

PSALMS

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

19

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

150

TYPE

WISDOM/POETRY



OVERVIEW

Initially written as poetry to be set to music, the Book of Psalms is often considered the first hymnal. All psalms express emotions to or about God. The psalms were collected over 1,000 years by various scribes from 1400 BC to around 450 BC. They are organized somewhat chronologically.



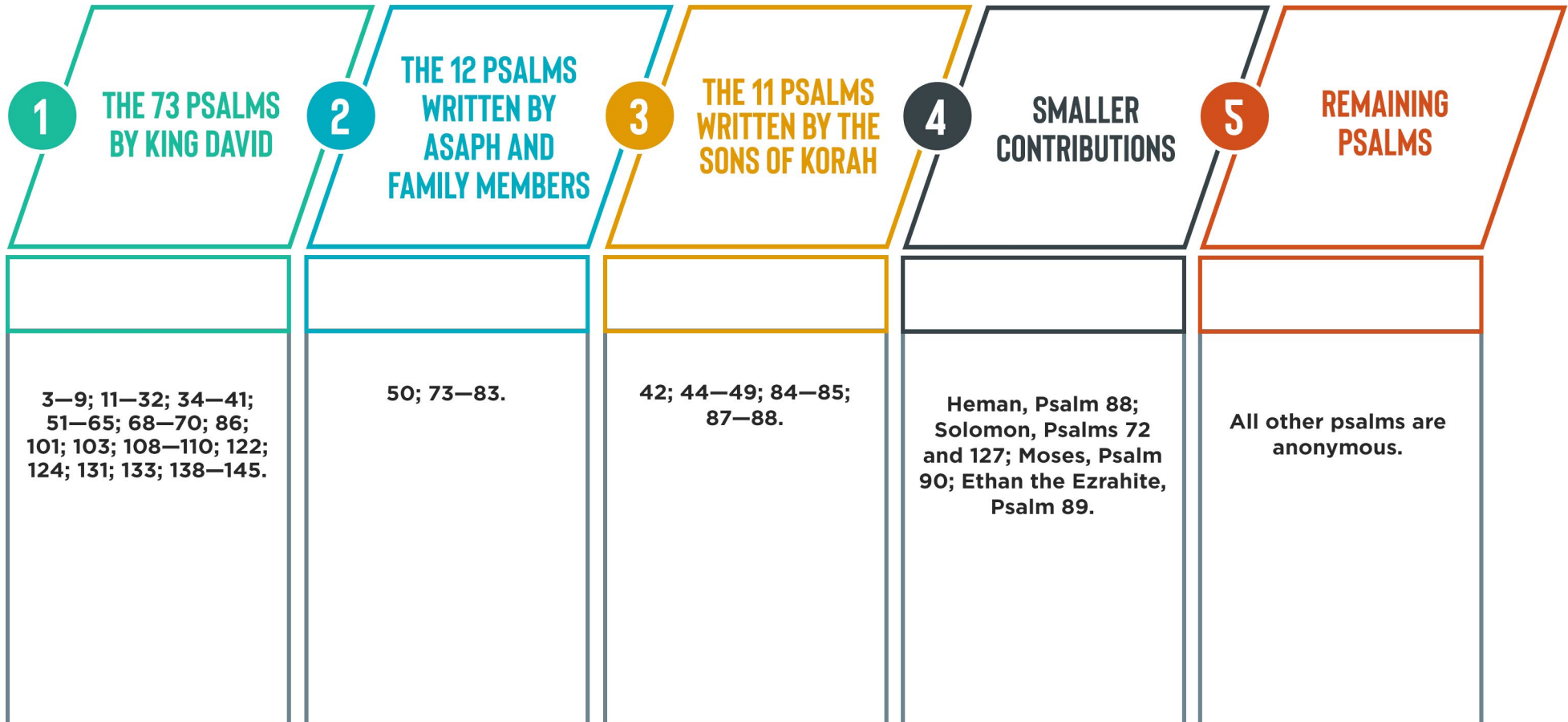
WRITTEN
1400–450 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
Meant to be timeless



AUTHOR
Multiple contributors;
King David wrote 75
psalms



DAVID

AT-A-GLANCE

BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

73 of the 150 Psalms. The following Psalms are attributed to David: 2-32, 34-41, 51-65, 68-70, 86, 95, 103, 105-106, 108-110, 122, 124, 131, 138-145. (Other authors in Psalms included Asaph, the sons of Korah, Moses, Solomon, Ethan, Herman, and 50 are by unknown authors.)

TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Poetry; Psalms is the second of five poetry books.

PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

The Psalms of David date approximately 994 through 950 BC



AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

This David is King David, the second king of Israel and the most famous king for being faithful to God.

He was raised as the youngest of eight boys. His father, Jesse, was prophesied to be an ancestor of Christ (Isaiah 11:1-10). His great-grandparents were Ruth and Boaz from the book of Ruth.

David defeated the giant Goliath at a battle in the valley of Elah at about age 17. He had already been recently anointed by the prophet Samuel to be the next king of Israel. But for approximately 15 years after slaying the giant, David had to run from King Saul who was jealous and trying to kill him. After King Saul's death, David was anointed king.

The Psalms are the only works this most-famed king wrote that are in our Bible. While he continued to conquer land as a great warrior, he was also becoming known as a great musical poet. The psalms span most of his adult life.



UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

David is thought to have written some of the Psalms while hiding in caves, in fear of his life, while hiding from King Saul.



UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

God called David "a man after my own heart." One reason is that David was forced to treat with respect and dignity a king who was trying to kill him. That David, especially in his writing, could refrain from evil toward someone who treated him with vile, unending hatred, is remarkable in human history.