

Book of Psalms—collections, classifications, and superscriptions

Psalms #	Thematic Collection	Classification Sabourin (Gunkel)	Formal Collection	Terms + (non-text. terms)	Song of the Day ⁱ	Musical Annotations	Selah ⁱⁱ (inserts)	Proper Names	Choirmaster ⁱⁱⁱ	Historical + (references and non-textual notations)
Book 1 First Davidic Psalter										
1		W (W)	Psalter Intro	(A “Torah Psalm,” with Pss 19, 119)						
2		R (R)								
3	Morning and evening prayer liturgy	LIConf (LI)		A Psalm מְזֹמֶר			vv 2, 4, 8	of David לְדָוִד		... when he fled from Absalom his son. — 2Sa 15.13-17, 29
4		LIConf (Cnl)		A Psalm		on stringed instruments	vv 2, 4	of David	For the choir director	
5		LICmpl (LI)		A Psalm		for flute accompaniment (or, perhaps a melody)		of David	For the choir director	
6		LICmpl (LI)		A Psalm		with stringed instruments, upon an eight-stringed lyre (or, according to a lower octave)		of David	For the choir director	
7		LICmpl (LI)		A Shiggaion ^{iv}			v 5	of David		... which he sang to the LORD concerning Cush, (or, concerning the words of) a Benjamite.
8		H (H)		A Psalm		on the Gittith (also Pss 81, 84)		of David	For the choir director	
9		TI (9-10 Mix)		A Psalm (Pss 9-10 form an acrostic; LXX considers one psalm)		on Muth-labben (i.e., “Death to the Son”); v 16 Higgsaion (perhaps resounding music or meditation)	v 16, 20	of David	For the choir director	
10		TI (Mix)				(LXX incl. with Ps 9)				
11		LIConf (Cnl)						of David	For the choir director	
12		LCCmpl		A Psalm		upon an eight-stringed lyre (or, according to a lower octave)		of David	For the choir director	
13		LICmpl (LI)		A Psalm				of David	For the choir director	
14		WEx						of David	For the choir director	

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15	Chiasmic collection around Torah Psalm, Ps 19 (with Pss 15-24)	WL (Lit)		A Psalm				of David		
16		LIConf (Cnl)		A Mikhtam ^v				of David		
17		LICmpl (LI)		A Prayer				of David		
18		R (R,Thl)						of David the servant of the LORD	For the choir director	... who spoke to the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. And he said... — 2Sa 22.1-51
19		H/W (H)		A Psalm (A "Torah Psalm" with Pss 1, 119)				of David	For the choir director	
20		R (R)		A Psalm			v 3	of David	For the choir director	
21		R (R)		A Psalm			v 2	of David	For the choir director	
22		LICmpl (LI)		A Psalm		upon Aijeleth Hashshahar (lit., the hind of the morning or, Why are You so far from helping me, and from the words of my groaning?)		of David	For the choir director	
23		LIConf (Cnl)		A Psalm				of David		
24		WL (Lit)		A Psalm		on the first day of the week (LXX, 23)		vv 6, 10	of David	("The Mishnah (<i>Tamid</i> 7.4) lists the psalms that were recited each day of the week, and this mishna is recited at the end of the additional service (<i>musaf</i>) on the Sabbath...") Includes Pss 24, 48, 81, 82, 92, 93, 94) ^{vi}
25		LICmpl (LI)		(acrostic)				of David		
26		LICmpl (LI)						of David		
27		LIConf (Cnl-LI)						of David		
28		LICmpl (LI)						of David		
29		H (H)		A Psalm				of David		
30		TI		A Psalm; a Song ^{vii}				of David		... at the Dedication of the House.
31		LICmpl (LI-Thl)		A Psalm				of David	For the choir director	
32		TI (Thl)		A Maskil ^{viii}			vv 4, 5, 7	of David		
33		H (H)								
34		TI (Thl)		(acrostic)				of David		... when he feigned madness before Abimelech, who drove him away and he departed. — 1Sa 21.10-15

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35		LICmpl (LI)						of David		
36		LICmpl						of David the servant of the LORD	For the choir director	
37		W (W)		(acrostic)				of David		
38		LICmpl (LI)		A Psalm				of David		... for a memorial.
39		LICmpl (LI)		A Psalm			vv 5, 11	for לְיְדֻתֻן of David	For the choir director (cf. Pss 62, 77 titles)	(A psalm written by David for Jeduthun? See 1Ch 16.41-42; 25.1, 6, "who were to prophesy" with musical instruments, and "to sing"; 2Ch 35.15, "the king's seer.")
40		TI (vv 1-12) (ThI-LI)		A Psalm				of David	For the choir director	
41		TI (ThI)		A Psalm				of David	For the choir director	Book closes with v 13: "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, From everlasting to everlasting. Amen and Amen."

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Book 2 Elohistic Psalter (through Book 3, Ps 83)										
42		LI (LI, 42-43)	Collection of the Sons of Korah	A Maskil ^{viii} (42-43 together)				of the sons of Korah	For the choir director	(Pss 42-49: Levite clan: "The sons of Korah . . . did not die," in the rebellion; cf. Num 26.11. Later sons designated Temple "gatekeepers" under David; cf. 1Ch 26.19. See also Pss 84-85, 87-88)
43		LI								
44		LCCmpl		A Maskil ^{viii}			v 8	of the sons of Korah	For the choir director	
45	Theme: God is King in Zion	R (R)		A Maskil ^{viii} A Song ^{viii} of love		according to the Shoshannim (or, possibly <i>Lilies</i> , a melody; see Pss 69, 80) על-ששנים		of the sons of Korah	For the choir director	
46		HCZ (HZ)		A Song ^{viii}		set to Alamoth (possibly for <i>soprano voices</i>)	vv 3, 7, 11	of the sons of Korah	For the choir director	
47		HSM (HE)		A Psalm			v 4	of the sons of Korah	For the choir director	
48		HCZ (HZ)		A Song ^{viii} ; A Psalm	on the second day of the week (LXX, 47)		v 8	of the sons of Korah		
49		W (W)		A Psalm			v 13, 15	of the sons of Korah	For the choir director	
50		WEx	A Psalm			v 6	of Asaph			
Second Davidic Psalter, Pss 51-72 (ends with a Psalm of Solomon)										
51		LICmpl (LI)		A Psalm				of David	For the choir director	. . . when Nathan the prophet came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. — <i>2Sa 12.1</i>
52		WEx	Masksils of David	A Maskil ^{viii}			vv 3, 5	of David	For the choir director	. . . when Doeg the Edomite came and told Saul and said to him, "David has come to the house of Ahimelech." — <i>1Sa 22.9</i>
53		WEx		A Maskil ^{viii}		according to Mahalath (i.e. sickness, a sad tone)		of David	For the choir director	
54		LICmpl (LI)		A Maskil ^{viii}		on stringed instruments	v 3	of David	For the choir director	. . . when the Ziphites came and said to Saul, "Is not David hiding himself among us?" — <i>1Sa 23.19; 26.1</i>
55		LICmpl (LI)		A Maskil ^{viii}		on stringed instruments	vv 7, 19	of David	For the choir director	
56		LICmpl (LI)	Mikhtams of David	A Mikhtam ^v		according to Jonath elem rehokim (or, the silent dove of those who are far off, or, the dove of the distant terebinths)		of David	For the choir director	. . . when the Philistines seized him in Gath. — <i>1Sa 21.10, 11</i>
57		LICmpl (LI)		A Mikhtam ^v		Al-tashheth (lit., do not destroy; a melody? See also Pss 58, 59, 75)	vv 3, 6	of David	For the choir director	. . . when he fled from Saul in the cave. — <i>1Sa 22.1; 24.3</i>
58		LCCmpl		A Mikhtam ^v		Al-tashheth		of David	For the choir director	
59		LICmpl (LI)		A Mikhtam ^v		Al-tashheth	vv 5, 13	of David	For the choir director	. . . when Saul sent <i>men</i> and they watched the house in order to kill him. — <i>1Sa 19.11</i>
60		LCCmpl		A Mikhtam ^v		according to Shushan Eduth (lit., the lily of testimony)	v4	of David	For the choir director	. . . to teach; when he struggled with Aram-naharaim and with Aram-zobah, and Joab returned, and smote twelve thousand of Edom in the Valley of Salt. — <i>2Sa 8.3,13; 1 Ch 18.3, 12</i>

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61		LICmpl (LI)				on a stringed instrument	v 4	of David	For the choir director	
62		LIConf (Cnl)		A Psalm			v 4, 8	of David	For the choir director; according to על Jeduthun (see Pss 39, 77 titles)	(A psalm written by David for Jeduthun? See notes on Ps. 39.)
63		LICmpl (LI)		A Psalm				of David		... when he was in the wilderness of Judah. — 1Sa 22.5; 23.14
64		LICmpl (LI)		A Psalm				of David	For the choir director	
65		TC (H)		A Psalm A Song ^{vii}				of David	For the choir director	
66		TC (ThI-ThC)		A Song ^{viii} A Psalm			vv 4, 7, 15		For the choir director	
67		TC (H,ThC)		A Psalm A Song ^{viii}		with stringed instruments	vv 1, 4		For the choir director	
68		TC (H)		A Psalm A Song ^{viii}			vv 7, 19, 32	of David	For the choir director	
69		LICmpl (LI)				according to the Shoshannim (or, possibly <i>Lilies</i> , a melody; see Pss 45, 80)		of David	For the choir director	
70		LICmpl (LI)						of David	For the choir director	... for a memorial.
71		LICmpl (LI)								
72		R (R)						of Solomon		(Book closes with v 20, "The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended.")

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Book 3 Elohistic Psalter, continued (through Ps 83); Yahwistic Supplement (Pss 84-89)											
73		W (W)	Collection of Asaph	A Psalm				of Asaph		(Asaph — Levite, seer, and chief musician under David — appointed with Heman and Ethan, as singers and musicians in the Temple service; assigned “to minister before the ark” of the covenant continually; cf. 1Ch 15.19,16.37, 25.1, 2; 2 Ch 29.30)	
74		LCCmpl		A Maskil ^{viii}				of Asaph			
75		WEx (Pr)		A Psalm A Song ^{vii}		Al-tashheth (lit., Do not destroy; see also Pss 57, 58, 59)	v 3	of Asaph	For the choir director		
76		HCZ (HZ)		A Psalm A Song ^{vii}		on stringed instruments	vv 3, 9	of Asaph	For the choir director		
77		LCmpl		A Psalm			vv 3, 9, 15	of Asaph	For the choir director; according to על Jeduthun (see Pss 39, 62 titles)	(A psalm written by Asaph for Juduthun? See notes on Ps 39)	
78		WHi		A Maskil ^{viii}				of Asaph			
79		LCmpl		A Psalm				of Asaph			
80		LCmpl		A Psalm		El Shoshannim (see also Pss 45, 69)		of Asaph	For the choir director	Eduth. (a testimony)	
81		WEx			Fourth (cf. Mishnah)	on the Gittith (or, according to)	v 7	of Asaph	For the choir director	(See notes on Ps 24; includes Pss 24, 48, 81, 82, 92, 93, 94)	
82		LCmpl		A Psalm	Second (cf. Mishnah)		v 2	of Asaph			
83		LCmpl		A Song ^{vii} , A Psalm				v 8	of Asaph		
84		HCZ (HZ)		A Psalm		on the Gittith (or, according to)	vv 4, 8	of the sons of Korah	For the choir director	(For sons of Korah, see notes and references for Ps 42)	
85		LCCmpl (Pr)		A Psalm			v 2	of the sons of Korah	For the choir director		
86		LICmpl (LI)	A Prayer				of David				
87		HCZ (HZ)	A Psalm A Song ^{vii}				v 3, 6	of the sons of Korah			
88		LICmpl (LI)	A Song, ^{vi} A Psalm A Maskil ^{viii}		according to Mahalath Leannoth	vv 7, 10	of the sons of Korah. of Heman the Ezrahite.	For the choir director	(Heman — Levite, descendant of Korah, musician and seer, head of Temple music — appointed with Asaph and Ethan under David; cf. 1Ch 15.19, 25.1-6)		
89		R (R ⁴⁷⁻⁵²)	A Maskil ^{viii}				vv 4, 37, 45, 48	of Ethan the Ezrahite		(Ethan — Levite, Temple musician and singer under David — wise (1Kg 4.31); probably same as Jeduthun, “the king’s seer;” cf. 1Ch 15.19; 25.6; 2 Ch 5.12; 35.15) (Book closes with v 52, “Blessed be the LORD forever! Amen and Amen.”)	

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Book 4 Miscellaneous Psalms										
90		LCCmpl		A Prayer				of Moses, the man of God		
91		W (W)								
92		TI (ThI)	Part of LXX and MT Song of the Day	A Psalm, A Song ⁱⁱⁱ	for the Sabbath day (MT) (LXX, 91)					(The only "Song of the Day" designated in the MT.) (See notes on Ps 24; includes Pss 24, 48, 81, 82, 92, 93, 94)
93		HSM (HE)			For the day before the Sabbath (LXX, 92)					... when the land was first inhabited... (LXX) (See notes on Ps 24; includes Pss 24, 48, 81, 82, 92, 93, 94)
94		LCCmpl (LC-W-LI)			for the fourth day of the week (LXX, 93)					(See notes on Ps 24; includes Pss 24, 48, 81, 82, 92, 93, 94)
95		WEx								
96		HSM (H)	Hymns of Sovereign Majesty							
97		HSM (HE)								
98		HSM (H)		A Psalm						
99		HSM (HE)								
100		H (H [ThI])		A Psalm						... for Thanksgiving (or, thank offering).
101		R (R)		A Psalm				of David		
102		LICmpl (LI)		A Prayer						... of the Afflicted when he is faint and pours out his complaint before the Lord.
103		H (H)						of David		
104		H (H)								
105		WHi (H)								
106		LCCmpl								(Book closes with v 48, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, From everlasting even to everlasting. And let all the people say, 'Amen.' Praise the LORD!")

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Book 5 Miscellaneous Psalms, continued										
107		TI ([Thl] Mix)								
108		LCmpl		A Song ^{vii} , A Psalm				of David		
109		LICmpl (LI)		A Psalm				of David	For the choir director	
110		R (R)		A Psalm				of David		
111		H (H, Mix)	Anonymous Praise Psalms, ending on the Torah Ps. 119	(acrostic)						
112		W (W)		(acrostic)						
113	Egyptian Hallel, Passover Psalms	H (H)								
114		H (H)								
115		LCCConf								
116		TI (Thl)								
117		H (H)								
118	TC (Thl)									
119		W (Mix)		(acrostic; a ^{iv} Torah Psalm, with Pss 1, 19)						
120		LICmpl (LI)	Songs of Ascents	A Song ^{vii}						... of Ascents. — 1Kg 12.27
121		LICConf		A Song ^{vii}						... of Ascents.
122		HCZ (HZ, Pil)		A Song ^{vii}				of David		... of Ascents,
123		LCCmpl		A Song ^{vii}						... of Ascents.
124		TC (ThC)		A Song ^{vii}				of David		... of Ascents,
125		LCCConf		A Song ^{vii}						... of Ascents.
126		LCCmpl		A Song ^{vii}						... of Ascents.
127		W		A Song ^{vii}				of Solomon		... of Ascents,
128		W (W)		A Song ^{vii}						... of Ascents.
129		LCCConf (ThC)		A Song ^{vii}						... of Ascents.
130		LICmpl (LI)		A Song ^{vii}						... of Ascents.
131		LICConf (Cnl)		A Song ^{vii}				of David		... of Ascents,
132		R (R)		A Song ^{vii}						... of Ascents.
133		W (W)		A Song ^{vii}				of David		... of Ascents,
134		WL	A Song ^{vii}						... of Ascents.	

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135		H (H)								
136		H (H)								
137		LCCmpl								
138		TI (ThI)						of David		
139		W		A Psalm				of David	For the choir director	
140		LICmpl (LI)		A Psalm			vv 3, 5, 8	of David	For the choir director	
141		LICmpl (LI)		A Psalm				of David		
142		LICmpl (LI)		A Maskil ^{viii} A Prayer				of David		... when he was in the cave. — 1Sa 22.1; 24.3
143		LICmpl (LI)		A Psalm			v 6	of David		
144		R (R ¹⁻¹¹)						of David		
145		H (H)		Of praise (acrostic)				of David		
146	Hallel Psalms	H (H)								
147		H (H)								
148		H (H)								
149		H (H)								
150		H (H)								Closes the Book of Psalms

Psalm Classifications ... based on L. Sabourin

Hymns

- H Hymn Proper
- HSM Hymn of Sovereign Majesty
- HCZ Hymn/Canticle of Zion (6)

Individual Laments and Thanksgivings

- LICmpl Lament of the Individual—a Complaint
- LICnf Lament of the Individual—of Confidence
- TI Thanksgiving of the Individual

Community Laments and Thanksgivings

- LCCmpl Lament of the Community—a Complaint
- LCCnf Lament of the Community—of Confidence
- TC Thanksgiving of the Community

Royal

- R Royal Psalms (11)

Wisdom

- W Wisdom Proper (12)
- WHst Wisdom Historical (2)
- WExh Wisdom Prophetic Exhortation (7)
- WLit Wisdom Liturgy (3)

... H. Gunkel Psalm Classifications (in parentheses)

- CnC Confidence Psalms of the Community
- CnI Confidence Psalms of the Individual

- H Hymn
- HE Hymn of Yahweh's Enthronement
- HZ Hymn of Zion

- LC Lament of the Community
- LI Lament of the Individual

- Lit Liturgy Psalm
- Mix Mixed Psalm
- Pil Pilgrimage Psalm
- Pr Prophetic Psalm
- R Royal Psalm

- ThC Thanksgiving of the Community
- ThI Thanksgiving of the Individual

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Endnotes

- ⁱ *Shir Shel Yom* (שִׁיר שֶׁל יוֹם), meaning "song" [i.e., Psalm] of [the] day [of the week]," consists of one psalm, recited daily at the end of the Jewish morning prayer services, on a specific day of the week according to the the psalm title (in Hebrew MT, LXX) and tradition (Mishnah). Rabbinic tradition states that each was chosen for its ties to that day's significance in the week of Creation. For other rationale, see:
<http://www.oztorah.com/2014/03/the-psalms-of-the-day/>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shir_shel_yom
- ⁱⁱ *Selah* (סֶלָה), possibly a pause to reflect, or a crescendo, or a musical interlude (cf. pause).
- ⁱⁱⁱ *For the choir director* (לְמִנְצֵחַ), i.e., belonging to the choir director's anthology.
- ^{iv} *A Shiggaion* (שִׁגְיוֹן), i.e., a dithyrambic rhythm; or wild passionate song; a complaint.
- ^v *A Mikhtam* (מִכְתָּם), possibly *Epigrammatic Poem* or *Atonement Psalm*; may allude to a psalm with a deeper meaning, necessitating reflection.
- ^{vi} Zipor, Moshe. "A Song for the Sabbath Day," p1.
- ^{vii} *A Song* (שִׁיר), usually indicates a psalm set to musical accompaniment.
- ^{viii} *A Maskil* (מִשְׁכִּיל), possibly *contemplative*, or *didactic*, or *skillful psalm*.