

GLOSSARY OF TERMS IN THE Titles in Psalms

Refer to this page often as you read the superscriptions (titles) of the different Psalms each day. It will give you valuable information regarding the author, historical background, musical setting, and use of the various psalms when they were written.

Abimelech—see 2 Samuel 11:21

Absalom—see 2 Samuel 16:15

Ahimelech—see 1 Samuel 22:9

Aijeleth Shahar—sung to the tune of “The Deer of the Dawn”

Alamoth—high-pitched voices

Altaschith—sung to the tune of “Do Not Destroy”

Aram-naharaim—Aramaeans of northwest Mesopotamia

Aram-zobah—Aramaeans of central Syria

Asaph—Levite, family of singers; see 2 Chronicles 5:12

Bathsheba—see 2 Samuel 12:1-14

Choir Director—conductor or chief musician in the temple

Cush the Benjamite—possibly Shimei; see 2 Samuel 16:5

Doeg the Edomite—see 1 Samuel 22:9

Ethan the Ezrahite—a wise man in the time of Solomon; see 1 Kings 4:31

Gittith—forerunner of the guitar

Heman the Ezrahite—Levite, family of singers; see 2 Chronicles 5:12

Jeduthun—chief musician in the temple; see 1 Chronicles 16:41

Jonath-elem-rechokim—sung to the tune of “A Silent Dove Far Away”

Korah—Levite, head of temple family of musicians

Mahalath—flutes

Mahalath Leannoth—flutes played in humiliation, mourning

Maskil—a song of wisdom or insight

Miktam—a song of deliverance or denunciation

Muth-labben—sung to the tune of “The Death of the Son” (or written on the occasion of the death of a son)

Nathan—see 2 Samuel 12:1-14

Psalm—religious song accompanied by a stringed instrument

Sheminith—lyre, 5-stringed harp

Shiggaion—a song of lament

Shoshannim—sung to the tune of “Over the Lilies”

Shoshannim-eduth—sung to the tune of “The Lilies”

Shushan-eduth—sung to the tune of “The Lily of the Testimony”

Song of ascents—sung during the festival processions to Jerusalem at harvest and New Year

Song of love—wedding song

Sons of Korah—musical Levitical family; see Exodus 6:24

Valley of Salt—south end of the Dead Sea

Wilderness of Judah—arid region in southern Judah near the Dead Sea

Ziphites—see 1 Samuel 23:19