



A Guide to Reading the Psalms

- How may the shape and character of the book be described?
- the purpose of Psalms
- what comprised an ancient psalm

Recent interest in the biblical text





- get back to what the text itself says
- how they are to function in our world today
- how important they were in the teaching of the early church

**Three reasons for a
shift in being interested**



- the sovereign reign of God as King over all the earth
- what a “blessed” life is all about
- perfect resource for our daily devotional readings

**Starting point to dive
into the Psalms**

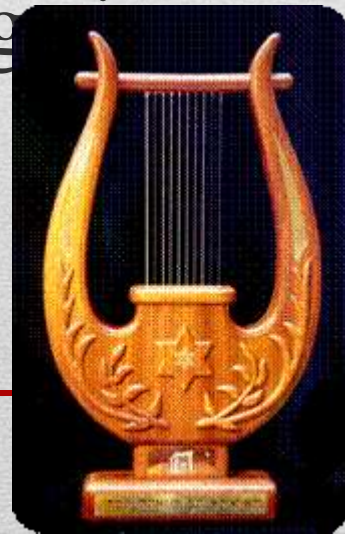
- **Psalm 1:1**

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

- **Psalm 2:12**

Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. **Blessed** are all who take refuge in him.

Prologue to entire Psalms



- **The idea of a blessed life is rooted in the Old Testament concept of blesses and curses**
- **Blessings coming from God are closely associated with ethical choices to honor Him**
- **MAKARIOI LXX, Ashere, HEB—
Blessings (Pl)**

The Idea of a Blessed Life



- **Psalm 18:46**

The LORD lives, and **blessed** be my rock, and exalted be the God of my salvation—

- **Psalm 21:6**

For you make him most **blessed** forever; you make him glad with the joy of your presence.



• **Psalm 28:6**

Blessed be the LORD! For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.

• **Psalm 31:21**

Blessed be the LORD, for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me when I was in a besieged city.

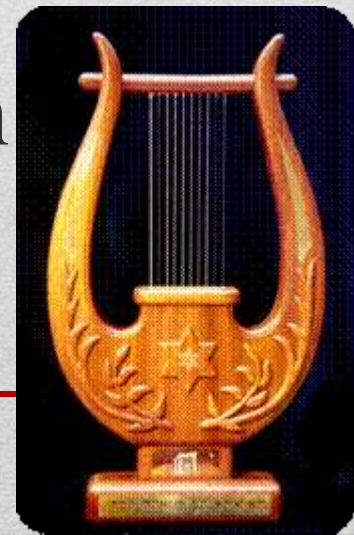


- **Psalm 32:1**

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

- **Psalm 32:2**

Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.



• **Psalm 33:12**

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

• **Psalm 34:8**

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! **Blessed** is the man who takes refuge in him!

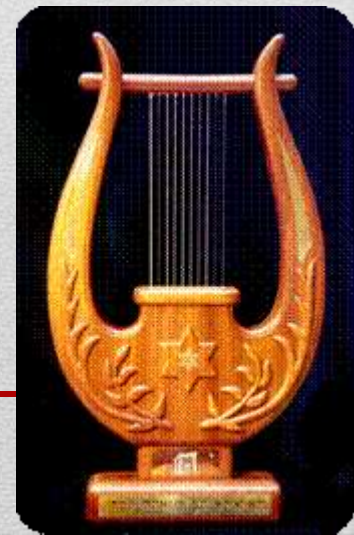


- **Psalm 37:22**

for those blessed by the LORD shall inherit the land, but those cursed by him shall be cut off.

- **Psalm 40:4**

Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie!



- **Psalm 41:1**

**Blessed is the one who considers the poor!
In the day of trouble the LORD delivers
him;**

- **Psalm 41:2**

**the LORD protects him and keeps him alive;
he is called blessed in the land; you do not
give him up to the will of his enemies.**

- **Psalm 41:13**

**Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and
Amen.**

