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An Introduction to the Psalms Studying the Psalms

VI. The Uses of the Book of Psalms

A. The Jews.

- 2. According to the Mishnah, certain psalms were recited on certain days of the week in the temple: "The following are the Psalms that were chanted in the Temple.
- "On the first day, they used to say, 'The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and they that dwell therein' (Psalm 24).
- "On the second day, they used to say, 'Great is the Lord and highly to be praised, in the city of our God, His Holy mountain' (Psalm 48).
- "On the third day, they used to say, 'God standeth in the congregation of God, in the midst of the judges He judgeth' (Psalm 82).
- "On the fourth day, they used to say, 'O Lord, Thou God to whom vengeance belongeth, shine forth' (Psalm 94).
- "On the fifth day, they used to say, 'Sing aloud unto God our strength, shout aloud to the God of Jacob' (Psalm 81).
- "On the sixth day, they used to say, 'A Psalm. A song for the sabbath day (Psalm 92). A Psalm, a song for the time to come, for the day that will be all sabbath and rest for everlasting life'" (via "Interesting Facts About The Book Of Psalms," Stuart Dauermann, Jews for Jesus Newsletter).

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VI. The Uses of the Book of Psalms

B. First century Christians.

- 1. The early church recognized the value of the psalms in praising God and expressing their faith and trust in Him and used them in their public worship (cf. Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; James 5:13).
- 2. "After Jesus had instituted the Lord's Supper, he and the Twelve sang a hymn (Matthew 26:30). This consisted of the latter half of the Hallel (or Hallelujah) psalms (Psalms 115-118), which the Jews sang after eating the Passover meal" (John T. Willis, The Way of Life Series: Insights from the Psalms, Volume I, page 1).
- 3. "Christ's favorite Old Testament section must have been Psalms because He quoted from it more often than any other book!" (Ramsey, 3).

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B. First century Christians.

- 4. "That Psalms was a favorite book of the first-century believers is shown by the fact that of the New Testament's 283 direct quotations from the Old Testament, 116 are from Psalms" (Irving L. Jensen, Jensen's Survey of the Old Testament, page 272).

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