

## The Intentional Design of the Book of Psalms

	Book 1	Book 2	Book 3	Book 4	Book 5
<b>Chapters</b>	1-41	42-72	73-89	90-106	107-150
<b>Concluding Doxology</b>	41:13	72:18-19	89:52	106:48	146-150
<b>Author(s) based on headings</b>	David (37) Anonymous (3, taking 9/10 as a single Psalm)	David (18) Sons of Korah* (8) Asaph* (1) Solomon* (1) Anonymous (2, taking 70/71 and 42/43 as single Psalms)	David (1) Asaph (11) Sons of Korah (4) Ethan (1)	David (2) Moses (1) Anonymous (14)	David (15) Solomon (1) Anonymous (28)
<b>Historical Background</b>	Pre-exile (David and his royal family)		Early exilic era** (The tragedy of Israel's exile into Babylon, the destruction of the sacred temple in Jerusalem, and the downfall of the Davidic dynasty)	Post-exilic era (The return from Babylonian exile, a rekindling of hope for a new temple and a restored kingdom under God's rule, ultimately to be fulfilled in the coming of the Messiah.)	

\*The sons of Korah and Asaph were Levites active in David's temple. Asaph was his worship leader and the sons of Korah were appointed by him to be gatekeepers of the temple. As gatekeepers they guarded the temple day and night to prevent unauthorized persons from entering and profaning it. It's possible that Psalm 72 was not written *by* Solomon, but *for* him – a prayer of David for his son.

\*\*The city of Jerusalem, the capital of Judah where David once reigned, tragically fell to the Babylonians in 586 BC. The final wave of deportation of God's people to Babylon took place and Solomon's Temple was destroyed: "[Nebuchadnezzar] burned the house of the LORD and the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem; every great house he burned down. And all the army of the Chaldeans, who were with the captain of the guard, broke down the walls around Jerusalem. And the rest of the people who were left in the city and the deserters who had deserted to the king of Babylon, together with the rest of the multitude, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried into exile. But the captain of the guard left some of the poorest of the land to be vinedressers and plowmen" (2 Kings 25:9–12).