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PSALMS

This text introduces the book of Psalms and provides an exposition of each psalm with attention to genre, liturgical connections, societal issues, and the psalm's place in the book of Psalms as a whole. The treatments of the psalms feature a close look at particular issues raised by the text and the encounters between the world of the psalm and the world of contemporary readers. The exposition of each psalm provides a reader's guide to the text in conversation with relevant theological issues.

Walter Brueggemann is Professor Emeritus at Columbia Theological Seminary. He is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and was formerly president of the Society of Biblical Literature. His most recent books include *Disruptive Grace: Reflections on God, Scripture, and the Church* and *Journey to the Common Good*.

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Contents



<i>Supplementary Sections</i>	<i>page</i> xiii
<i>Preface</i>	xxi
<i>A Word about Citations</i>	xxiii
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xxv
I. INTRODUCTION	1
Matters of Organization	1
Matters of Poetry	3
Matters of Method	4
Conclusion	8
Psalm Collections and Psalm Types	9
II. SUGGESTED READINGS ON THE PSALMS	13
Commentaries	13
Introductory Volumes on the Psalms	14
Special Studies: Literary Emphasis	15
Special Studies: Theological Emphasis	19
Special Studies: Historical Emphasis	20
Articles	21
III. COMMENTARY	27
Psalm 1	27
Psalm 2	31
Psalm 3 A Psalm of David, When He Fled from His Son Absalom	36
Psalm 4 To the Leader: With Stringed Instruments. A Psalm of David	39
Psalm 5 To the Leader: For the Flutes. A Psalm of David	43
Psalm 6 To the Leader: With Stringed Instruments; According to the Sheminith. A Psalm of David	47

Psalm 7 A Shiggaion of David, Which He Sang to the LORD concerning Cush, a Benjaminite	53
Psalm 8 To the Leader: According to the Gittith. A Psalm of David	57
Psalms 9 and 10 To the Leader: According to Muth-labben. A Psalm of David	62
Psalm 11 To the Leader. Of David	68
Psalm 12 To the Leader: According to the Sheminith. A Psalm of David	71
Psalm 13 To the Leader. A Psalm of David	75
Psalm 14 To the Leader. Of David	79
Psalm 15 A Psalm of David	81
Psalm 16 A Miktam of David	84
Psalm 17 A Prayer of David	88
Psalm 18 To the Leader. A Psalm of David the Servant of the LORD, Who Addressed the Words of this Song to the LORD on the Day When the LORD Delivered Him from the Hand of All His Enemies, and from the Hand of Saul	93
Psalm 19 To the Leader. A Psalm of David	100
Psalm 20 To the Leader. A Psalm of David	104
Psalm 21 To the Leader. A Psalm of David	107
Psalm 22 To the Leader: According to the Deer of the Dawn. A Psalm of David	111
Psalm 23 A Psalm of David	122
Psalm 24 Of David. A Psalm	126
Psalm 25 Of David	130
Psalm 26 Of David	133
Psalm 27 Of David	137
Psalm 28 Of David	142
Psalm 29 A Psalm of David	146
Psalm 30 A Psalm. A Song at the Dedication of the Temple. Of David	149
Psalm 31 To the Leader. A Psalm of David	154
Psalm 32 Of David. A Maskil	159
Psalm 33	163
Psalm 34 Of David, When He Feigned Madness before Abimelech, So That He Drove Him Out, and He Went Away	167
Psalm 35 Of David	172
Psalm 36 To the Leader. Of David, the Servant of the LORD	177
Psalm 37 Of David	180
Psalm 38 A Psalm of David, for the Memorial Offering	186
Psalm 39 To the Leader: to Jeduthun. A Psalm of David	190
Psalm 40 To the Leader. Of David. A Psalm	194
Psalm 41 To the Leader. A Psalm of David	199
Psalms 42 and 43 To the Leader. A Maskil of the Korahites	202
Psalm 44 To the Leader. Of the Korahites. A Maskil	207

Contents

ix

Psalm 45 To the Leader: According to Lilies. Of the Korahites. A Maskil. A Love Song	212
Psalm 46 To the Leader. Of the Korahites. According to Alamothe. A Song	216
Psalm 47 To the Leader. Of the Korahites. A Psalm	219
Psalm 48 A Song. A Psalm of the Korahites	223
Psalm 49 To the Leader. Of the Korahites. A Psalm	226
Psalm 50 A Psalm of Asaph	230
Psalm 51 To the Leader. A Psalm of David, When the Prophet Nathan Came to Him, after He Had Gone in to Bathsheba	234
Psalm 52 To the Leader. A Maskil of David, When Doeg the Edomite Came to Saul and Said to Him, 'David Has Come to the House of Ahimelech'	240
Psalm 53 To the Leader: According to Mahalath. A Maskil of David	244
Psalm 54 To the Leader: With Stringed Instruments. A Maskil of David, When the Ziphites Went and Told Saul, 'David Is in Hiding among Us'	245
Psalm 55 To the Leader: With Stringed Instruments. A Maskil of David	249
Psalm 56 To the Leader: According to the Dove on Far-off Terebinths. Of David. A Miktam, When the Philistines Seized Him in Gath	252
Psalm 57 To the Leader: Do Not Destroy. Of David. A Miktam, When He Fled from Saul, in the Cave	255
Psalm 58 To the Leader: Do Not Destroy. Of David. A Miktam	259
Psalm 59 To the Leader: Do Not Destroy. Of David. A Miktam, When Saul Ordered His House to be Watched in Order to Kill Him	263
Psalm 60 To the Leader: According to the Lily of the Covenant. A Miktam of David; for Instruction; When He Struggled with Aram-naharaim and with Aram-zobah, and When Joab on His Return Killed Twelve Thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt	266
Psalm 61 To the Leader: With Stringed Instruments. Of David	269
Psalm 62 To the Leader: According to Jeduthun. A Psalm of David	272
Psalm 63 A Psalm of David, When He Was in the Wilderness of Judah	276
Psalm 64 To the Leader. A Psalm of David	280
Psalm 65 To the Leader. A Psalm of David. A Song	283
Psalm 66 To the Leader. A Song. A Psalm	286
Psalm 67 To the Leader: With Stringed Instruments. A Psalm. A Song	289
Psalm 68 To the Leader. Of David. A Psalm. A Song	292
Psalm 69 To the Leader: According to Lilies. Of David	298
Psalm 70 To the Leader. Of David, for the Memorial Offering	303
Psalm 71	306
Psalm 72 Of Solomon	311
Psalm 73 A Psalm of Asaph	316

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-84092-7 - Psalms
 Walter Brueggemann and William H. Bellinger
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Psalms 74-113	319-488
Psalm 74 A Maskil of Asaph	319
Psalm 75 To the Leader: Do Not Destroy. A Psalm of Asaph. A Song	324
Psalm 76 To the Leader: With Stringed Instruments. A Psalm of Asaph. A Song	327
Psalm 77 To the Leader: According to Jeduthun. Of Asaph. A Psalm	331
Psalm 78 A Maskil of Asaph	336
Psalm 79 A Psalm of Asaph	343
Psalm 80 To the Leader: On Lilies, A Covenant. Of Asaph. A Psalm	347
Psalm 81 To the Leader: According to the Gittith. Of Asaph	350
Psalm 82 A Psalm of Asaph	354
Psalm 83 A Song. A Psalm of Asaph	359
Psalm 84 To the Leader: According to the Gittith. Of the Korahites. A Psalm	363
Psalm 85 To the Leader. Of the Korahites. A Psalm	366
Psalm 86 A Prayer of David	371
Psalm 87 Of the Korahites. A Psalm. A Song	374
Psalm 88 A Song. A Psalm of the Korahites. To the Leader: According to Mahalath Leannoth. A Maskil of Heman the Ezrahite	377
Psalm 89 A Maskil of Ethan the Ezrahite	382
Psalm 90 A Prayer of Moses, the Man of God	390
Psalm 91	394
Psalm 92 A Psalm. A Song for the Sabbath Day	397
Psalm 93	401
Psalm 94	404
Psalm 95	410
Psalm 96	413
Psalm 97	417
Psalm 98 A Psalm	419
Psalm 99	423
Psalm 100 A Psalm of Thanksgiving	427
Psalm 101 Of David. A Psalm	430
Psalm 102 A Prayer of One Afflicted, When Faint and Pleading before the LORD	434
Psalm 103 Of David	439
Psalm 104	443
Psalm 105	449
Psalm 106	455
Psalm 107	461
Psalm 108 A Song. A Psalm of David	468
Psalm 109 To the Leader. Of David. A Psalm	471
Psalm 110 Of David. A Psalm	478
Psalm 111	481
Psalm 112	484
Psalm 113	488

Contents

xi

Psalm 114	491
Psalm 115	493
Psalm 116	498
Psalm 117	502
Psalm 118	504
Psalm 119	509
Psalm 120 A Song of Ascents	523
Psalm 121 A Song of Ascents	525
Psalm 122 A Song of Ascents. Of David	528
Psalm 123 A Song of Ascents	530
Psalm 124 A Song of Ascents. Of David	534
Psalm 125 A Song of Ascents	536
Psalm 126 A Song of Ascents	538
Psalm 127 A Song of Ascents. Of Solomon	541
Psalm 128 A Song of Ascents	544
Psalm 129 A Song of Ascents	547
Psalm 130 A Song of Ascents	550
Psalm 131 A Song of Ascents. Of David	552
Psalm 132 A Song of Ascents	554
Psalm 133 A Song of Ascents	558
Psalm 134 A Song of Ascents	560
Psalm 135	562
Psalm 136	568
Psalm 137	572
Psalm 138 Of David	576
Psalm 139 To the Leader. Of David. A Psalm	580
Psalm 140 To the Leader. A Psalm of David	584
Psalm 141 A Psalm of David	588
Psalm 142 A Maskil of David. When He Was in the Cave. A Prayer	591
Psalm 143 A Psalm of David	594
Psalm 144 Of David	598
Psalm 145 Praise. Of David	602
Psalm 146	605
Psalm 147	608
Psalm 148	611
Psalm 149	614
Psalm 150	617
<i>Author Index</i>	621
<i>Biblical Texts Index</i>	623
<i>Subject Index</i>	633

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-84092-7 - Psalms
Walter Brueggemann and William H. Bellinger
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Supplementary Sections



A Closer Look: Hebrew Poetic Devices	<i>page</i> 28
Bridging the Horizons: The Way of Righteousness	30
A Closer Look: The Messiah of Psalm 2	34
A Closer Look: Covenant Renewal Ritual	35
Bridging the Horizons: Life with YHWH	35
A Closer Look: The Role of the Superscription	38
A Closer Look: The Temple – Where God Dwells	38
Bridging the Horizons: Petition	39
Bridging the Horizons: Faith in Dialogue	42
A Closer Look: Job's Similarities to the Psalmist	43
A Closer Look: Zion Torah	45
Bridging the Horizons: The Righteousness of God	46
Bridging the Horizons: Adversaries and Allies	46
A Closer Look: Who Are the Enemies?	50
Bridging the Horizons: The Drama of Prayer	52
Bridging the Horizons: A Penitential Psalm?	53
A Closer Look: A Temple Setting	56
Bridging the Horizons: Whose Righteousness?	57
A Closer Look: What Is Man that You Should Note Him?	60
Bridging the Horizons: Power and Praise	60
A Closer Look: Psalm 8 in Other Biblical Texts	61
Bridging the Horizons: An Appeal against Injustice	67
A Closer Look: An Acrostic Psalm	67
Bridging the Horizons: Holy Other, Wholly Other	71

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-84092-7 - Psalms
 Walter Brueggemann and William H. Bellinger
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

xiv

Supplementary Sections

Bridging the Horizons: Real Presence	71
A Closer Look: Israel's Spirituality	74
Bridging the Horizons: Divine Truth	74
Bridging the Horizons: Hearing the Victim's Cry	75
A Closer Look: Plea-Praise	77
A Closer Look: The "Fear Not" of YHWH	78
A Closer Look: Ask, Search, Knock	78
Bridging the Horizons: How Long?	78
Bridging the Horizons: Wealth at the Expense of Others	81
Bridging the Horizons: The Righteous Worshiper	84
Bridging the Horizons: An Expression of Loyalty	87
A Closer Look: Psalm 16 and Peter's Speech	88
Bridging the Horizons: Crisis and Covenant	92
Bridging the Horizons: In the Fray	99
A Closer Look: Two Approaches to Hebrew Poetry	99
Bridging the Horizons: The Gift of Creation, the Gift of Torah	103
Bridging the Horizons: Thinking about Power	106
Bridging the Horizons: Piety	107
Bridging the Horizons: Watchful Waiting?	107
A Closer Look: Trust and Steadfast Love	111
A Closer Look: "My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?"	120
Bridging the Horizons: Righteous Suffering and <i>The Crucified God</i>	120
A Closer Look: The King-Shepherd	125
A Closer Look: The Sheep of His Hand	126
Bridging the Horizons: The Shepherd and the Pastor	126
Bridging the Horizons: A Confession that Transforms Life	129
Bridging the Horizons: Questioning Loyalty	136
A Closer Look: A Liturgy for the Falsely Accused	137
A Closer Look: One Poem or Two?	141
Bridging the Horizons: An Era of Anxiety	141
A Closer Look: A Lamenters' Mood Swing	145
Bridging the Horizons: Community and the Dialogue of Faith	145
A Closer Look: A Canaanite Hymn	147
Bridging the Horizons: Opposing Baal Worship	149

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-84092-7 - Psalms
 Walter Brueggemann and William H. Bellinger
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

<i>Supplementary Sections</i>	xv
A Closer Look: The Material Side of Thanksgiving	153
Bridging the Horizons: YHWH's Short-Term Anger	153
Bridging the Horizons: A Response to Grace	154
Bridging the Horizons: An Enduring Faith	159
Bridging the Horizons: Forgiveness	162
Bridging the Horizons: Silence Kills	163
A Closer Look: The Word of YHWH	166
Bridging the Horizons: Trust As an Act of Courage	166
A Closer Look: Naming Philistine Kings	170
Bridging the Horizons: Naive Generalizations or Robust Faith?	171
Bridging the Horizons: Joy	171
A Closer Look: Everything in God's Hands	176
A Closer Look: The Temple and Creation	179
Bridging the Horizons: Light, Water, and Bread	180
A Closer Look: A Wisdom Psalm?	184
Bridging the Horizons: Imperatives Based on Indicatives	186
A Closer Look: Sin and Suffering	189
A Closer Look: Jeduthun	193
Bridging the Horizons: The Ambiguity of Life	194
Bridging the Horizons: The Pilgrimage of Faith	198
Bridging the Horizons: Raise Me Up	202
A Closer Look: Integrity	202
A Closer Look: Korah	204
Bridging the Horizons: Exile	206
A Closer Look: Bilateral Covenant	210
Bridging the Horizons: Critiquing God	211
A Closer Look: Genesis 9:15	212
A Closer Look: A Korahite and Elohist Psalter	215
Bridging the Horizons: A Particular Setting	215
A Closer Look: Kingship and Zion	218
Bridging the Horizons: A Mighty Fortress	219
Bridging the Horizons: Divine Kingship	221
Bridging the Horizons: The People of Abraham	222
Bridging the Horizons: Divine Enthronement	223

A Closer Look: Divine Presence	225
A Closer Look: Real Presence	226
A Closer Look: Foolishness	229
Bridging the Horizons: Rich in Things, Poor in Soul	229
Bridging the Horizons: Covenant Relationship	233
A Closer Look: Nathan, David, and the Psalmist	238
A Closer Look: God's Readiness to Forgive	239
A Closer Look: An Absence of Assurance	239
Bridging the Horizons: The Prodigal	239
A Closer Look: David, Ahimelech, and Doeg	243
Bridging the Horizons: Wisdom and Foolishness	243
A Closer Look: Duplicate Psalms	245
A Closer Look: A Prayer for Real Circumstances	248
Bridging the Horizons: To Pray This Text...	248
Bridging the Horizons: Jeremiah 9:1-3	252
A Closer Look: Risky Business	255
A Closer Look: A Multipart Superscription	258
A Closer Look: Duplications	258
Bridging the Horizons: Conclusions	258
Bridging the Horizons: A Psalm of Vengeance	262
A Closer Look: An Honest Prayer	266
A Closer Look: Salvation Oracles	269
A Closer Look: An Enemy Triad	269
A Closer Look: A Grateful Response	272
Bridging the Horizons: In Whom Do We Trust?	275
A Closer Look: A Boundless Optimist	279
Bridging the Horizons: The Power of Words	282
Bridging the Horizons: Creator and Redeemer	285
A Closer Look: An All-Inclusive Psalm	289
Bridging the Horizons: Universalism and Particularism	292
Bridging the Horizons: Puzzling Territory	297
A Closer Look: A Psalm for a Righteous Sufferer	303
A Closer Look: An Adaptable Psalm	304
A Closer Look: God's Covenant Obligation	306

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-84092-7 - Psalms
 Walter Brueggemann and William H. Bellinger
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

<i>Supplementary Sections</i>	xvii
A Closer Look: Links to Psalm 70	308
Bridging the Horizons: Faith in Covenant Promises	310
Bridging the Horizons: The Bad Shepherd	314
Bridging the Horizons: Public Power	315
Bridging the Horizons: Communion or Commodity	319
A Closer Look: Noah	323
Bridging the Horizons: A Prayer in Gravest Crisis	323
A Closer Look: Reading Psalms Together	325
Bridging the Horizons: Nothing to Fear	327
Bridging the Horizons: Human Rights	330
Bridging the Horizons: Liberation Theology	330
A Closer Look: Does God Change?	335
A Closer Look: The Importance of Memory	340
Bridging the Horizons: Learning from the Past	342
A Closer Look: Wild Justice	346
Bridging the Horizons: Not So Remote	346
Bridging the Horizons: A Strategy for Seeking Justice	346
A Closer Look: Memory and Hope	353
Bridging the Horizons: A Call to Faithfulness	353
A Closer Look: A Heavenly Court Scene	355
A Closer Look: The Heavenly Company	356
Bridging the Horizons: Poem for the Oppressed	357
A Closer Look: A Conclusion to the Psalms of Asaph	360
Bridging the Horizons: An Honest Struggle	362
A Closer Look: A Korahite Psalm	364
A Closer Look: YHWH of Armies	365
A Closer Look: Sacrament	366
A Closer Look: YHWH's Utter Fidelity	369
A Closer Look: The Kingdom of God Has Come Near	369
Bridging the Horizons: <i>Babette's Feast</i>	370
A Closer Look: A <i>Shalom</i> Prophet	370
A Closer Look: Communal Theology and Personal Faith	373
Bridging the Horizons: That I Belong to My Faithful Savior	374
Bridging the Horizons: Unanswered Prayer	381

A Closer Look: The Covenant with David	389
Bridging the Horizons: The Expectation of a Davidic King	390
Bridging the Horizons: A Petition for Wisdom	393
Bridging the Horizons: A Confession of Faith	397
A Closer Look: A Psalm for the Sabbath	399
A Closer Look: A Psalm Cluster	399
Bridging the Horizons: Security	401
A Closer Look: YHWH Is King	402
Bridging the Horizons: Chaos Knocking at the Door	404
A Closer Look: YHWH's Active Governance	408
Bridging the Horizons: The Happiness of the Chastised	409
A Closer Look: The God of Israel Is the Creator	412
A Closer Look: Obedience to Enter In	412
Bridging the Horizons: Promised Rest	413
A Closer Look: A Variety of Contexts	416
Bridging the Horizons: Announcing the Rule of God	417
Bridging the Horizons: The Birth of a King	419
A Closer Look: Remembering God's Loyalty	420
Bridging the Horizons: An Unlikely Pair	422
A Closer Look: Set Apart Is He	425
Bridging the Horizons: Imagining Life with YHWH	426
Bridging the Horizons: Called to Worship	429
A Closer Look: A Model King	432
A Closer Look: Persuading YHWH	432
Bridging the Horizons: An Act of Hope	433
A Closer Look: First Commentary	438
Bridging the Horizons: A Model Prayer	438
A Closer Look: Remembering Moses – A Way Past Exile	440
Bridging the Horizons: A God of Generous Compassion	443
Bridging the Horizons: Wine, Oil, and Bread	448
Bridging the Horizons: Environmentalism	448
Bridging the Horizons: Nature As Creation	449
Bridging the Horizons: The Promise of Land	454
A Closer Look: The Monarchy and the Land Promise	455

<i>Supplementary Sections</i>	xix
Bridging the Horizons: In the Interim	461
A Closer Look: To Thank	466
A Closer Look: Divine Freedom and Divine Responsiveness	466
Bridging the Horizons: A Thankful Response	467
A Closer Look: A Combination Psalm	469
Bridging the Horizons: Changing Contexts	471
Bridging the Horizons: An Embarrassing Psalm	475
Bridging the Horizons: Calvin's Critique	476
Bridging the Horizons: A Psalm Overheard	477
Bridging the Horizons: Changing Hope	480
A Closer Look: The Mighty Acts of God	482
Bridging the Horizons: Emotion and Intellect	484
Bridging the Horizons: The Importance of Context	487
A Closer Look: YHWH's Name	490
A Closer Look: Poor, Needy, Barren Women	490
A Closer Look: Exodus and Creation	493
A Closer Look: Crisis of Exile	495
A Closer Look: The Living God	497
A Closer Look: The Hallel	501
A Closer Look: Strong Enough to Effect Its Purpose	503
A Closer Look: Romans 15	503
Bridging the Horizons: Transcending Particularities	503
A Closer Look: Weaving Hallelujahs Together	507
A Closer Look: Triumphal Entry	509
Bridging the Horizons: Legalism?	521
Bridging the Horizons: A Cliff Note for Life	522
Bridging the Horizons: Homelessness	524
Bridging the Horizons: The Vigilance of YHWH	527
Bridging the Horizons: The Lord Bless You and Keep You	527
A Closer Look: Jerusalem the Epicenter of the World	529
Bridging the Horizons: A City of Peace?	530
Bridging the Horizons: Prayers for Jerusalem and Babylon	530
Bridging the Horizons: The God of All Mercy	533
Bridging the Horizons: Generative Grace	533

A Closer Look: The Taproot of Unconditional Grace	538
A Closer Look: <i>Shavot</i>	541
Bridging the Horizons: Agricultural Wonder	541
A Closer Look: A Pivot Psalm	542
Bridging the Horizons: A Self-Made Man	544
Bridging the Horizons: A Holistic Blessing	546
A Closer Look: Haters of Zion	549
A Closer Look: Confession and Petition	551
A Closer Look: Intensification and Expectation	552
A Closer Look: Mother and Child	553
A Closer Look: The Chosen Dwelling	556
A Closer Look: A Family Journey	559
A Closer Look: Destination Praise	560
A Closer Look: YHWH's Reputation	566
Bridging the Horizons: Restraining Religious Patriotism	567
A Closer Look: Praise, Thanks, and the Eucharist	571
Bridging the Horizons: Gratitude	571
A Closer Look: Literary Context	573
A Closer Look: An Alternate Response	575
A Closer Look: Important Connections	577
A Closer Look: Seek God's Order	584
A Closer Look: Covenant Faith	587
A Closer Look: In the Aftermath of Exile	589
Bridging the Horizons: Deliver Us from Evil	591
A Closer Look: Praying in Context	592
Bridging the Horizons: YHWH, Jesus, and the Marginalized	608
A Closer Look: A Double Call to Praise	614
Bridging the Horizons: The Temptation of Legitimation	617
Bridging the Horizons: The Whole Duty of Humans	619

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Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Preface



The biblical text has in it no indication of emphases for reading. In a number of texts quoted herein, we have italicized certain words in order to assist the reader in noting the rhetorical force of the text. In each case, such underscoring is our own work and of course coheres with our own sense of the text. When emphasis appears in a reference other than the Bible, the emphasis is ours unless stated otherwise. When a verse is cited without a book or chapter reference (e.g., v. 1), it is understood to refer to the psalm presently under discussion.

The authors thank the editors and publishers of the *New Cambridge Bible Commentary* for the opportunity to work on the book of Psalms. Special thanks also go to Libby Ballard, B. J. Parker, Anna Sieges, and Kim Williams Bodenhamer. May these comments on the Psalms help today's readers and hearers embrace these ancient texts in transforming ways.

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A Word about Citations



All volumes in the *New Cambridge Bible Commentary* (NCBC) include footnotes, with full bibliographical citations included in the note when a source is first mentioned. Subsequent citations include the author's initial or initials, full last name, abbreviated title for the work, and date of publication. Most readers prefer this citation system to endnotes that require searching through pages at the back of the book.

The Suggested Readings lists, also included in all NCBC volumes after the Introduction, are not a part of this citation apparatus. Annotated and organized by publication type, the self-contained Suggested Readings lists are intended to introduce and briefly review some of the most well-known and helpful literature on the biblical text under discussion.

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Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Abbreviations



BASOR	<i>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i>
BJRL	<i>Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester</i>
BN	<i>Bible Review</i>
BTB	<i>Biblical Theology Bulletin</i>
BWANT	<i>Beiträge zur Wissenschaft vom Alten und Neuen Testament</i>
BZ	<i>Biblische Zeitschrift</i>
BZAW	<i>Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
CB	<i>Cultura biblica</i>
CBQ	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
CJT	<i>Canadian Journal of Theology</i>
EvQ	<i>Evangelical Quarterly</i>
<i>Ex Aud</i>	<i>Ex Auditu</i>
FAT	<i>Forschungen zum Alten Testament</i>
HBT	<i>Horizons in Biblical Theology</i>
HTR	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
HUCA	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
JAOS	<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i>
JBL	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>J Preachers</i>	<i>Journal for Preachers</i>
JQR	<i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i>
JSOT	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
JSOTSup	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament, Supplement Series</i>
JTS	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
OTL	<i>Old Testament Library</i>
SBLDS	<i>Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series</i>
SBLSP	<i>Society of Biblical Literature Seminar Papers</i>
SBT	<i>Studies in Biblical Theology</i>
SJT	<i>Scottish Journal of Theology</i>
TGUOS	<i>Transactions of the Glasgow University Oriental Society</i>

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Walter Brueggemann and William H. Bellinger
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

xxvi

Abbreviations

TZ	<i>Theologische Zeitschrift</i>
VT	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary
ZAW	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
ZTK	<i>Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche</i>