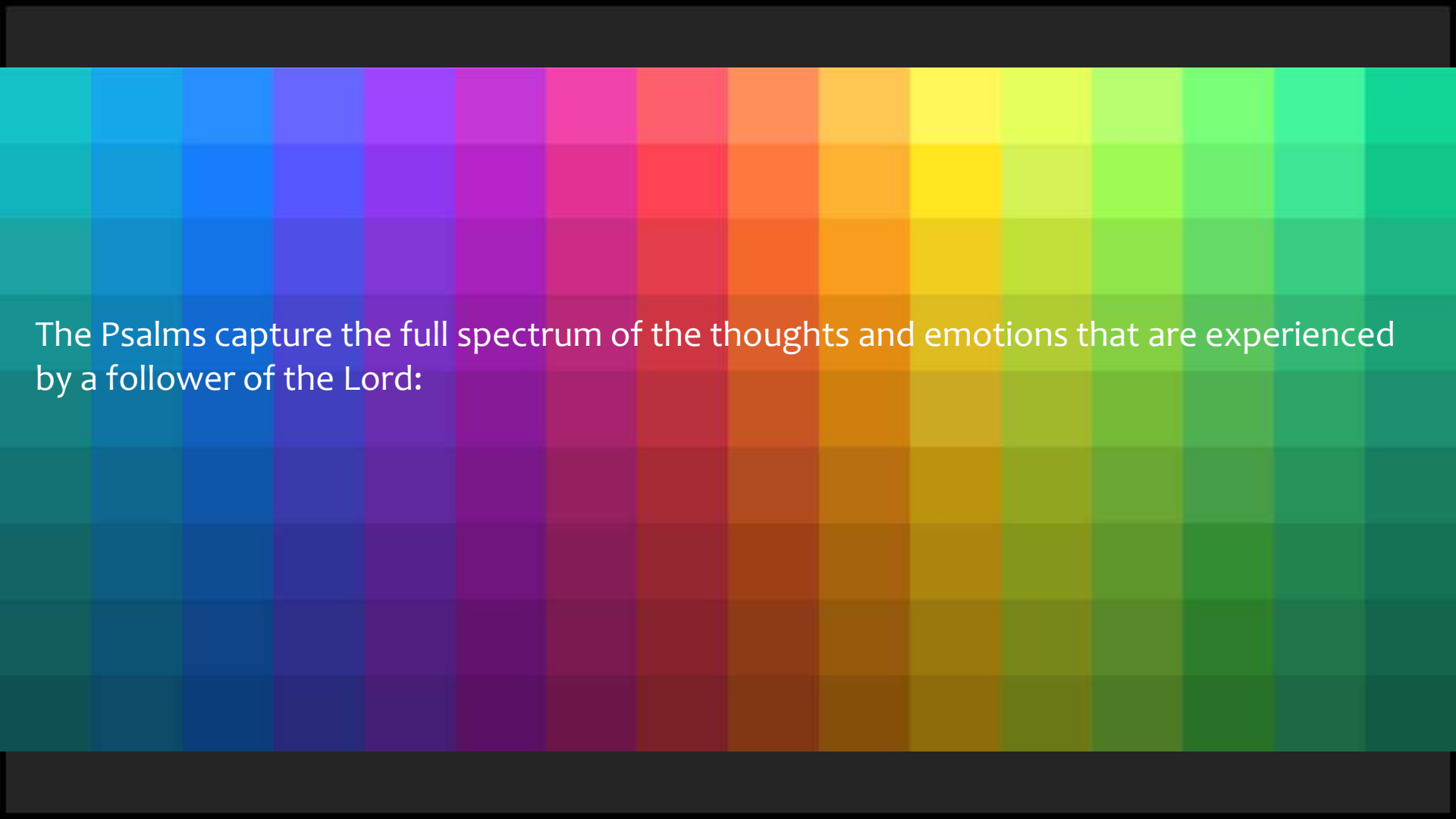


### Psalm 137:1

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down,  
yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.



If ever we need assurance that the Creator understands his creation, we need only read the Psalms.



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Hope and despair,

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Hope and despair,

courage and fear,

The Psalms capture the full spectrum of the thoughts and emotions that are experienced by a follower of the Lord:



Hope and despair,



courage and fear,



trust and doubt,

The Psalms capture the full spectrum of the thoughts and emotions that are experienced by a follower of the Lord:



Hope and despair,



courage and fear,



trust and doubt,



praise and complaint.



We also get a look into the minds of those who are wicked and evil.





All Bible readers have a favorite verse from the book of Psalms, and well they should; the Psalms are filled with beauty, wisdom, and eternal truth. But the Psalms are much more than a collection of individual truths.

If each individual verse is like a pearl,



If each individual verse is like a pearl,  
then the Book of Psalms is like a  
necklace of pearls, each gemstone  
strung perfectly in place by the  
Master's hand.



There are beautiful patterns woven into the Psalms that no mortal person could design – and certainly not a group of people who wrote from different places in different ages.



No one but God knew what the final product was going to look like!



This is just one of the proofs of  
God's infinite wisdom and genius.



This study will not focus so much on each individual “pearl”, but on the “necklace” of the 150 biblical Psalms.





In the next lesson, we will start to look at the some of the ways the verses are strung together.



## Questions to test your understanding:

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Each question is worth 20 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.



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