

# Psalms

**The Book of Psalms** is a collection of 150 songs or poems that were written as prayers to praise God. It is one of the books of the Jewish Bible (which Christians call the Old Testament). The Psalms were written thousands of years ago. Many of the psalms are said to have been written by **King David**.

The word psalm means *words to go with music*. In Hebrew, the Book of Psalms is called **Tehillim**.

Here are 2 examples:

## Psalm 113

Praise the Lord!

Servants of the Lord,  
praise the name of the Lord!  
May the name of the Lord be blessed  
now and evermore.

From the rising of the sun to its setting  
praised be the name of the Lord.  
High above all nations is the Lord,  
beyond the heavens is His glory.

Who is like the Lord our God,  
who lives so far beyond,  
who dwells so close within,  
to watch the heavens and the earth?

He raises the weak from the dust,  
lifts the poor from the dirt,  
To set them with the noble,  
with the noble of His people.  
He gives the childless wife a home  
as the happy mother of children.

Praise the Lord!

The psalms were originally written in Hebrew. In Hebrew, *Praise the Lord!* is **Hallelu'yah**.

On some of the more important Jewish festival Jews use psalms 113 - 118 as a special prayer of praise to God. This prayer is called **Hallel** which means *Praise*.

## Psalm 148

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from heaven,  
praise Him in the heights.  
Praise Him all His messengers,  
praise Him all His hosts.

Praise Him, sun and moon,  
praise Him, shining stars.  
Praise Him, heaven of heavens,  
and waters above the sky.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for He commanded, and they were created.  
He established them for ever and ever  
by unchangeable decree.

Praise the Lord from the earth,  
sea creatures and all the deeps,  
fire and hail, snow and mist,  
stormy winds that fulfil His word.

Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars,  
wild animals and all tame cries,  
reptiles and winged birds.

Earthly rulers and all peoples,  
princes and all judges of the world,  
both boys and girls,  
old people together with the young.

Let them praise the name of the Lord  
for His name alone is supreme,  
His majesty beyond earth and heaven.

He restored the honour of His people,  
the praise of those who love Him,  
the children of Israel,  
a people so close to Him.

Praise the Lord!