

Psalm 18 — Logotechnical Analysis

Guidelines

- Please read the [General Introduction](#) as well as the Introduction to [Book I](#).
- For common features found in the numerical analysis charts, see the "[Key to the charts](#)".

Specific features of Psalm 18

- This exceptionally long psalm (**52**-verselines) concludes the distinct Second Sub-group of Davidic Psalms in Book I (9-18), which is opened by the **40**-verseline long Psalm 9-10. The nine psalms have altogether **156** (6 x **26**) verselines – see the Introduction, p. 5.
- A comparison between Psalm 18 and the parallel text in 2 Samuel 22 shows that in many respects the [Samuel text](#) is qualitatively superior to that of Psalm 18. The logotechnical analyses reveals that both *versions* are numerical compositions in their own right.
- The identical strophic structure of both texts is to a great extent determined by the change in direction of address (words addressed to God, and words spoken about him).

Strophic structure - Canto/Stanza boundary: || Canticle boundary: |

- Van der Lugt: 2-3 || 4-6, 7-9, 10-13, 14-16 || 17-20, 21-24, 25-28, 29-31 || 32-35, 36-39, 40-43, 44-46 || 47-49, 50-51 (5 cantos, 15 strophes, **52** verselines and 111 cola).
- Fokkelman: 2-4, 5-6, 7 || 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15, 16 || 17-18, 19-20 || 21, 22-24, 25 | 26-27, 28-29, 30-31 || 32-33, 34-35 | 36-37, 38-39, 40-41 | 42-43, 44-46 || 47-49, 50-51 (6 stanzas, 24 strophes with **52** verselines and 111 cola).
- Labuschagne: 2-3 || 4-6, 7-9 | 10-13, 14-16 || 17-20 | 21-25 | 26-27, 28-30 || 31-35 | 36-39, 40-43 | 44-46 || 47-50, 51 (5 cantos with Canticles, 15 strophes, with **52** verselines and 111 cola, with due regard for the caesurae caused by the change in the direction of address: vs. 3||4, 25||26, 30||31, 35||36, 46-47, and 50||51; I regard v. 51 as a separate strophe functioning as a coda).
- For an overview of other divisions of the text, see Van der Lugt, CAS, Psalm 18, § 6.

Logotechnical analysis

- Columns **a** and **b** show the number of words before and after the atnach.
- Column **c**: words addressed to God; **d**: words spoken about God.
- The numbering of the verselines is shown in **brown**.

		Total	a	b	c	d
1	לְמַנְצַח לְעַבְדֵי יְהוָה לְדָוִד אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר לַיהוָה	7	7			
	אֶת־דִּבְרֵי הַשִּׁירָה הַזֹּאת	4	4			
	בְּיוֹם הַצִּיל־יְהוָה אוֹתוֹ	4		4		
	מִכַּף כָּל־אִיָּבוֹ וּמִיַּד שָׂאוֹל:	5		5		
2a	וַיֹּאמֶר	1	= 1	+ 0		
	Heading and introduction, v. 1-2a	21	= 12	+ 9		
2b	אֶרְחֶמֶךָ יְהוָה חֲזָקִי: 1	3	3		3	
3	יְהוָה סִלְעִי וּמְצוּדָתִי וּמִפְלְטִי	4	4		4	
	אֱלֹהֵי צוּרֵי אַחְסֵה־בֹּוֹ 2	4	4		4	
	מִגּוּנֵי וּקְרָן־יִשְׁעֵי מִשְׁגָּבֵי:	4		4	4	
	Total, v. 3	12	= 8	+ 4	= 12	+ 0
	Canto 1 Strophe 1 Total, v. 2b-3	15	= 11	+ 4	= 15	+ 0

4	מִהֲלֵל אֶקְרָא יְהוָה [^]	3	3	3	3
	וּמִן־אִבֵי אֲנִשֶׁע:		3	3	3
5	אֶפְפוּנֵי חֲבֵל־מָוֶת [^]	4	3	3	3
	וְנַחֲלֵי בְלִיעַל יִבְעֶתוּנִי:		3	3	3
6	חֲבֵלֵי שְׂאוֹל סִבְבוּנִי [^]	5	3	3	3
	קִדְמוּנֵי מוֹקְשֵׁי מָוֶת:		3	3	3
	Strophe 2	Total, v. 4-6	<u>18 = 9 + 9 = 0 + 18</u>		
		v. 2b-6	<u>33 = 20 + 13 = 15 + 18</u>		
7	בַּצַּר־לִי אֶקְרָא יְהוָה	6	4	4	4
	וְאֶל־אֱלֹהֵי אֲשֻׁע		3	3	3
	יִשְׁמַע מִהִיכְלוֹ קוֹלִי [^]	7	3	3	3
	וְשׁוֹעֲתֵי לִפְנֵי תְבוּא בְּאֲזְנוֹ:		4	4	4
	Total, v. 7:		<u>14 = 10 + 4 = 0 + 14</u>		
	Total, v. 4-7:		<u>32 = 19 + 13 = 0 + 32</u>		
8	וַתִּנְעַשׂ וַתִּרְעַשׂ הָאָרֶץ	8	3	3	3
	וּמִסְדֵי הַרִים יִרְגְּזוּ [^]		3	3	3
	וַיִּתְנַעֲשׂוּ כִי־חָרָה לֹו:		4	4	4
	Total, v. 8		<u>10 = 6 + 4 = 0 + 10</u>		
9	עָלָה עֵשֶׂן בְּאֶפֶס	9	3	3	3
	וְאִשׁ־מִפִּי תֹאכֵל [^]		3	3	3
	וְנַחֲלִים בְּעֵרוֹ מִמְּנוֹ:		3	3	3
	Total, v. 9		<u>9 = 6 + 3 = 0 + 9</u>		
	Strophe 3	Total, v. 7-9	<u>33 = 22 + 11 = 0 + 33</u>		
	Canticle II.1	Total, v. 4-9	<u>51 = 31 + 20 = 0 + 51</u>		
10	וַיֵּט שָׁמַיִם וַיִּרְד־ [^]	10	3	3	3
	וַעֲרָפֶל תַּחַת רַגְלָיו:		3	3	3
	Total, v. 10		<u>6 = 3 + 3 = 0 + 6</u>		
11	וַיִּרְפַּב עַל־כְּרוֹב וַיַּעֲרֵף [^]	11	4	4	4
	וַיִּגְדָּא עַל־כְּנַפֵּי־רוּחַ:		4	4	4
	Total, v. 11		<u>8 = 4 + 4 = 0 + 8</u>		
12	יֵשֶׁת חֲשָׁד סִתְרוּ סְבִיבוֹתָיו סִכְתּוֹ [^]	12	5	5	5
	חֲשַׁכְתּוּ מַיִם עֲבֵי שְׁחָקִים:		4	4	4
	Total, v. 12		<u>9 = 5 + 4 = 0 + 9</u>		
	Total, v. 10-12		<u>23 = 12 + 11 = 0 + 23</u>		
	Total, v. 4-12		<u>74 = 43 + 31 = 0 + 74</u>		
13*	מִנְגִּינָה נִגְדּוּ עֲבָיו עֲבָרוֹ [^]	13	4	4	4
	בְּרָד וְנַחֲלֵי־אֵשׁ:		3	3	3
	Total, v. 13		<u>7 = 4 + 3 = 0 + 7</u>		
	Strophe 4	Total, v. 10-13	<u>30 = 16 + 14 = 0 + 30</u>		
14*	וַיִּרְעַם בְּשָׁמַיִם יְהוָה	14	3	3	3
	וַעֲלִיזוֹן יִתֵּן קִלְוֹ [^]		3	3	3
	בְּרָד וְנַחֲלֵי־אֵשׁ:		3	3	3
	Total, v. 14		<u>9 = 6 + 3 = 0 + 9</u>		
	Emended text, v. 14		<u>6 = 6 + 0 = 0 + 6</u>		

15	וישֹׁלַח חֲצִיּוֹ וַיִּפְּצֵם [^]	15	3	3		3
	וּבְרָקִים רַב וַיִּהְמָם:		3		3	3
16	וַיֵּרְאוּ אֶפְיָקֵי מַיִם	16	3	3		3
	וַיִּגְלוּ מוֹסְדוֹת תִּבְלֹ		3	3		3
	Words addressed to God מְנַעַרְתֶּךָ יְהוָה [^]	17	2	2		2
	different in 2 Sam. 22:16 : מְנַשְׁמַת רוּחַ אֶפְדָּ:		3		3	3
	Strophe 5 Total, v. 14-16		26	= 17	+ 9	= 5 + 21
	Strophe 5 Emended text, v. 14-16		23	= 17	+ 6	= 5 + 18
	Canticle II.2 Total, v. 10-16		56	= 33	+ 23	= 5 + 51
	Canto II Total, v. 4-16		107	= 64	+ 43	= 5 + 102
	Canticle II.2 Emended text, v. 10-16		53	= 33	+ 20	= 5 + 48
	Canto II Emended text, v. 4-16		104	+ 64	+ 40	= 5 + 99
	Total, v. 2b-16		122	= 75	+ 47	= 20 + 102
	Emended text, v. 2b-16		119	= 75	+ 44	= 20 + 99
17	יִשְׁלַח מִמְרוֹם יִקְחֵנִי [^]	18	3	3		3
	יִמְשְׁנֵי מַמִּים רַבִּים:		3		3	3
18	יִצְיִלְנִי מֵאִיְבֵי עֵז [^]	19	3	3		3
	וּמִשְׁנֵאֵי כִי־אֶמְצֹו מִמְּנִי:		4		4	4
19	יִקְדְּמוּנִי בְיוֹם־אִי־דֵי [^]	20	3	3		3
	וַיְהִי־יְהוָה לְמִשְׁעַן לִי:		4		4	4
20	וַיּוֹצִיאֵנִי לְמִרְחֹב [^]	21	2	2		2
	יַחֲלֹצֵנִי כִי חִפֵּץ בִּי:		4		4	4
	Canticle III.1 Strophe 6 Total, v. 17-20		26	= 11	+ 15	= 0 + 26
21	וַיִּגְמְלֵנִי יְהוָה כְּצַדִּיק [^]	22	3	3		3
	כְּבָר יְדֵי יִשִׁיב לִי:		4		4	4
22	כִּי־שָׁמַרְתִּי דְרָכֵי יְהוָה [^]	23	4	4		4
	וְלֹא־רָשַׁעְתִּי מֵאֲלֹהֵי:		3		3	3
23	כִּי כָל־מִשְׁפָּטָיו לִנְגְדֵי [^]	24	4	4		4
	וַחֲקִתָּיו לֹא־אָסִיר מְנִי:		4		4	4
24	וְאֵהִי תָמִים עֲמוּ [^]	25	3	3		3
	וְאֲשַׁתְּמַר מֵעוֹנֵי:		2		2	2
25	וַיִּשָׁבֵ יְהוָה לִי כְצַדִּיק [^]	26	4	4		4
	כְּבָר יְדֵי לִנְגְדֵי עֵינָיו:		4		4	4
	Canticle III.2 Strophe 7 Total, v. 21-25		35	= 18	+ 17	= 0 + 35
	Emended text, v. 4-25		165	= 93	+ 72	= 5 + 160
	Total, v. 2b-25		183	= 104	+ 79	= 20 + 163
	Emended text, v. 2b-25		180	= 104	+ 76	= 20 + 160
26	MT's 2 middle cola: עִם־חֲסִיד תִּתְחַסְּדָ [^]	27	3	3		3
	112 = 55 + 2 + 55 : עִם־נֹבֵר תָּמִים תִּתְמַם:		4		4	4
	Middle words: 376 = 186+4+186 Total, v. 26		7	= 3	+ 4	= 7 + 0
27	Em. text: 373=186+1+186 עִם־נֹבֵר תִּתְבַּרְרָ [^]	28	3	3		3
	26b-27a 7 middle words: וְעַם־עֲקֹשׁ תִּתְפַּתֵּל:		3		3	3
	373=183+7+183 Total, v. 27		6	= 3	+ 3	= 6 + 0
	Middle strophe Strophe 8 Total, v. 26-27		13	= 6	+ 7	= 13 + 0

28	כִּי־אַתָּה עִם־עֲנִי תוֹשִׁיעַ־ וְעֵינַיִם רְמוֹת תִּשְׁפִּיל׃	29	5	5	5	
			3		3	3
29	כִּי־אַתָּה תֵּאֵיר גְּרִי־ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יְגִית חֲשָׁבִי׃	30	4	4	4	4
			4		4	4
30	כִּי־בָךְ אֶרְצֶן גְּדוּד־ וּבְאֱלֹהֵי אֲדֹנָי־שׁוּר׃	31	4	4	4	4
			3		3	3
	Strophe 9	Total, v. 28-30	<u>23</u>	= 13	+ 10	= 23 + 0
	Canticle III.3	Total, v. 26-30	<u>36</u>	= 19	+ 17	= 36 + 0
	Canto III	Total, v. 17-30	<u>97</u>	= 48	+ 49	= 36 + 61
		Total, v. 4-30	<u>204</u>	= 112	+ 92	= 41 + 163
		Emended text, v. 4-30	<u>201</u>	= 112	+ 89	= 41 + 160
		Total, v. 2b-30	<u>219</u>	= 123	+ 96	= 56 + 163
		Emended text, v. 2b-30	<u>216</u>	= 129	+ 93	= 56 + 160
31	הָאֵל תָּמִים דְּרָכּוֹ אִמְרַת־יְהוָה צְרוּפָה־ מִגֵּן הוּא לְכֹל הַחַסִּים בּוֹ׃	32	3	3	3	3
			3	3		3
			5		5	5
		Total, v. 29-31	<u>26</u>	= 14	+ 12	= 15 + 11
32	כִּי מִי אֵלֹהִים מִבְּלַעֲדֵי יְהוָה־ וּמִי צוּר זֹלָתִי אֶלְהִינּוּ׃	33	5	5	5	5
			4		4	4
33	הָאֵל תִּמְאָזְרֵנִי תִּיל־ וַיִּתֵּן תָּמִים דְּרָכָי׃	34	3	3	3	3
			3		3	3
34	מְשׁוּחַ רִגְלֵי כְּאֵילֹת־ וְעַל כְּמֹתַי יַעֲמִידֵנִי׃	35	3	3	3	3
			3		3	3
35	מְלִמֵּד יָדַי לְמַלְחָמָה־ וּנְחַתָּה קִשְׁת־נְחוּשָׁה זְרוּעֹתַי׃	36	3	3	3	3
			4		4	4
	Canticle IV.1 Strophe 10	Total, v. 31-35	<u>39</u>	= 20	+ 19	= 0 + 39
		Total, 17-35	<u>136</u>	= 68	+ 68	= 36 + 100
36	וַתִּתְּנֵנִי לִי מִגֵּן יִשְׁעָךְ וַיִּמְיֶנֶךָ תִּסְעָדֵנִי־ וְעִנּוֹתֶיךָ תִּרְבֵּנִי׃	37	4	4	4	4
			2	2		2
			2		2	2
37	תִּרְחִיב צַעֲדֵי תַחְתֵּי־ וְלֹא מְעַדוּ קַרְסְלֵי׃	38	3	3	3	3
			3		3	3
38	אֲרִדּוּף אוֹיְבֵי וְאֲשִׁיגֵם־ וְלֹא־אָשׁוּב עַד־כְּלוֹתֶם׃	39	3	3	3	3
			4		4	4
39	אֲמַחֲצֵם וְלֹא־יִכְלוּ קוּם־ יִפְּלוּ תַחַת רִגְלֵי׃	40	4	4	4	4
			3		3	3
	Strophe 11	Total, v. 36-39	<u>28</u>	= 16	+ 12	= 28 + 0
40	וַתִּאֲזַרְנֵי תִּיל לְמַלְחָמָה־ תִּכְרִיעַ כְּמִי תַחְתֵּי׃	41	3	3	3	3
			3		3	3
		Total, v. 36-40	<u>34</u>	= 19	+ 15	= 34 + 0
		Total, v. 17-40	<u>170</u>	= 87	+ 83	= 70 + 100

41		וְאִבִּי נִתְתָּה לִי עֶרְפָּה [^]	42	4	4	4
		וּמִשְׁנֵי אֲצְמִיתִם:		2	2	2
		Total, v. 38-41		<u>26</u>	= 14 + 12	= 26 + 0
		Total, v. 36-41		40	= 23 + 17	= 40 + 0
42	Words spoken about God	יִשְׁעוּ וְאִין־מוֹשִׁיעַ [^]	43	3	3	3
	as in 2 Sam. 22:42-43	עַל־יְהוָה וְלֹא עָנָם:		4	4	4
43		וְאֲשַׁחֲקֶם כְּעֶפֶר עַל־פְּנֵי־רוּחַ [^]	44	5	5	5
		כְּטִיט חוּצוֹת אֲרִיקֶם:		3	3	3
		Total, v.42-43		<u>15</u>	= 8 + 7	= 0 + 15
		Total, v. 17-43		191	= 99 + 92	= 76 + 115
	Strophe 12	Total, v. 40-43		<u>27</u>	= 15 + 12	= 12 + 15
	Canticle IV.2	Total, v. 36-43		55	= 31 + 24	= 40 + 15
44		תִּפְלְטֵנִי מֵרִיבֵי עָם	45	3	3	3
		תְּשִׁימֵנִי לְרֹאשׁ גּוֹיִם [^]		3	3	3
		עִם לֹא־יִדְעֵתִי יַעֲבֹדוּנִי:		4	4	4
45		לְשֹׁמֵעַ אָזְן יִשְׁמְעוּ לִי [^]	46	4	4	4
		בְּנִי־נֶכֶד יִכְחָשׁוּ־לִי:		4	4	4
46		בְּנִי־נֶכֶד יִבְלוּ [^]	47	3	3	3
		וַיַּחֲרֹגוּ מִמִּסְגְּרוֹתֵיהֶם:		2	2	2
	Canticle IV.3 Strophe 13	Total, v. 44-46		23	= 13 + 10	= 23 + 0
		Total, v. 36-46		<u>78</u>	= 44 + 34	= 63 + 15
	Canto IV	Total, v. 32-46		106	= 58 + 48	= 63 + 43
		Total, v. 17-46		214	= 112 + 102	= 99 + 115
47		חִי־יְהוָה וּבְרוּךְ צוּרֵי [^]	48	4	4	4
		וַיְרוּם אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:		3	3	3
48		הָאֵל הַנּוֹתֵן נַקְמוֹת לִי [^]	49	4	4	4
		וַיִּדְבֹּר עַמִּים תַּחֲתָי:		3	3	3
49		מִפְּלִטֵי מֵאִבִּי	50	2	2	2
	Addressed to God	אֵף מִן־קָמִי תִרְוַמְנֵי [^]		4	4	4
	as in 2 Sam. 22	מֵאִישׁ חָמָס תִּצְלִלְנִי:		3	3	3
50		עַל־כֵּן אֹדֶךָ בְּגוֹיִם יְהוָה [^]	51	5	5	5
		וּלְשֹׁמֵךְ אֲזַמְרָה:		2	2	2
	Strophe 14	Total, v. 47-50		<u>30</u>	= 19 + 11	= 14 + 16
		Total, v. 4-50		<u>351</u>	= 195 + 156	= 118 + 233
	Emended text, v. 4-50			348	= 195 + 153	= 118 + 230
51	Coda	מְגִדִּיל יִשׁוּעוֹת מִלְּפִי	52	3	3	3
		וַעֲשֵׂה חֶסֶד לְמַשִּׁיחוֹ		3	3	3
		לְדָוִד וּלְזֹרְעוֹ עַד־עוֹלָם:		4	4	4
	Strophe 15	Total, v. 51		<u>10</u>	= 10 + 0	= 0 + 10
		Total, v. 50-51		<u>17</u>	= 15 + 2	= 7 + 10
		Total, v. 49-51		<u>26</u>	= 21 + 5	= 14 + 12
	Canto V	Total, v. 47-51		40	= 29 + 11	= 14 + 26
		MT, total, v. 2b-51		<u>376</u>	= 216 + 160	= 133 + 243
	Emended text, v. 2b-51			<u>373</u>	= 216 + 157	= 133 + 240
	MT, with heading and וַיֹּאמֶר, v.1-51			<u>397</u>	= 228 + 169	
	Emended text, v.1-51			394	= 228 + 166	

* There are several textcritical problems, which make it difficult to make definitive decisions about the issues at this stage of my research. At the outset we should be careful not to use the text of 2 Samuel 22 to 'restore' Psalm 18. The two texts must be studied with due respect for the two traditions they represent. The safest way is to be conservative in regards textual criticism, albeit that there are exceptions. In my view, the three words **בְּרֵד וְנִחְלִי־אֵשׁ**, 'amid hail and glowing coals' of MT in v. 14c – lacking in many manuscripts, in the LXX, and in 2 Sam. 22:14 - should be regarded as a writing error and left out of consideration. This 'extra' colon in v. 14 is not only a repetition of v. 13b, but it also disturbs the regular pattern of bicolon verselines in the whole section of vs. 10-30.

For the same reason, the *lectio difficilior* in v. 13a must be retained: the words **עָבְרוּ עָבְרוּ** should not be read as one word, **בְּעָרוּ**, as was often proposed in light of 2 Sam. 22:13 (see *BHS*).

The word count of MT (normal black) and the emended text (green) are both shown in the chart. The introductory formula **וַיֹּאמֶר** in vs. 2a, which is really part of the heading, is also left out of consideration, except in the total word count.

Observations

1. The entire text of the psalm, including the heading, has **51** (3 x **17**) Masoretic verses, of which the arithmetic centre is the word **לִי**, 'me' (vs. 25a): $397 = 198 + 1 + 198$.

The Masoretic text of the poem (v. 14c included), *excluding* the heading and **וַיֹּאמֶר**, is made up of 376 words, divided into **52** (2 x **26**) verselines 112 cola.

The arithmetic centre of these 376 words is **v. 26b**: $376 = 186 + 4 + 186$, which may have been designed as the poem's meaningful centre:

עַם־נֹבֵר תִּמְיָם תִּתְּמָם, 'with the blameless you show yourself blameless'.

However, in terms of the 112 cola of the poem, the two central cola, also situated in **v. 26b** ($112 = 55 + 2 + 55$), constitute an even more meaningful centre:

עַם־חֹסֵד תִּתְּחַסֵּד ^ עַם־נֹבֵר תִּמְיָם תִּתְּמָם

'With the loyal you show yourself loyal, with the blameless you show yourself blameless'.

Let us now consider the **emended text**: the arithmetic centre of its **373** words is the single word **תִּתְּמָם**: $373 = 186 + 1 + 186$. Since this cannot be regarded as a meaningful centre, such a centre may be found in terms of the **111** cola ($55 + 1 + 55$): **v. 26b**, which happens to coincide with the 4-word arithmetic centre of the MT text.

In terms of the **52** verselines the two middle verselines of both MT and the emended text are constituted by vs. 25-26 (**52** = 25 + **2** + 25 verselines), which are also meaningful.

The conclusion to be drawn from the evidence is that it can hardly be considered a decisive factor in deciding for or against an emendation.

The evidence is not decisive, but seems to suggest that the emended text should be preferred, as is shown by the following list of the relevant occurrences:

vs. 14-16 MT text	26 = 17a + 9b
vs. 14-16 emended	23 = 17a + 6b
vs. 4-16 MT text	107 = 64a + 43b = 5c + 102d
vs. 4-16 emended	104 = 64a + 40b = 5c + 99d
vs. 2a-16 MT text	122 = 75a + 47b = 20c + 102d
vs. 2b-16 emended	119 = 75a + 44b = 20c + 99d.
vs. 4-30 MT text	204 = 112 + 89
vs. 4-30 emended	201 = 112 + 86
vs. 4-51 MT text	361 = 205 + 156
vs. 4-51 emended	358 = 205 + 153 .

However, the scales may turn in favour of the emended text, if the significant number of **104** (4 x **26**) words in vs. 4-16, Canto II, and **119** (7 x **17**) in vs. 2b-16, Cantos I-II, were consciously designed. The fact that the latter passage (Cantos I-II, with in total **17** verselines) is concluded by the abrupt change to 2nd person form in vs. 16c, strongly suggests that it was designed as a literary unity.

2. This brings us to the canto- and strophic structure of the text, which is, in my opinion, to a great extent determined by the direction of address: words directly addressed to God (Column c) and words spoken about him (Column d). Therefore, the ensuing caesurae should be taken into account when we try to identify the framework of the text: between vs. 3||4, 25||26, 30||31, 35||36, 46-47, and 50||51. I propose the following structure:

Canto I (2-3)	Prayer: affirmation of trust in YHWH
Canticle II.1 (4-9)	Contemplation: praise for deliverance from enemies
Canticle II.2 (10-16)	Contemplation: YHWH displayed his power in nature
Canticle III.1 (17-20)	Contemplation: reaching from on high, he delivered me
Canticle III.2 (21-25)	Contemplation: he treated me according to my righteousness
Canticle III.3 (26-30)	Prayer: YHWH, you reward the just with your loyalty
Canticle IV.1 (31-35)	Contemplation: God is my help in times of war
Canticle IV.2 (36-43)	Prayer: you have helped me to slay my enemies
Canticle IV.3 (44-46)	Prayer: you delivered me from strife among the nations
Canto V (47-51)	Contemplation: I praise YHWH for his steadfast love.

Apart from determining the overall structure, the change in the direction of address also serves as a rhetorical device marking the end of a canto or canticle. This is the case in Canticle II.2 (vs. 10-16), where **v. 16c-d** is phrased as addressed to God, and in Canticle IV.2 (vs. 36-43), which is concluded by words spoken about God (vs. 42-43), and finally, in Canto V (vs. 47-51), where **vs. 49b-50** is phrased as a prayer. V. 51, however, is phrased as spoken *about* God, which shows that it functions as a coda. For the coda, see the [General Introduction](#), “The use of a coda as a device for conclusion”.

3. In addition to the **52** (2 x **26**) verselines and the **51** (3 x **17**) Masoretic verses, the divine name numbers occur in the following instances (of which some may be coincidence):

vs. 4-9	51 (3 x 17) words in total
vs. 14-16	26 words in total, with 17 before atnach
vs. 4-16	102 (6 x 17) words spoken about God
vs. 4-16 (emended)	104 (4 x 26) words in total
vs. 2b-16 (emended)	119 (7 x 17) words in total
vs. 17-20	26 words in total
vs. 21-25	17 words after atnach
vs. 2b-25	104 (4 x 26) words before atnach (MT and emended text)
vs. 26-30	17 words after atnach
vs. 4-30	204 (12 x 17) words in total
vs. 29-31	26 words in total
vs. 17-35	136 (8 x 17): 68 (4 x 17) before, and 68 (4 x 17) after atnach
vs. 36-40	34 (2 x 17) words in total
vs. 17-40	170 (10 x 17) words in total
vs. 38-41	26 words in total
vs. 36-41	17 words after atnach
vs. 38-43	26 words addressed to God

vs. 36-46 **78** (3 x **26**) words in total, with **34** (2 x **17**) after atnach
 vs. 17-46 **102** (6 x **17**) words after atnach
 vs. 50-51 **17** words in total
 vs. 49-51 **26** words in total
 vs. 4-51 **156** (6 x **26**) words after atnach
 vs. 4-51 (emended) **153** (9 x **17**) words after atnach.

In vs. 3 we find the first occurrence of the **26** instances of the word **צִוֵּר**, ‘rock’, in the Book of Psalms: 18:3; 18:32; 18:47; 19:15; 27:5; 28:1; 31:3; 49:15 (Qere); 61:3; 62:3; 62:7; 62:8; 71:3; 73:26; 78:15; 78:20; 78:35; 81:17; 89:27; 89:44; 92:16; 94:22; 95:1; 105:41; 114:8; 144:1.¹

The **17th** instance occurs in **Ps. 78:35**, the middle verseline and meaningful centre of the psalm. Moreover, the middle instance of the **7** occurrences of the divine title Elyon in the Asaphite Psalms also falls exactly in Ps. 78:35. See my analysis of Psalm 78.

The **26** instances of **צִוֵּר**, ‘rock’, in the Psalter is strongly reminiscent of the **26** occurrences of the word **אַשְׁרֵי**, ‘happy’. See my analysis of Psalm 1, Observation 3.

4. The name YHWH occurs 19 times: 16 instances in the poem and 3 in the heading. In 2 Samuel 22 there are 18 occurrences: 16 in the poem and 2 in the heading. In v. 14b we find the important key-word Elyon, ‘Most High’, which functions as a device for inclusion together with the only other instance within this sub-group, in 9:3b.
5. In order to study the differences between the two parallel texts, please consult the logotechnical analysis of [2 Samuel 22](#).

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