

The Writing and Collecting of the Psalms (Ps. 78 'the next generation ... children yet unborn ...')

**Psalms- Israel's hymn book:** ('Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path...')

CI: The songs in Israel's hymn book came from her walk with God through the centuries.

Aim: To describe the process by which Israel's hymn book was written.

?? What was Israel's history like when they were focused on worshipping and praising God as he had prescribed in his word? What happened when they turned from worshipping him??

I. **Hands:** Daily reading/meditation--> 5 Psalms / day and one chapter from Proverbs

\* Psalms 1-41 God is primarily - Yahweh - LORD; Ps. 42-83 - God = Elohim - GOD.

II. **Head:** The songs were written in response to the historical events in Hebrew history.

The books of **history** tell us **what God's people did**. The books of **poetry** tell **how they felt!**

Summary of Later Hebrew History:

United Kingdom (Saul, David, Solomon)

Divided Kingdom (931-721- (20 kings in Judah until captivity)

Judah Alone (721-586- (Jerusalem captured three times 606, 598, 587/6)

Babylonian Captivity (606-536- Babylon falls to Medes/Persians)

some of the Exiles Return (537-400 rebuild temple / walls of Jer.)

\* 75 of Israel's psalms are attributed to David

\* As God's people struggled through the next 6 centuries, psalms, prayers and songs continued to be written which reflected their circumstances and walk with God in their generation.

Summary of the Five Books of the Psalms (songs are sung more frequently than indiv. books are read)

I. 1-41 38 of these 41 psalms are composed by **David**

II. 42-72 **Sons of Korah** (42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49)

(David= 18 in book #2.... 56 of 75 psalms by David are in books 1 and 2!)

III. 73-89 **Sons of Asaph** (50, 73, \*74, 75, 76, 77, 78, \*79, 80, 81, 82, 83- \*fall of Jerusalem)

IV. 90-106 **Moses** = Ps. 90 (6 of 7 references to Moses in the Psalms are in book #4!)

V. 107-150 The largest group of **collections** in the book

\* Psalms after exile: 107, 116, 118, 125, 126, 128, 129, 132, 147, 149

\* the Hallel (during Passover activities) 113-118

\* the songs of ascent (pilgrims going up to worship in Jerusalem?) 120-134

\* David's psalms- 108, 109, 110, 122, 124, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145

\* songs of praise- 111, 112, 113, 117, 135, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150

III. **Heart:** Ps. 1, 23, 46, 84, 90, 139 148, 150:6 (61:8, 63:4 104:33-34)

\* Sister Ella Shaw- "Thou hast said, seek ye my face. **my heart says to thee**

"Thy face O Lord will I seek!" (Ps. 27:8)

\* "Thy word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path" - while we are here on earth and to help us to find our way back home to be with our Father forever!

## Asaph

(Look at the heading of Ps. 50, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83)

CI: Asaph was the father of a musical family who faithfully worshipped God for **600 years**.

Aim: To explain how worship sustained a heritage of 600 years of faithfulness in this family.

- |          |            |                |             |           |                  |
|----------|------------|----------------|-------------|-----------|------------------|
| 1. David | 2. Solomon | 3. Jehoshaphat | 4. Hezekiah | 5. Josiah | 6. Ezra/Nehemiah |
| 1000     | 962-922    | 873-849        | 715-687     | 640-609   | 444              |

1. 1 Chron. 6:31 **Asaph was one of those in charge of the music in the Lord's temple**  
6:39 Heman's relative-- Asaph....  
6:44 Ethan (Ps. 89)  
15:17 appoint some relatives to serve as singers-- Heman appointed Asaph  
15:19 the **singers were Heman, Asaph, and Ethan**  
16:4-5 Moreover he appointed certain of the Levites as ministers before the ark of the Lord, to invoke, to thank, and to praise the Lord, the God of Israel. **Asaph was the chief.**  
16:7 **David entrusted Asaph and his relatives with the task of singing songs of thanks to the Lord...**  
16:8-9 "O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples! **9 Sing to him, sing praises to him, tell of all his wonderful works!"**  
16:37 .. **he left Asaph and his relatives to serve continually in front of the ark of the Lord.**  
25:1-2 **David set apart for the service certain sons of Asaph and Heman...** under the direction of Asaph who prophesied under the direction of the king...
  2. 2 Chron. 5:12 **Solomon dedicating the temple-- the Levites singers- Asaph, Heman...**
  3. 20:14-23 **Jehoshaphat-** The spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel...  
a Levite of the sons of Asaph
  4. 29:13 cleansing of the temple... sons of Asaph .... sons of Heman  
29:30 **Hezekiah commanded the Levites to sing praises to the Lord with the words of David and of Asaph the seer.** And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed down and worshiped.
  5. 35:15 **Josiah-** The singers, the sons of Asaph, were in their place according to the command of David & Asaph, & Heman, & Jeduthun the kings seer;
  6. Ezra 2:41 the singers- the sons of Asaph= 128  
3:10 sons of Asaph- to praise the Lord according to the directions of David king of Israel- they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord...  
Nehemiah 7:44 the singers, the sons of Asaph= 148  
11:17 son of Asaph, who was the leader to begin the thanksgiving in prayer  
11:22 Mica, of the sons of Asaph the singers, over the work of the house of the Lord  
12:35 certain of the priests sons of Levite ... Zaccur, son of Asaph and his kinsmen  
12:46 For in the days of David and Asaph of old there was a chief of the singers and there were songs of praise and thanksgiving to God.....

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- 1) For over 600 years we can trace a family who faithfully worshipped God.
  - 2) Book III of Psalms opens with 11 psalms of Asaph (73-83), written over hundreds of years.  
(I always wonder if they are the 'editors' who selected the Psalms in book III?)
  - 3) **Every time there is a restoration movement** and God's people decide to **do things "like our father David did,"** then they would call upon the family of Asaph to lead in worship.
  - 4) They were the Hebrew version of the Jackson and Osmond families in American culture!



5) **If Christ does not return for another 600 years, will there be anyone in your family (physically or spiritually) who are still faithfully worshipping and praising God?**

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- \*\* One of the central tasks of parents and grandparents in the OT is *the responsibility to teach the next generations about God. Each generation either learns the teaching of God and lives faithfully or they become like the nations around them.* This was a never ending challenge.
  - \* Gen. 9:12 the covenant I will make for all future generations; 17:4-7 you & your descendants
  - \* Gen 18:17-19 ... chosen Abraham that *he may charge his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord* ... that the Lord may bring to Abr. what he has promised him.
  - \* **Deut. 4:9** make them known to your children and *your children's children*
  - \* Deut. 6:6-8 ... you shall *teach them diligently to your children* ..  
talk, walk, lie down and rise; bind them; write them  
Deut. 7:9; Deut. 11:18-21 Deut. 32:7-9
  - \* Josh. 24:14-15 me and my house, **we will serve the Lord.**
  - \* Judges 2:10 there arose a generation that *knew not the Lord.*
  - \* Job. 1:5 Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and *offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all* ... Thus Job did continually.
  - \* Ps. 78:3-4, 5-8 ... we will not hide them to the coming generation ... **he commanded our fathers to teach to their children; that the next generation might know them. the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children.** (Ps. 22:30-1; 102:18)
    - Prov. 22:6 Train up a child .....
    - Mal. 4:6 .. turn the hearts of the fathers to their children *and the hearts of the children to their fathers* ... lest I come and smite the land with a curse.
  - \* **throughout your generations:** *Exod.* 3:15 ... the Lord, the father of Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob, thus I am to be remembered through all generations; *Ex.* 12:14, 17, 42; 16:32-3; 27:21; 29:42; 30:8, 10, 21, 31; 31:13, 16; 40:15; *Lev.* 3:17; 6:18; 7:36; 10:9; 17:7; 21:17; 22:3; 23:14, 21, 31, *Lev.* 23:41, 43; 24:3; *Num.* 10:8; 15:14-15, 21, 23, 38; 18:23; 35:29
  - \* **All generations:** *Ps.* 10:6; 33:11; 45:17; 49:11; 61:6; 71:18; 72:5; 85:5; 89:1, 4; 90:1; 100:5; 102:12, 24; 105:8; 119:90; 145:13; 146:10; *Is.* 13:20; 51:8; *Jer.* 50:39; *Lam.* 5:19; *Joel* 2:2; 3:20; *Mt.* 1:17;
  - \* John 6:45 It is written in the prophets, '*And they shall all be taught by God.*'  
*Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me.*
  - \* Eph. 6:1-4 .. bring them up in the *nurture and admonition of the Lord;* (1 Tim. 3:4; Titus 2:4)

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1. **Be faithful all your life.** You may teach more to coming generations about your faith by how you "finish" than any other single item (*These all died in faith* ... Heb. 11:13).
  2. It is important to ask if our children will have faith. (Something to pray about continually!)  
We should also **ask will our faith have children?** (W. Brueggemann, *Hope Within Hist.*, 92)
  3. Have you ever known anyone to "fall away from the Lord," who was worshipping faithfully?
  4. Worship was not a "spectator sport" for this family! (They were not inoculated against faith.)
  5. The **principle of teaching the next generation and those "yet unborn"** is taught in the Psalms. 78. **Asaph's family practiced these teachings for six hundred years!**
  6. Paul describes God as the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named (Eph. 3:14-15). Let's pray that our children and children's children will grow up in a physical and a spiritual **"forever family."**
  7. L.O. Sanderson was asked, "What is your favorite verse in our hymn book?" "That one is easy:



# Pray All the Time

Vana R. Raye

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L. O. Sanderson

1. The world has lost the right of prayer, And saints have failed to pray;  
 2. The Fa-ther speak-eth in His word—He talks no oth - er way!  
 3. There is no tri - al, grief, or pain, No mo-ment of the day,

What loss sus-tained be-yond re-pair! How blind of heart are they!  
 And to con-verse with Him, our Lord, We must take time to pray!  
 But that we may in Je - sus' name In - cline our souls and pray!

**CHORUS**

*Regular parts*

{ Pray in the Morn-ing,	Pray at the Noon-time,
{ Pray when you're hap-py,	Pray when in sor - row,

*Special Bass Lead*

{ Pray in the Morn - - ing,	Pray at the Noon - - time,
{ Pray when you're hap - - py,	Pray when in sor - - row,

Pray in the Eve-ning, Pray an - y - time;  
 Pray when you're tempted, (*Omit . . . . .*) Pray all the time.

Pray in the Eve - - ning, Pray an - y - time;  
 Pray when you're tempt - ed, (*Omit . . . . .*) Pray all the time.