

The Psalms were intended from their origin to be means of the many to experience union with the one, Christ.
1:1 Blessed is the man ...; 2:12 ... Blessed are all who take refuge in Him. 150:6 ... Praise the Lord!

The oddity of congregational singing.

- Rev. 15:2-4 *“And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb”*
- Many voices singing one song. Sometimes the song doesn't perfectly capture my thoughts, emotion. Why don't we all sing our own song? Also, what gives someone the right to determine what I sing?
- Moses (uncrowned king) taught the people songs: Ex. 15 *“I will sing...”* Dt. 31:19ff God said *“Now therefore write this song and teach it to the people of Israel. Put it in their mouths...”* *“I will proclaim...”*
 - The songs were how God laid the inspired leader's words on the people's hearts.
- E.g. Ps. 84:1-8 *“My soul... my heart and flesh... my King and my God... Blessed are those...”*
84:9-12 *“Our shield... look at your anointed... blessed is the one who trusts in you!”*
- The Psalmist repeatedly desires to be in the congregation. (22:22, 25, 40:9, 52:8-9, 116:14, 18, 119:46, 138:1). He also exhorts others to praise God in the assembly (89:5, 107:32, 149:1).

Who was the one, the “Psalmist”? The anointed one: David (D)x73 + Ps. 2 in Acts 4:25; Ps. 94 in Heb. 4:7)

- He was God's anointed king of his people, Israel (1 Sam. 16; 2 Sam. 2, 5).
- A Asaph, H Heman, and J Jeduthun were under the order of the king (1 Chr. 25:6b).
- He was the “sweet Psalmist of Israel” and the Spirit of the LORD spoke by him (2 Sam. 23:1-2).
- God promised David an offspring to *“build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son.”* (2 Sam. 7:13-14, Ps. 89, 132)

Who were the many? Who were the singers then? His people, Israel.

- 55 Psalms are addressed to the C choirmaster (and of these 3 specifically to J Jeduthun: 39, 61, 76).
- Israel's success depended upon the success of their king. His victory is their victory – or defeat.
- Like a creed: to sing David's songs was an act of faith in their king, in God's promises to him. It was a way of shaping their thoughts and emotions after their king's.
- This was true even after David's death. 2 Chr. 7:6 *“...David offered praises by their ministry”*.
- How much more when Psalms were sung during Exile, when no son of David reigned! (Ps. 89, 137)

And yet, David wrote of one greater than David: The anointed one: Jesus Christ

- David made preparations for his promised son to build the temple (1 Chr. 22:5), including the psalter. (c.f. Ps. 72's inscription with 72:20 – both David's and Solomon's). Christ > Solomon. Christ > Temple.
- Ps. 2:7-8 I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, *“You are my Son; today I have begotten you.”*
- Psalm 2 wraps up all of that which was David's and puts it on the lips of David's (God's) Son.
- Being therefore a prophet, & knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw & spoke about the resurrection of the Christ. (Acts 2:30-31)
- So, Christ quoted the Psalms extensively in His life and at His death on the cross (from memory).

Who are the many today? Who sings His songs? His Church.

- Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, ... singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs (Col. 3:16)
- The singing of the Psalms is an act of faith in our king, Jesus Christ, whose victory is our victory.
- This is all the more since we do not now see Him reigning.

Christ sings in our midst, in the church as she sings the Psalms.

- Heb. 2:10-12 quoting Ps. 22:22, 25; *I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: ... From you comes my praise in the great congregation*
- Rom. 15:8-9 quoting Ps. 18:49 ... *I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations, & sing to your name.*
- Heb. 10:5-7 implied quoting Ps. 40:9; *I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation*
- We cannot sing without Him. judge me, O Lord, according to my righteousness... Ps. 7:8, imprecations.
- He cannot sing without us. Against you, you only, have I sinned ... Ps. 51:4
- The central message of the Psalms is union with Christ in his sufferings and subsequent glories.

Is this how you sing the Psalms? Is it an act of faith in your King whom we cannot see? Do you sing in Him?

Structural Outline of the Book of Psalms for Worship (c.f. O Palmer Robertson, The Flow of the Psalms)

Book I	Book II	Book III	Book V
<p>1^A (wisdom) 2^A †</p> <p>D_ψ3^BⓈ<i>h</i> D_ψ4^BⓈ D_ψ5^BⓈ<i>h</i> D_ψ6^B D_ψ7^{AB}Ⓢ D_ψ8^BⓈ (creation) D_ψ9^{AB}/10^{AB}Ⓢ D_ψ11^BⓈ D_ψ12.Ⓢ D_ψ13^BⓈ D_ψ14^A D_ψ15^A D_ψ16^D D_p17^{ABC}Ⓢ D_ψ18^{ABCDEFG}Ⓢ † D_ψ19^{AB}Ⓢ (wisdom) D_ψ20^BⓈ D_ψ21^{AB}Ⓢ D_ψ22^{ACDE} D_ψ23^B D_ψ24^A (creation) D_ψ25^{ABC}Ⓢ D_ψ26^A D_ψ27^{ABCD} D_ψ28^A D_ψ29^A D_ψ30^BⓈ D_ψ31^{BCD} D_m32^{CD} 33^{BC} (creation) ~Ⓢ D_ψ34^{AC}Ⓢ D_ψ35^{ABCDE}Ⓢ D_ψ36^C D_ψ37^{ABCD}Ⓢ D_ψ38^{ABC}Ⓢ ~Ⓢ D_ψ39^{AB}Ⓢ D_ψ40^{AB}Ⓢ D_ψ41^{AB}Ⓢ</p>	<p>K_m42^{AD}/43^BⓈ K_m44^{ABC}Ⓢ K_{ms}45^{BC}Ⓢ (†) K_ψ46^CⓈ K_ψ47^A K_ψ48^{BC}Ⓢ K_ψ49^{AB} A_ψ50^{ABC}Ⓢ D_ψ51^{AD}Ⓢ D_m52^AⓈ D_m53^AⓈ<i>h</i> (c.f. 14) D_m54^BⓈ<i>h</i> D_m55^{ABC}Ⓢ D_ψ56^{AB}Ⓢ D_ψ57^{AB}Ⓢ D_ψ58^AⓈ D_ψ59^{AB}Ⓢ D_ψ60^{AB}Ⓢ<i>h</i> D_ψ61^AⓈ D_ψ62^{AC} D_ψ63^AⓈ D_ψ64^AⓈ D_ψ65^{AB}Ⓢ □_ψ66^CⓈ<i>h</i> □_ψ67^CⓈ D_ψ68^{BCDEF}Ⓢ D_ψ69^{ABCD}Ⓢ † D_ψ70^A 71^{ABC} S_ψ72^{DE} <i>p</i> †</p>	<p>A_ψ73^{ABC} A_m74^{AB}Ⓢ A_ψ75^AⓈ<i>h</i> A_ψ76^AⓈ A_ψ77^{AB} A_m78^{ACDEFGHIJ} A_ψ79^{AB}Ⓢ A_ψ80.Ⓢ A_ψ81^{AB} A_ψ82^B A_ψ83.Ⓢ K_ψ84^{AB}Ⓢ K_ψ85^{AB} D_p86^{AB} K_ψ87^B K_ψⓈ H_m88^{AB} E_m89^{ABCDEFG} Book IV M_p90^{AB} 91^A □_ψ92. 93^A 94^{AB} 95^{DC} 96^{AB} 97^C □_ψ98^B 99^A □_ψ100^D D_ψ101^B □_p102^{ABCD} D_ψ103^{BCD} 104^{ABCDE} Ⓢ 105^{ABCDE} Ⓢ 106^{ABCDEF} Ⓢ</p>	<p>107^{ABHIE} D_ψ108^{AD}Ⓢ (c.f. 57 & 60) D_ψ109^{ACD} D_ψ110^B † 111^{AD} Ⓢ 112^A Ⓢ 113^A Ⓢ 114^A 115^{AB} Ⓢ 116^{AB} Ⓢ 117^C Ⓢ 118^{ACDE} † 119^{ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOQRSTUVWXYZ} (wis') Ⓢ □_s120^A □_s121^B D_s122^A □_s123^A D_s124. □_s125. □_s126^B S_s127^A □_s128^B □_s129. □_s130^A D_s131^B □_s132^{ABC} D_s133^A □_s134^A 135^{AB} Ⓢ 136^D 137^A D_ψ138^BⓈ D_ψ139^{ABCD}Ⓢ D_ψ140^A D_ψ141^{AB} D_{mp}142. D_ψ143^{CB} D_ψ144^{AB} D_s145^{ABC}Ⓢ 146^B Ⓢ 147^{AB} Ⓢ 148^A Ⓢ 149^B Ⓢ 150^A Ⓢ</p>