

Psalm 30— 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 feature of Psalm 30

- Psalm 30 and Psalm 31 form a bridge between the two well-defined coherent sub-groups of eleven psalms: Psalms 19-29 and 32-41.
- Syntax has been employed to achieve 21 words in the subordinate clauses (Column d). As in Psalm 31, the number of fullness, 7, plays an important structuring role. Compare Observation 2. The change in the direction of address (16 words in vs. 5-6 spoken about God) marks the boundaries between Strophes 1 and 2 and between Cantos I and II. The divine name number 17 defines the number of words in Strophes 4 and 5.
- The relatively low frequency of occurrences of the divine name numbers is compensated by no less than 9 instances of the name YHWH. The middle instance of the divine name is positioned in v. 8a as a highlighting device, precisely at the beginning of the meaningful centre on colon level.

Strophic structure - Canto/Stanza boundary: ||

- Van der Lugt: 2-4, 5-6 || 7-9, 10-11 || 12-13 (3 cantos with 5 strophes, 12 verselines and 24 cola, taking the 12 bicolic verselines as coinciding with the Masoretic verses).
- Fokkelman: 2-4, 5-6 || 7-8a, 8b-9, 10-11 || 12-13 (3 stanzas with 6 strophes, 15 verselines and 33 cola, taking vs. 6, 8, and 10 as having two bicolon verselines each, and regarding vs. 2, 12, and 13 as *tricola*).
- Labuschagne: as Van der Lugt, I find 27 cola, taking v. 2 as a tricolon on syntactical grounds, and vs. 10 and 12 as *tricola* on account of the positioning of the *atnachs*.
- For an overview of other divisions of the text, see Van der Lugt, CAS, Psalm 30, § 6.

Logotechnical analysis

- Columns a and b show the number of words before and after the *atnach*.
- Column c: words in the main clauses; d: words in the subordinate clauses.

		Total	a	b	c	d
1	Heading מְזוֹמֵר שִׁיר־הַנְּכֹחַת הַבַּיִת לְדָוִד:	5	5			
2	אֲרוֹמְמֶךָ אֱלֹהִים ¹ כִּי דָלִיתָנִי וְלֹא־שִׁמַּחְתָּ אִיבֵי לִי:	2 2 4	2 2		2	
	Total, v. 2	8	= 4 +	4 =	2 +	6
3	אֱלֹהִים ² שׁוֹעֲתִי אֵלֶיךָ וַתִּרְפָּאנִי:	2 3	2		2	
	Total, v. 3	5	= 2 +	3 =	5 +	0
4	אֱלֹהִים ³ תַּיִתָּנִי מִיַּרְדֵּי־בוֹר: Total, v. 4	5 3 8	5		5	
	Total, v. 3-4	13	= 5 +	3 =	8 +	0
		13	= 7 +	6 =	13 +	0

	Strophe 1	Total, v. 2-4	21	=	11	+	10	=	15	+	6	
5		זָמְרוּ לַיהוָה חֲסִידָיו	4	3	3		3					
		וְהוֹדוּ לְזִכָּר קְדוּשׁוֹ:		3			3		3			
	Words spoken about God	Total, v. 5		6	=	3	+	3	=	6	+	0
6		כִּי רָגַע בְּאָפּוֹ חַיִּים בְּרִצּוֹנוֹ	5	5			5				5	
		בְּעָרֵב יָלִין בְּכִי וּלְפָקֵד רָגָה:		5			5				5	
		Total, v. 6		10	=	10	+	0	=	0	+	10
	Strophe 2	Total, v. 5-6		16	=	13	+	3	=	6	+	10
	Canto I	Total, v. 2-6		37	=	24	+	13	=	21	+	16
7		וְאָנִי אֲמַרְתִּי בְּשִׁלּוּי	6	3	3		3					
		בְּל־אֲמוּט לְעוֹלָם:		3			3		3			
		Total, v. 7		6	=	3	+	3	=	6	+	0
		Total, v. 5-7		22	=	16	+	6	=	12	+	10
8	Pivot	בְּרִצּוֹנֶךָ הַעֲמַדְתָּהּ לְהַרְרֵי עוֹן	7	5	5		5					
		הַסִּתְרָתְךָ פָּנִיךָ הָיִיתִי נִבְהַל:		4	4		4					
		Mid. colon: 13+1+13		9	=	9	+	0	=	9	+	0
		Middle 4 words: 92 = 44 + 4 + 44		15	=	12	+	3	=	15	+	0
		Middle 2 verselines: 12 = 5+2+5		52	=	36	+	16	=	36	+	16
		Total, v. 2-8		3	3		3					
9		אֱלֹהֶיךָ יְהוָה אֶקְרָא	8	3	3		3					
		וְאֶל־אֲדֹנָי אֶתְחַנֵּן:		3			3		3			
		Total, v. 9		6	=	3	+	3	=	6	+	0
	Strophe 3	Total, v. 7-9		21	=	15	+	6	=	21	+	0
10		מִהַ־בְּצַע בְּדָמַי בְּרַדְתִּי אֶל־שָׁחַת	9	6	6		6					
		הַיּוֹדֵךְ עֲפָרָה		2	2		2					
		הַנִּגִּיד אֶמְתִּיךָ:		2			2		2			
		Total, v. 10		10	=	8	+	2	=	10	+	0
11		שָׁמַע־יְהוָה וַחֲנִנִי	10	3	3		3					
		הֵיחֵד עֵזֶר לִי:		4			4		4			
		Total, v. 11		7	=	3	+	4	=	7	+	0
	Strophe 4	Total, v. 10-11		17	=	11	+	6	=	17	+	0
	Canto II	Total, v. 7-11		38	=	26	+	12	=	38	+	0
12		הַפִּכְתָּ מִסִּפְדֵי לְמַחּוּל לִי	11	4	4		4					
		פִּתַחְתָּ שִׁקְיָה		2	2		2					
		וְהִאֲזַנְתִּי שְׁמִחָה:		2			2		2			
		Total, v. 12		8	=	6	+	2	=	8	+	0
13		לְמַעַן יִזְמְרֶךָ כְּבוֹד וְלֹא יִדְמֶה	12	5	5						5	
		לְיְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי לְעוֹלָם אֲזַרְךָ:		4			4		4			
		Total, v. 13		9	=	5	+	4	=	4	+	5
	Canto III	Strophe 5		17	=	11	+	6	=	12	+	5
		Total, v. 8-13		49	=	34	+	15	=	44	+	5
		Total, v. 2-13		92	=	61	+	31	=	71	+	21
		With the heading, v. 1-13		97	=	66	+	31				

Observations

1. The arithmetic centre of the poem is constituted by the 4 words in v. 8a (44 + 4 + 44), but the meaningful centre is the entire 5-word middle colon (27 = 13 + 1 + 13).

יְהוָה בְּרִצּוֹנְךָ הִעֲמַדְתָּהּ לְהַרְרֵי עוֹ

YHWH, by your favour you have established me as a strong mountain.

The meaningful centre is significantly highlighted by the middle instance of the 9 occurrences of the name YHWH at the beginning of the colon.

In terms of the 12 verselines, vs. 7-8 may be considered the larger meaningful centre constituted by the 2 middle verselines (12 = 5 + 2 + 5):

7 As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be shaken".

8 YHWH, by your favour you have established me as a strong mountain.

When you hid your face, I was dismayed.

It is positioned precisely at the point where the direction of address changes. See the General Introduction, "Special devices to highlight the meaningful centre".

2. The change in the direction of address also marks the boundary between Canto I (vs. 2-6) and Canto II (vs. 7-11), while the number of fullness and the divine name number 17 determine the strophic structure:

Strophe 1 vs. 2-4 addressed to God **21** words

Strophe 2 vs. 5-6 spoken about God **16** words

Strophe 3 vs. 7-9 addressed to God **21** words

Strophe 4 vs. 10-11 addressed to God **17** words

Strophe 5 vs. 12-13 addressed to God **17** words.

Thus there are **76** words addressed to God and **16** spoken about him, but none of these numbers seems to be of any special significance.

3. The compositional structure of the poem based on syntax (71c + 21d), i.e., words in the main clauses (Column c) and subordinate clauses (Column d), suggests that the **21** (3 x 7) words were deliberately devised to achieve a multiple of the number of fullness. Compare the use of the number of fullness in Psalm 31. See Observation 4 in my Analysis of [Psalm 31](#).

4. There are relatively few occurrences of the two divine name numbers in the poem:

vs. 2-8 **52** (2 x 26) words in total

vs. 10-11 **17** words in total

vs. 12-13 **17** words in total

vs. 7-11 **26** words before atnach

vs. 8-13 **34** (2 x 17) words before atnach.

5. As in Psalms 27, 29, and 31-35, the name יהוה occurs relatively frequently: 9 times (2a, 3a, 4a, 5a, **8a**, 9a, 11a, 11b and 13b), with **8a** in the middle colon. The word אֱלֹהֵי, 'my God', occurs in v. 3a and 13b. The designation אֲדֹנָי, 'my Lord', appears as a substitute for the name in v. 9b. This brings the number of occurrences of the divine name in Psalms 29-35 up to **78** (3 x 26). See the Introduction to Book I, Table I.

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