**The Psalms**

* The “hymnal” for the Hebrews.
* Augustine called the Psalms the “language of devotion.”
* The Psalms were borne out of people’s experiences.
* They are more devotional than theological.
* But they represent theology lived rather than just learned.

**The Psalms:**

* Teach us about life and God
  + Express pain and desperation
    - Ask for God’s mercy and help
      * Nestle us in the Lord’s comfort
        + Describe God’s character

Show us how to approach God

Remind us of God’s mercy

Affirm God’s care for us

**PROCLAIM GOD’S GLORY**

* Reflect of the meaning of His-story

Extol God’s righteous Law

Cry for good to triumph over evil

* + - * + Prophecy God’s future justice
      * Show us what is praiseworthy
    - Teach us gratitude
  + Encourage care for the poor and needy
* Foster trust in the God who wants to bless us
* Psalm – (*psalmos*) GR – Poems sung to the accompaniment of stringed instruments.
* In Hebrew, the book of psalms was called *Tehillim*, meaning “praises.”
* Some were used as part of temple liturgy in Solomon’s temple and the rebuilt temple as well.
* They were a Hebrew hymnal for worship and celebration of Feast days and Sabbaths.
* Some were used for both the nation of Israel and personal devotion life.
* The Psalms include works spanning nearly 1000 years.
  + Moses – Psalm 90
  + David – Total of 73 Psalms
  + Sons of Korah – 11 Psalms
  + Anonymous – The rest of the Psalms
  + From the Exodus until after the Exile.