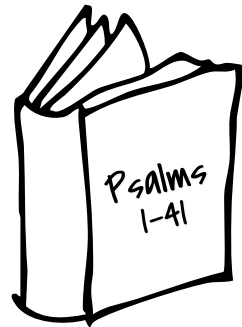


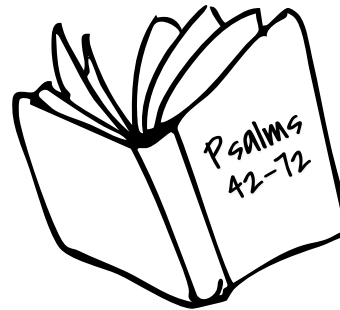
Five Books of Psalms

pre-exile



Book 1

David as God's King



Book 2

Jerusalem, the temple and kingship

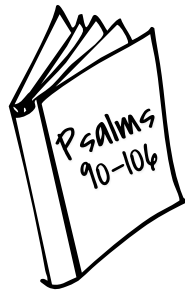


Book 3

the destroyed temple and Israel without a king

exile

post-exile



Book 4

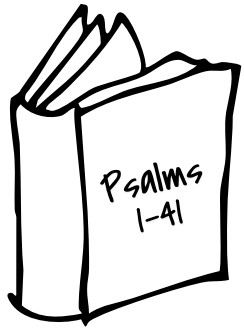
God's kingship and His faithfulness in Israel's history



Book 5

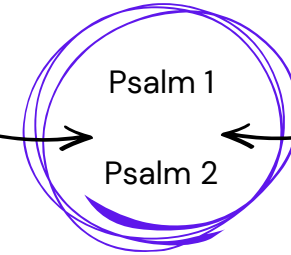
current circumstance and future longings for a Messiah

The Psalms were compiled into five books to create a metanarrative around the exile.



Book 1a

introducing
central themes
of the psalms



opening pair
focus on Torah
and Messiah

David's suffering
explored in first half

Psalm 3

Psalm 4

Psalm 5

Psalm 6

Psalm 7

Psalm 8

Psalm 9

Psalm 10

Psalm 11

Psalm 12

Psalm 13

Psalm 14

four psalms
mentioning
morning and
evening

praise at the
centre of lament

originally one
poem that
creates a single
acrostic

equal length
parts around the
centre

suffering of the
poor and
afflicted explored
in second half

temple entrance
psalms form the
outer layer

Psalm 15

Psalm 16

Psalm 17

Psalm 18

Psalm 19

Psalm 20

Psalm 21

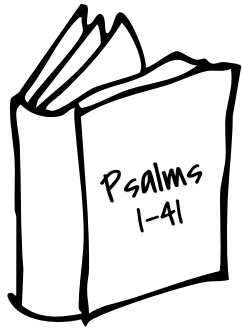
Psalm 22

Psalm 23

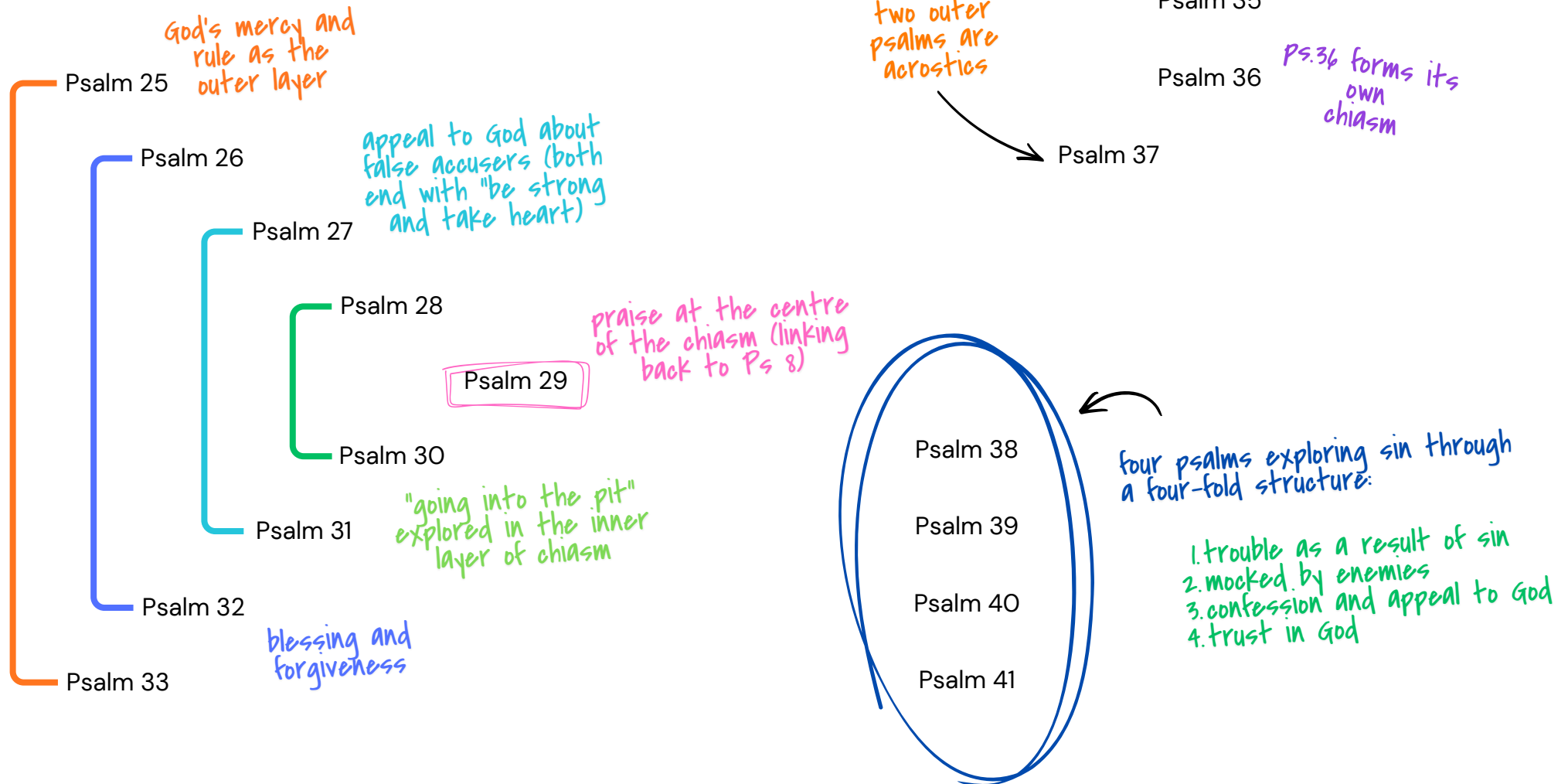
Psalm 24

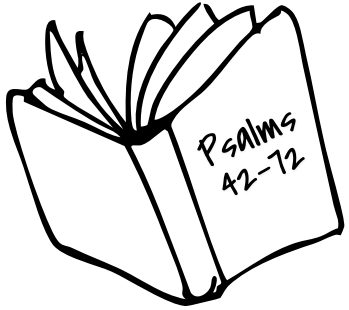
Torah at the
centre of the
chiasm

further layers of the
chiasm focus on future
deliverance through the
Messiah



Book 1b





Book 2a

wisdom exploring the attitude and posture with which we should approach God

first grouping matches last grouping with three prayers and a royal psalm

originally one poem with a repeated refrain

Psalms 42-43

Psalms 42-43

Psalms 42-43

anticipates exile in Book 3

Psalms 42-43

royal wedding psalm

Psalms 46-48

Psalms 46-48

Psalms 46-48

offering praise and celebration while reflecting on God's holy temple

Psalms 49-53

wealth

Psalms 49-53

covenant loyalty

Psalms 49-53

confession of sin

Psalms 49-53

rejecting the wicked

Psalms 49-53

exposing fools

Psalms 54-59

Psalms 54-59

Psalms 54-59

Psalms 54-59

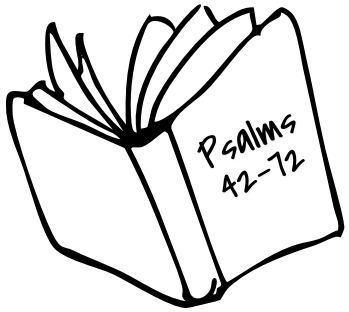
Psalms 54-59

Psalms 54-59

each psalm:

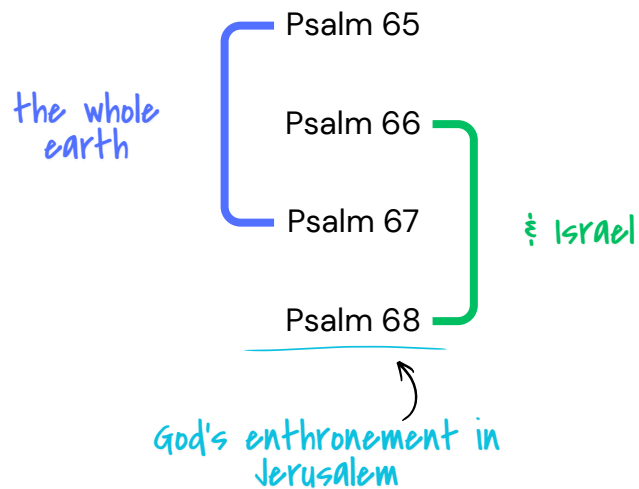
assumes the king's presence and God's presence in Jerusalem

laments enemy attacks specifically through speech



Book 2b

praise and thanksgiving, specifically for God's awesome deeds in...



Psalm 60

Psalm 61

Psalm 62

Psalm 63

Psalm 64

repeated themes:

God's presence in Jerusalem

community or individual lament

looking to God for deliverance and protection

last grouping matches first grouping with three prayers and a royal psalm

prayers exploring earlier themes in the book

Psalm 69

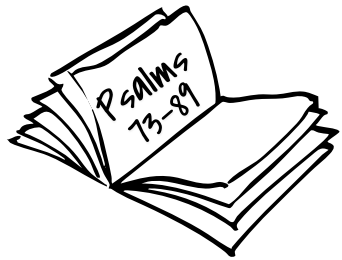
Psalm 70

Psalm 71

Psalm 72

enthronement psalm for Solomon

pointing back to Ps 2
† Ps 68 then forward to Ps 89



Book 3

asking the key question of Book 3: why has God abandoned Israel and will it be forever?

focusing on Jerusalem and offering thanksgiving as the central context

repeat the theme of rejection and hope by asking 'how long?'

Psalms 79

Psalms 80

Psalms 81

Psalms 82

Psalms 83

highlights Israel's unfaithfulness as the reason for the exile

Psalms 73

Psalms 74

Psalms 75

Psalms 76

Psalms 77

Psalms 78

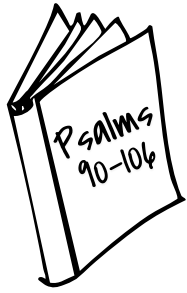
reflecting on why the wicked prosper and recounting Israel's history as it leads to the exile

structured as forward symmetry so the two sets of three correspond and point forward to Book 4

Psalms 84 ← celebration → Psalms 87

Psalms 85 ← lament → Psalms 88

Psalms 86 ← plea → Psalms 89



Book 4

focus on God's
sovereignty despite
the exile

Psalm 93

Psalm 94

Psalm 95

Psalm 96

Psalm 97

Psalm 98

Psalm 99

praise and celebration,
asserting God's rule
over Israel, the
nations and all the
earth

themes of trust,
dwelling and praise

Psalm 90

Psalm 91

Psalm 92

entitled "of Moses"
situating Israel back in
its past and focusing on
God dwelling with his
people

Psalm 100

Psalm 101

Psalm 102

Psalm 103

Psalm 104

Psalm 105

Psalm 106

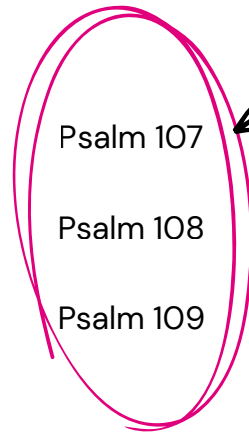
acts like a mini-
psalter covering many
themes from the
psalms overall

retelling Israel's
history as the end to
Book 4



Book 5a

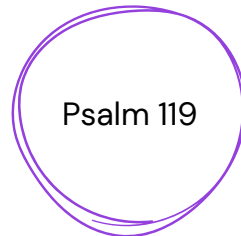
two royal psalms form the outer frame - both were important in Jesus's ministry



trio of praise, thanksgiving and lament

focuses on the wisdom of following the Torah

links back to ps. 1 and ps. 19



176 verses makes it the longest psalm

an acrostic with each 8 verses starting with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet

Psalm 110

Psalm 111

each begins with Praise the Lord!

Psalm 112

Psalm 113

Psalm 114

centre of the chiasm celebrates God's salvation through the exodus

Psalm 115

Psalm 116

Psalm 117

each ends with Praise the Lord!

Psalm 118



Book 5b

Songs of Ascent
mark the annual
pilgrimage to
Jerusalem for the
three annual feasts

some scholars see five
groups of three with
each triad moving from
trouble to trust to
triumph

begins with prayer
for mercy
moves to song of
deliverance
then to trust in
God

other scholars see the
songs as a chiasm with ps.
127 at the centre

begins with affliction
and trust
moves to lament
and repentance

then to humility
before God

Psalms 120-122

Psalms 121-122

Psalms 122-123

Psalms 123-124

Psalms 124-125

Psalms 125-126

Psalms 126-127

Psalms 127-128

Psalms 128-129

Psalms 129-130

Psalms 130-131

Psalms 131-132

Psalms 132-133

Psalms 133-134

Psalms 134-135

begins with lament
in exile

moves to
trusting God
then looking to
Jerusalem

begins with
remembrance

moves to wisdom

then to a vision of a
blessed life

begins with a prayer for God
to dwell in Jerusalem

moves to unity in
God's people

ends with blessing
and a call to praise



Book 5c

small diverse collection
offers a response to
the Songs of Ascent by
assuming the arrival in
Jerusalem

praise to God
for creating the
world and
choosing Israel

Psalms 135

Psalms 136

Psalms 137

recounts
Israel's history

laments a time
when pilgrimage
was not possible

Psalms 138

begins with
praise

Psalms 139

Psalms 140

Psalms 141

lament in
between

Psalms 142

Psalms 143

Psalms 144

Psalms 145

ends with
praise

final collection
from David
covering many of
the same ideas
from earlier in
the Psalter

Hallel psalms conclude the
Psalter with a proliferation of
Hallelujah!

Psalms 146

Psalms 147

Psalms 148

creation imagery
linking to Genesis 1

Psalms 149

Psalms 150

Psalter ends with "Let
everything that has breath
praise the Lord".