Authors

f the 150 psalms, 102 are linked to authors either by the superscription (title) that precedes the psalm or by New Testament passages. At least seven different poets contributed to the Book of Psalms. Here is a summary of their names and chief contributions to Jewish history.

David ("beloved"): Second king of Israel. Lived about 1000 B.C. Most prolific psalmist with 75 psalms attributed to him.

Asaph ("collector"): A Levite from the family of Gershom. Eminent musician. Appointed by David to preside over the sacred choral services. His sons were choristers of the temple. Twelve psalms bear his name.

Korah ("baldness"): A Levite and grandson of Kohath. Ancestor of a group of sacred musicians to whom 12 psalms are addressed. Possibly the same individual who rebelled against Moses and Aaron.

Solomon ("peaceable"): Son of David. Third king of Israel. Prolific writer of songs and proverbs. Two psalms (72, 127) bear his name. Ethan ("permanent"): A Levite of the family of Merari. Appointed by David as one of the leaders of the temple music. It is likely that Ethan the singer, Ethan the Ezrahite, and Jeduthun are one and the same person. Psalm 89 is credited to him.

Heman ("faithful"): Levite from the family of Kohath. Grandson of Samuel the prophet. Another of David's appointed leaders of temple music. Had 14 sons and 3 daughters. One psalm (88) is ascribed to him.

Moses ("drawn out"): Deliverer of God's people from Egyptian bondage. Lived about 1400 B.C. Received the Law on Mt. Sinai. Psalm 90 bears his ascription.