**Some General Information on the Psalms**

--the book is also an anthology – the author is unknown, but the editor/compiler gave/attributed many to David

--the 5 books of Psalms imitates the 5 books of Torah

--psalms are hymns, acts of praise suitable for any occasion

--at the end of each section is a blessing or doxology of Adonai, “Blessed be God forever and ever

--the psalms were presented in a lively fashion with dancers, singers, instruments

--they are centered in the life of Israel, the life of the community

--among the various types are the following

 A. Enthronement hymns: celebrating the God’s kingship

 B. Songs of Zion: expressing devotion for the Holy City

 C. Laments: either individuals seeking deliverance from illness or false accusation

 OR a nation asking for help in time of distress

 D. Songs of Trust: individuals expressing confidence in God’s readiness to help

 E. Thanksgiving: individuals expressing gratitude for deliverance

 F. Sacred History: the nation recounts the story of God’s dealings with it

 G. Royal Psalms: to be used for coronation or royal weddings and such occasions

 H. Wisdom Psalms – meditations on the life and ways of God

 I. Liturgies: often mixed types, composed for some special cultic or historical

 occasions: e.g. ceremony for renewing the covenant (regularly occurring)

**Guides to the Speakers in the Book of Job**

1. Eliphaz: addresses Job in Chapters 4-5, 15, and 22; Job responds to Eliphaz in Chapters 6-7, 16-17, and 23-24;
2. Bildad addresses Job in Chapters 8, 18, 25, 26.5-14; Job responds to Bildad in Chapters 9-10, 19, 26.1-4, and 27-31.40
3. Zophar addresses Job in Chapters 11, 20; Job responds to Zophar in Chapters 12-14, 21
4. Elihu speaks in Chapters 32-37
5. God “answers” and questions Job in Chapters 38-40