AN INTRODUCTION

THE BOOK OF PSALMS

*The Hebrew title is “tehillim,” or “the book of praises.” It contains poems that are sung and words that are prayed!

*It is a collection of poetic music spanning 1,000 years from 1400 to 400 BC.

*It is divided into 5 sections:
  - Book 1—Psalm 1-41
  - Book 2—Psalm 42-72
  - Book 3—Psalm 73-89
  - Book 4—Psalm 90-106
  - Book 5—Psalm 107-150

*Each section ends with a “doxology,” or an “amen.”

Psalm 41:13. "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen."
Psalm 72:19-20. “Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen! The prayers of David, the son of Jesse, are ended.”
Psalm 89:52. “Blessed be the Lord forever! Amen and Amen.”
Psalm 106:48. “Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, “Amen!” Praise the Lord!”
Psalm 150:6. “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!”

*The authors are many:
  - King David (see 1, 2 Samuel)
  - Asaph and his sons (1 Ch 25:1; Neh 7:44)
  - The Sons of Korah (Nu 26:11) (one of 3 choirs in the temple)
  - Heman
  - King Solomon (David’s son)
  - Ethan the Ezrahite
  - Moses (Psalm 90)
  - 50 psalms without a noted author are called “orphan psalms.”

*Types of Psalms:
  - Psalms of Lament (asking help when afflicted)
  - Royal Psalms (about David’s rule as King)
  - Thanksgiving Psalms (expressing specific thanks to God)
  - Wisdom Psalms (focusing on the theme of wisdom)
  - The Songs of Ascent (sung when traveling to Jerusalem to the temple)
  - Psalms of Zion (Israel’s history recounted)
  - Penitential Psalms (expressing sorrow and repentance)
*New Testament Affirmation:*
There are over 400 quotations of the Psalms or allusions to them in the New Testament.
Singing the Psalms was significant in the church’s worship. (Eph 5:19)

*Why do we read, study, pray, or sing the Psalms?*
They magnify God’s goodness and His power.
They voice our gratitude, hope, sorrows, and longings.
They teach eternal truths.
They help us to commit to godly attitudes and actions.
They draw us near to God as we worship Him through the Psalms.
When we worship through the Psalms, we are transformed.

**THE TRUTH ABOUT HOPE**

1. There is a difference between the world’s idea of hope (“hope so…”) and the true biblical concept (“I know so…”). One is characterized by doubt while the other is based on certainty! Biblical hope is an anchor. Psalm 71:5,14; Hebrews 6:19; 10:23

2. Hope is always coupled with patient and godly waiting. Psalm 39:7; 62:1,5; 130:5; Romans 8:25; Titus 1:2; 2:13

3. Most of all, it is confident expectation based on trust and faith in the promises of God. Biblical hope is built on faith. Psalm 119:116; Hebrews 11:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:13

4. We are born again to a living hope. This hope is the trait of the true believer in Christ. Psalm 71:5; Job 13:15; 1 Peter 1:3
DISCOVERING HOPE in the PSALMS
A CREATIVE BIBLE STUDY EXPERIENCE
WITH PAM FARREL & JEAN E. JONES & KARLA DORNACHER

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Psalms of Praise (worship hymns)
Torah Psalms (giving emphasis to the Law)

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