

# PSALMS IN PROPHECY I – INTRODUCTION - ELM 1997

## THE FIRST OF FOUR RECORDINGS ON THE PSALMS

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These notes, composed from 2013 on, are based on taped lectures given between 1977 and 1997 by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., formerly the Head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God; he resigned in January 1974 because of his unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth.

Psalms are a type of operatic work. We do not have any record of the original musical notation, tunes, harmonies or rhythm. We only have the words.

There are 150 Psalms in the Book of Psalms in our KJB, but there are many other Psalms scattered throughout the Bible.

One remarkable thing that Dr. Martin does in every talk he gives is to repeat that the **whole** Bible is the Word of God. He also gives details of the structure and make-up of the Book we presently have organized as 66 books, which disguises and obfuscates the fact that originally there were only 49 books or 7x7 a perfect number.

The manner in which he explains the structure makes is so very plain that the Bible in its original form and order reveals the Mind of God so very clearly, and that the whole book is an integrated whole from start to finish. Leave any part out, or change the order and the majesty of the structure is lost on the reader.

The Psalms are Divine Messages from God in a chronological order which are related to time, based on relation to the Sabbath and the Holy Days of God which reveal the Plan of God; and are also related to the services held in the Temple in Jerusalem during the Holy Days, and the manner in which structure of the Temple is patterned after the structure of the Garden of Eden and of God's Palace in Heaven.

Just the "simple" statement in the above paragraph is more than awesome in itself, in opening up to us more clearly the realization that this Book was indeed crafted and written by the Creator!

The Psalms contain many prophecies which have relevance for the time they were written, for future times, and most importantly, for the "end time" in which we are now undoubtedly living.

**Psalm 71:17-18 O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works. 18 Now also when I am old and greyheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come.**

The prophetic messages in the Bible were for then, for all generations, and prophetically more importantly for those (everyone in the world) of us living now in the “end time” age.

The Psalms are in five divisions to match the five books of the Law by Moses; and the five books of Christ’s Law in the New Testament, the four gospels and Acts.

The 150 Psalms contain as much prophetic material as do Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, the Minor (shorter) Prophets, and even Revelation which summarises in a way the message of all prophecy.

What we can learn from the prophecies in the Psalms, and indeed all prophecy is eye opening and ear unstopping. God has stopped the ears, and closed the eyes and the minds of the inhabitants of the earth ever since Adam and Eve, and that is a part of His Divine Purpose. This might seem strange, but God truly knows best what humankind needs! Part of what each of us really needs is to realize that the Wisdom of God is an ever expanding and developing message. It is hard enough to comprehend “here a little, and there a little”, we would be completely “blown away” if we could see His message to us all at once.

Under Inspiration, Ezra was responsible for assembling the canon of the Old Testament in the 5<sup>th</sup> Century B.C., for adding the fifth division, and John was responsible for constructing the canon of the whole Bible.

The Psalms are in five divisions:

The “Genesis” division:	Psalm 1 - 41
The “Exodus” division:	Psalm 42 – 72 (Note ‘24’ x 3)
The ”Leviticus” division:	Psalm 73 – 89
The “Numbers” division:	Psalm 90 – 106
The Deuteronomy division:	Psalm 107 – 150

Originally, in King David’s time there were 72 Psalms in the book. Psalm 72: 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things.19 And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the

whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen, and Amen. 20 The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended.

Others were added later which were written by others.

Dr. Martin is often criticized for the degree of repetition in his lectures, and he points out that God, and indeed any good teacher, will use repetition for emphasis as well as for teaching purposes. Some or parts of some of the Psalms are repeated word for word, and this is for emphasis and to give teaching.

The Temple was constructed in the pattern of God's palace in Heaven, where He has a special place, the Holy of Holies. The Temple had a table of offerings, and God has a table where He eats, and areas where His court of Spirit Beings is. The Garden of Eden was laid out like a replica of God's Home in Heaven and the Temple which was built in Jerusalem.

The Psalms were 'performed', i.e. sung, played, and spoken just outside the Temple, where God could hear them, the priests enjoy them, and the whole of Israel could also appreciate hearing them. This illustrates in type that God like music, has concerts and operas performed for His pleasure in His Palace in Heaven.

The Psalms of David were 72 which is  $3 \times 24$ , significant in reference to those priests and singers who worked in the Temple.

Notice in I Chronicles 24 that David lays out the order of who should be among the 24 priests who were to do the work of the Temple. They worked week by week, from Sabbath midday to Sabbath midday, then the next in order would take his place for another week

So the 24 worked for about six months.  $24 + 24 = 48$  weeks. Then they all worked three times a year at the main Feast times when all priests worked, and all 150 Psalms were performed. Then are added the 'weeks' when all males went up to Jerusalem of Passover, Trumpets, and Tabernacles  $48+3 = 52$ .

At the beginning of the year, at the Feast of Trumpets, the whole procedure began again.

In I Chronicles 24, the priests are listed.

I Chronicles 24: 1 Now these are the divisions of the sons of Aaron. The sons of Aaron; Nadab, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.  
2 But Nadab and Abihu died before their father, and had no children: therefore Eleazar and Ithamar executed the priest's office.  
3 And David distributed them, both Zadok of the sons of Eleazar, and Ahimelech of the sons of Ithamar, according to their offices in their service.  
4 And there were more chief men found of the sons of Eleazar than of the sons of Ithamar, and thus were they divided. Among the sons of Eleazar there were sixteen chief men of the house of their fathers, and eight among the sons of Ithamar according to the house of their fathers.  
5 Thus were they divided by lot, one sort with another; for the governors of the sanctuary, and governors of the house of God, were of the sons of Eleazar, and of the sons of Ithamar.  
6 And Shemaiah the son of Nethaneel the scribe, one of the Levites, wrote them before the king, and the princes, and Zadok the priest, and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, and before the chief of the fathers of the priests and Levites: one principal household being taken for Eleazar, and one taken for Ithamar.

Then in verse 18

18 The three and twentieth to Delaiah, the four and twentieth to Maaziah.

Note: The 24 divisions.

Then in I Chronicles 25, the players of the music were listed.

In I Chronicles 25, the singers and musicians are listed.

**1 Chronicles 25:1 Moreover David and the captains of the host separated to the service of the sons of Asaph, and of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, with psalteries, and with cymbals: and the number of the workmen according to their service was: 2 Of the sons of Asaph; Zaccur, and Joseph, and Nethaniah, and Asarelah, the sons of Asaph under the hands of Asaph, which prophesied according to the order of the king. 3 Of Jeduthun: the sons of Jeduthun; Gedaliah, and Zeri, and Jeshaiah, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah, six, under the hands of their father Jeduthun, who prophesied with a harp, to give thanks and to praise the Lord. 4 Of Heman: the sons of Heman: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel, and Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, and Romamtiezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, and Mahazioth: 5 All these were the sons of Heman the king's seer in the words**

of God, to lift up the horn. And God gave to Heman fourteen sons and three daughters. 6 All these were under the hands of their father for song in the house of the Lord, with cymbals, psalteries, and harps, for the service of the house of God, according to the king's order to Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman. 7 So the number of them, with their brethren that were instructed in the songs of the Lord, even all that were cunning, was two hundred fourscore and eight.

So the musicians who had “cunning” those who were expert, were  $288 = 144 \times 2$ , or  $24 \times 12$ !

Twelve tribes of Israel, twelve apostles, twelve churches and 24 elders in the Book of Revelation are all significant numbers that illustrate the organization and patterns of the construction of the Bible.

## Side B

We saw in I Chronicles 24 and 25 how David and Samuel organized 24 courses of the priests and the Levites who were the singers. They were very talented in singing and performing with musical instruments.

The Psalms were not just entertainment, although they were, they also speak of physical things with spiritual meanings, and most importantly for us, they contain prophecies for the end time, and therefore for us today.

The military generals put the divisions in place, David and the Captains of the Hosts. The armed forces put the whole 24 sections in order in the Temple. The cadence, rhythms, and the types of music are interesting, some were marching, some were in the major happy keys and others about destruction and punishments were in the minor keys.

Notice how prophecy is woven into the fabric of the Psalms.

1 Chronicles 25:1 Moreover David and the captains of the host separated to the service of the sons of Asaph, and of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should **prophesy** with harps, with psalteries, and with cymbals: and the number of the workmen according to their service was:

2 Of the sons of Asaph; Zaccur, and Joseph, and Nethaniah, and Asarelah, the sons of Asaph under the hands of Asaph, which **prophesied** according to the order of the king.

3 Of Jeduthun: the sons of Jeduthun; Gedaliah, and Zeri, and Jeshaiiah, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah, six, under the hands of their father Jeduthun, who **prophesied** with a harp, to give thanks and to praise the Lord.

4 Of Heman: the sons of Heman: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel, and Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, and Romamtiezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, and Mahazioth:

5 All these were the sons of Heman the king's **seer** (the old word for Prophet) in the words of God, to lift up **the horn**. And God gave to Heman fourteen sons and three daughters.

Lift up the “horn”, the military were woken up in the morning, and called to battle etc., all with the horn. It was also the instrument that announced the Feast of Trumpets.

Verse 7 So the number of them, with their brethren that were instructed in the songs of the Lord, even all that were cunning, was two hundred fourscore and eight. Again the numbers were important. **So the musicians who had “cunning” those who were expert, were 288 = 144 x 2, or 24 x 12!**

In our modern era, virtually all plays, shows, films etc., have music in the background to create the ambience needed for the enjoyment of the action portrayed. We do not always notice the soundtrack as our attention is on the actors, but it is invariably there and importantly so.

The Psalms, and indeed the whole of the Old Testament were not only for that time, but also for our learning and admonishment today, Paul said in Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Exodus 15 is the song (or Psalm) of Moses. Exodus 15:1 Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. 2 The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him. 3 The Lord is a man of war: the Lord is his name.

The Children of Israel crossed **over** the Red Sea, not on the sea bed! Pharaoh and his forces were on top of the seas, and the sea was congealed with ice! In Europe there are histories and historical pictures

showing that the Egyptians were crossing over the seas on top of the water now ice, and then sinking to the bottom as the ice broke up.

Exodus 15:4 Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea. 5 The depths have covered them: they sank into the bottom as a stone. 6 Thy right hand, O Lord, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O Lord, hath dashed in pieces the enemy. 7 And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee: thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble.

8 And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap (froze), and the depths were congealed (frozen) in the heart of the sea.

9 The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.

10 Thou didst blow with thy wind, (melted the ice!) the sea covered them: they sank as lead in the mighty waters.

They could not have 'sank as lead' if they had been on the sea bed! This is the inspired Word of God, not some mixed up fabrication!

Revelation 15:1 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.

2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass (ice!) mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on (actually **by**) the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

Singing both the song of Moses and the Psalm of the Lamb.

Revelation 5: 8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders (note 24 elders) fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. 9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

This is prophesy, plain and simple. We shall reign on the earth! This has not happened yet!

The more we understand about the Temple, and what went on there, the more we will understand about our future. Revelation is the 49<sup>th</sup> book of the Bible, ( $7 \times 7 = 49$  numbers of perfection) and wraps up the conclusion of all the prophecy contained in the Bible.