

4. Authorship

Data on authorship is given in detail in Jensen, p. 8. You may refer to this for a general concept but it is not a work for memorization. David is the author of the majority of psalms and his role in Israel's worship is sketched in 1 Chronicles 25. Forty nine psalms are not assigned authorship but some of those seem clearly Davidic.

It should be noted that ascriptions such as "A Psalm of David" might be translated "A Psalm for David". The Hebrew preposition may be seen that way.

Under our concept of inspiration, the Holy Spirit is the ultimate author. And this is why the revelatory nature of the psalms is so emphatic... God wanting us to know how to feel about Him and ourselves.

5. Dating the Psalms...some general notes.

6. Brief note on the superscriptions:

7. Psalm titles and insignia: It has been widely accepted to see these in five categories:

a. Those that indicate the character of the poem:

--Include the terms "Psalm" (mizmor), "Song" (shir), "Maschil" (a skillful song), Michtam (a golden song), "Shiggaion" (a loud or outspoken song), a "prayer", a "praise"

b. Those supposed to tell something of the music or the rendition:

--There is a long list of them that I will not write out nor expect students to know and the best recognized one is the expression.. "to the chief musician". Some put the word "Selah" in this class.