

By number, when different, (Greek/LXX) Hebrew/Masoretic

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Book	Psalm Range	#Psalms	#Verses	#Words	Theme
1	1-41	41	637	6658	Single individual laments; suffering; sadness
2	42-72	31	495	5082	Praise, royalty, Jerusalem, Solomon
3	73-89	17	368	3628	Righteous suffering, communal laments, exile
4	90-106	17	323	3184	Meditative/reflective, why exile?
5	107-150	44	704	6507	Thanksgiving, return, awaiting promised king

Psalter Intro: A double intro, Psalms 1 & 2

Psalm 1 – Wisdom, contrast between evil and righteous; promises blessings to those who meditate on God’s law (not rules, but how to live in relation to God)

RSV2CE The Two Ways: *Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.*

Psalm 2 – focuses on God’s Son, the king and ends with a blessing

RSV2CE God’s Promise to His Anointed: *Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and his anointed, saying, “Let us burst their bonds asunder, and cast their cords from us.” He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord has them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, “I have set my king on Zion, my holy mountain.” I will tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to me, “You are my son, today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron, and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.” Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, with trembling rejoice, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way; for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.*