

## David's Psalms

David wrote at least 75 of the 150 Psalms. He is specifically noted as the author of 73 psalms in their titles: Psalms 3-9; 11-41; 51-65; 68-70; 86; 101; 103; 108-110; 122; 124; 131; 133; and 138-145.

In addition, David is mentioned as the author of two psalms in the New Testament. Psalm 2 is attributed to David in Acts 4:25: "You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: 'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?'" Psalm 95 is attributed to David in Hebrews 4:7: "God again set a certain day, calling it 'Today.' This he did when a long time later he spoke through David, as in the passage already quoted: 'Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.'"

The psalms are not organized in chronological order by events but rather by themes. David's psalms are found throughout the five books of the Psalms that were likely grouped upon the completion of Psalms during the time of Ezra in the fourth century BC.

Many of David's psalms lack background information regarding their context, but fourteen do share details of their setting:

**Psalm 3:** A Psalm of David, when he fled from Absalom his son.

**Psalm 7:** A Shiggaion of David, which he sang to the LORD concerning Cush, a Benjamite.

**Psalm 18:** A *Psalm* of David the servant of the LORD, who spoke to the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul.

**Psalm 30:** A Psalm of David. A song at the dedication of the Temple.

**Psalm 34:** A *Psalm* of David when he feigned madness before Abimelech, who drove him away and he departed.

**Psalm 51:** A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

**Psalm 52:** A Maskil of David, when Doeg, the Edomite, came and told Saul and said to him, "David has come to the house of Ahimelech."

**Psalm 54:** A Maskil of David, when the Ziphites went and said to Saul, "Is not David hiding himself among us?"

**Psalm 56:** A Mikhtam of David, when the Philistines seized him in Gath.

**Psalm 57:** A Mikhtam of David, when he fled from Saul in the cave.

**Psalm 59:** A Mikhtam of David, when Saul sent *men* and they watched the house in order to kill him.

**Psalm 60:** A Mikhtam of David, to teach; when he struggled with Aram-naharaim and with Aram-zobah, and Joab returned, and smote twelve thousand of Edom in the Valley of Salt.

**Psalm 63:** A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.

**Psalm 142:** A Maskil of David, when he was in the cave. A Prayer.

Shiggaion - The word denotes a lyrical poem composed under strong mental emotion; a song of impassioned imagination accompanied with suitable music; a dithyrambic ode.

Maskil - The word signifies 'instruction,' and these Psalms convey instruction to the remnant, which they will understand. The same word in the plural (maschilim) signifies 'the wise, or the instructed ones.'

## 1 Samuel 21:1-22:23 and Psalm 52

1 – Nob was 1 ½ miles northeast of Jerusalem and ½ mile southeast of Gibeah of Saul. Nob must have been the location of the tabernacle without the Ark of the Covenant which was in Kiriath-Jearim according to chapter 7. Ahimelech also called Ahijah descended from Eli in the line of Ithamar (1 Samuel 14:3; 1 Chron. 18:16). He was the 12<sup>th</sup> high priest.

2 – “The King” may refer to God and not Saul making David’s statement true. David may have made the story up either to deceive Ahimelech or to protect him from any accusation of complicity in David’s flight from Saul. Apparently, David did not travel alone which is why Ahimelech questioned him about his entourage.

4 – The holy bread was not to be eaten by unholy men, and according to the Law, sexual relations with a woman made a man unclean.

6 – The bread was to be eaten by the priest and his family; however, according to Jesus, human needs take priority over ceremonial law. Matthew 12:1-8; Mark 2:23-28; and Luke 6:1-5

7 – Doeg the Edomite - Little more than is stated here is known about him.

9 – 1 Samuel 22:6 - Gibeah is his home town called Gibeah of Saul at times.

7 – Saul is now convinced that everyone is against him and conspiring with David. Jealousy is ruling his mind and judgment.

8 – He thinks his own son is plotting with David to kill him.

10 – From Psalm 52 - Reveals that Doeg is feeding into Saul’s paranoia [a mental condition characterized by delusions of persecution, unwarranted jealousy, or exaggerated self-importance].

12 – As the son of Ahitub, he is connected with Eli.

15 – I don’t know what you are talking about. David is a good guy, your guy!

18 – 1 Samuel 2:27-33 as was told to Eli, so it happened.

23 – Abiathar stayed with David serving as the high priest, but he would eventually be dismissed by Solomon. 1 Kings 2:27

Psalm 52:

1 – David writes with irony as Doeg had no reason for boasting of slaughtering defenseless priests, men who never touched a sword. He ought to have been ashamed of his cowardice.

4 – The riches and power that Saul dangled before Doeg motivated him to act as he did. Rather than getting lost in self-deprecation, David understood Doeg’s sin came from within himself. He loved evil; David loved God and focused on God’s lovingkindness.

5-7 – David trusted in God’s judgment. Jesus must have benefited from reading this psalm.

1 Peter 2:21-23 – Jesus provides a greater example than David. What should be our focus: God’s lovingkindness or feelings of injustice and revenge?

3:8-14 – Holy living and thinking is far better than feeling sorry for yourself or seeking justice.

Romans 12:14-21

Psalm 52:8 – Tree - Psalm 1:3; 92:12 and 13

Trust in the lovingkindness of God – Psalm 13:5 and 6; 21:7-13; 32:10 and 11; 33:18-22; 36:5-9; 40:9 and 10

Romans 8:35-39 – The devil employs many methods to rip us away from the lovingkindness of God, but we must be determined not to let it happen.

2 Corinthians 5:14 – The love of Christ constrains us.

Ephesians 3:18 and 19 – To know the love of Christ

Psalm 52:9 – Wait on Yahweh - 27:14; 37:7-11, 34; 130:5; 147:11; and Lamentations 3:24-26