

Arranging the Psalter in Your Head

The diligent student of the church's God-breathed Song Book needs to visualize the Psalter as *a whole*. Patient, exegetical study will yield rich insights that can be employed in brief psalm meditations. This diagram can compile insights about the Psalter's arrangement (Part III) and content (Part IV).

Follow the directions below to fill out the chart on the following page. Refer to Questions 44–82 of *150 Questions about the Psalter* (Crown & Covenant Publications, 2015). You will need a pen, four different colored markers, and three different colored highlighters (seven different colors total). As you mark or color a psalm box, label the psalm with its number in the top one-third of the box.

May the Lord guide you in your study!

—Brad Johnston, author of *150 Questions about the Psalter*

Directions

- 1 With marker 1 draw a box around the “bookends” referred to in Question 44. Number Psalms 1–2 and 146–150 with your pen in the top third of the psalm box.
- 2 With your pen, draw arrows above (and pointing down toward) the psalm boxes referred to in Questions 45–47. Number Psalms 117–119.
- 3 Note the material in Questions 48–52 is already printed on the diagram. Number the beginning and ending psalm of each book.
- 4 The seven general categories of psalms (Questions 53–60) are identified by marking the bottom horizontal line of each psalm box. Use markers 1–4 and highlighters 1–3 to identify the genre (category) of each psalm. Number the psalm box as you mark its category.
- 5 Use your yellow highlighter to identify the seven special collections of psalms (Questions 61–68). Draw a bar above each group of psalms and title each collection with your pen.
- 6 In the bottom third of each psalm box identify the six special classes of psalms (Questions 76–82) with the first letter of its classification—Davidic (D), acrostic (A), imprecatory (I), penitential (P), Messianic (M), and the psalm without praise.

