

Psalm notes: January 13, 2019

Numbering of the Psalms

Masoretic Text (MT) numbering	Septuagint (LXX) numbering
1-8	1-8
9-10	9
11-113	10-112
114-115	113
116	114-115
117-146	116-145
147	146-147
148-150	148-150

Classification of the Psalms

- I. Hymns of praise: presume the whole community together in worship
 - a. Structure
 - i. Invitation to worship God with a song of praise
 - ii. Body: 'For He has...', etc
 - iii. Appeal to inanimate creation
 - iv. Recapitulation of the whole
 - b. Examples: 8, 14, 23, 133, 92, 95-98
- II. Psalms of lament and thanksgiving: either communal or individual in nature; either sorrow of one wishing to be freed or thanksgiving of one just liberated
 - a. Structure
 - i. Appeal to God's name
 - ii. Description of suffering
 - iii. Plea for deliverance
 - iv. Exposition of the worthiness of the cause
 - v. Vow to offer sacrifice in gratitude
 - vi. Declaration of thanksgiving
 - b. Examples
 - i. Communal: 43, 73, 78, 79, 136
 - ii. Individual: 21, 27, 68, penitential psalms (6, 31, 37, 50, 101, 129, 142)
- III. Royal psalms: psalms about the king, an important cultic figure
 - a. These psalms have Messianic qualities looking forward to an everlasting kingdom
 - b. They also have a special place in Christian worship
 - c. Examples: 2, 17, 19, 20, 44, 71, 88, 109, 131
- IV. Wisdom psalms: Admonitions about right living or reflections about everyday life
 - a. They form a bridge between the prophetic and wisdom traditions, touching on themes dear to both; an example is how to worship rightly
 - b. Examples: 1, 33, 36, 49, 80, 94, 110, 111, 118
- V. Other categories
 - a. Historical psalms: 45, 47, 104-106, 113
 - b. Nature psalms: 8, 18, 28, 103
 - c. Imprecatory psalms: 34, 51, 53, 58, 63, 67