Psalm 60— Logotechnical Analysis

Guidelines

- Please read the <u>General Introduction</u> as well as the Introduction to <u>Book I</u> and <u>Book II</u>.
- For common features found in the numerical analysis charts, see the "Key to the charts".

Specific features of Psalm 60

- While Psalm 59 has 34 (2 x 17) words addressed to God (Column d), Psalm 60 and Psalm 108 have 34 words spoken *about* God (Column d).
- The number of words in the poem, 88, may have been determined by the numerical value of two names in the meaningful centre, גְלְשֶׁר, Gilead (3+12+16+4=35), and מְנַשֶׁר, Manasseh (13+14+21+5=53), together 88. See Observation 1.

Strophic structure - Canto/Stanza boundary: ||

- Van der Lugt and Labuschagne: 3-5, 6-7 || 8-10, 11-12 || 13-14 (3 cantos with 5 strophes, 12 verselines and 27 cola).
- Fokkelman: 3-5, 6-7 || 8-9, 10-11 || 12-14 (3 stanzas, 5 strophes, 12 verselines, 27 cola).

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.

		Tota	I	а	b	С		d
1:'	לַמְנַצֵּחַ עַל־שׁוּשֵׁן עֵדוּת^ מִכְתָם לְדָוִד לְלַמֵּד	-	7 =	4	+ 3			
2	בְּהַצּוֹתוֹ אֶת אֶרֵם נַהֲרַיִם	4	4	4				
	וְאֶת־אֲרַם צוֹבָה וַיֶּשֶׁב יוֹאָב	į	5	5				
	וַיַּך אֶת־אֶדוֹם בְּגֵיא־מֶלַח^ שְׁנֵים עָשָׂר אָלֶף:	<u>8</u>	3 =	5	+ 3			
	Total , v. 2	<u>1</u> 7			+ 3 + 6			
	Heading, v. 1-2	24	4 =	18	+ 6			
3	אָלהִים זְנַחְתָּנוּ פְּרַצְתָּנוּ^	1 :	3	3		3		
	אָנַפְתָ תְּשׁוֹבֵב לָנוּ:	2	<u>3</u> 5 =		3	3		
	Total, v. 3			3	+ 3	= 6	+	0
4	הִרְעַשְׁתָּה אֶרֶץ פְּצַמְתָּהּ^		3	3		3		
	רְפָה שְׁבָרֶיהָ כִי־מָטָה:		4		4	4		
_	Total, v. 4		7 =	3	+ 4	= 7	+	0
5	הִרְאִיתָה עַמָּד קַשָּׁה^		3	3	_	3		
	הַשְׁקִיתְנוּ יֵין תַּרְעֵלָה:	-	<u>3</u> 5 =		3	3		
	Total, v. 5			<u>3</u> 9	+ 3	= 6	+++	0 0
	Strophe 1 Total, v. 3-5	19			+ 10	= 19	+	0
6	נִתַתָּה לִירַאֶּידָ גַּס לְהָתְנוֹסֵס^		4	4		4		
	מִפְּנֵי קֹשֶׁטַ סֶלָה:		2		2	2		_
 *	Total, v. 6		6 =	4	+ 2	= 6	+	0
7 <mark>*</mark>	לְמַעַן יִחָלְצוּן יְדִידֶידְיָהַ∧ ביייייייייייייייייייייה		3	3	•	3		
	הוֹשִׁישָׁה יְמִינְדְ <mark>וַאֲנֵנוּ</mark> : דייי ארדיד		3	0	3	3		
	Total, v. 7 Strophe 2 Total, v. 6-7	<u>(</u> 12		<u>3</u> 7	+ 3 + 5	<u>= 6</u> = 12	+++	0 0
	Canto I Total, v. 3-7	3		16	+ 15	= 31	+	0

0			_	•	•			•
8		STERNER VER	6	3	3			3
	<u>مُ</u> ڭرىر	אָּעְלזָה אֲחַלְקָה ל		3	3			3
	: ¬	וְעֵמֶק סֻכּוֹת אֲמַדֵ		<u>3</u>		3		3
		Total, v. 8		<u>9</u>	= 6	+ 3	= 0	+ 9
		Total, v. 3-8a		34	= 19	+ 15	= 31	+ 3
9 Middle colon: 1	3+1+13	לי גּלְשָׁר וְלִי מְנַשִׁ	7	4	4			4
Meaningful cer	itre ^ישי	וְאֶפְרַיִם מַעוֹז רא		3	3			3
בלער = 35 (3+1)		יהוּדָה מְחֹקְקִי:		2		2		2
= 53 (13+	14+21+5)	Total, v. 9		9	= 7	+ 2	= 0	+ 9
10	,	מוֹאָב סִיר רַחָצִי	8	3	3			3
-	ר נעלי∧	עַל-אָרוֹם אַשָּׁלִיף		4	4			4
	•	עלי פּלשת התרי		3		3		3
	÷	Total, v. 10		10	= 7	+ 3	= 0	+ 10
	The divine s	peech, v. 8b-10		25	= 17	+ 8	= 0	= 25
	Strophe 3	•		28	= 20	+ 8	= 0	+ 28
		Total, v. 7-10		34	= 23	+ 11	= 6	+ 28
11	/	מִי יֹבְלָנִי אִיר מַצ	9	4	4		4	
*		מִי <mark>יִנְחֵנִי</mark> עַר־אֶרוֹ		4		4	4	
		Total, v. 11		8	= 4	+ 4	= 8	+ 0
12	זַנַהַתַּנוּ^	הַלאֹ־אַתָּה <mark>אֵלֹהָיו</mark>	10	4	4		4	
	• • •	ַּוֹלא־תֵצֵא <mark>אֱלהִיב</mark>		4		4	4	
		Total, v. 12		8	= 4	+ 4	= 8	+ 0
	Strophe 4	•		<u>16</u>	= 8	+ 8	= 16	+ 0
		Total, v. 10-12		26	= 15	+ 11	= 16	+ 10
	Canto II	Total, v. 8-12		44	= 28	+ 16	= 16	+ 28
		Total, v. 3-12		75	= 44	+ 31	= 47	+ 28
13	אצר^	הָבָה־לְנוּ שֶׁזְרָת נ	11	4	4		4	
	-	וְשָׁוְא הְשׁוּעַת אָדָו		3		3	3	
		Total, v. 13:		7	= 4	+ 3	= 7	+ 0
		Total, v. 8-13:		<u>,</u> 51	= 32	+ 19	= 23	+ 28
14 Coda	זילא	,	12	3	3		20	3
i oodd					Ũ	2		
	•	וְהוּא יָבוּס צָרֵינוּ		<u>3</u>	0	3		3
Centel	II. Stropha C	Total, v. 14:		<u>6</u>	= 3	+ 3	= 0	+ 6
Canto I	Stropne 5	Total, v. 13-14:		<u>13</u>			= 7	
	\ \/; th that h	Total, v. 3-14:			= 51	+ 37	= 54	+ 34
		eading, v. 1-14:				+ 43		
	With 🗖	ָסֶכְ (1x), v. 1-14:		113	= 69	+ 44		
<mark>*</mark> In v. 7, I follow the	Masoretic Ket	ib reading ןענני, 'ar	nd ar	nswer	us', inst	ead of th	ne Qere	reading

<mark>י אָנְג</mark>ָנוּ In v. 7, I follow the Masoretic Ketib reading <u>וְשָׁנ</u>ְנוּ, 'and answer us', instead of the Qere reading <u>יְשָׁנ</u>ְנִי, 'and answer me', as in Ps. 108:7.

* In v. 11b the MT reading נְהַנִי 'who led me', should be corrected (haplography of the yodh – compare LXX) to read 'יְנְהֵנִי 'who will lead me'.

Observations

In terms of the 88 words of the poem, מְנַשֶׁה וְאָפְרַיִם, 'Menasseh and Ephraim', in v. 9 constitute the arithmetic centre: 88 = 43 + 2 + 43. However, this can hardly be regarded as a meaningful centre. A better candidate is to be found in the middle colon, v. 9a (27 = 13 + 1 + 13), although its meaningfulness eludes us:

לִי גִּלְעָד וְלִי מְנַשֶּׁה

Gilead is mine and Manasseh is mine.

What is significant, however, is that the middle colon is enveloped by **26** cola (13+13), which may have been so designed to highlight the meaningful centre.

The fact that the total number of words in the poem, 88, were determined by the numerical value of the names Gilead and Manasseh: גְּלְשָׁד, 3 + 12 + 16 + 4 = 35, and 3 + 13 + 14 + 21 + 5 = 53, together 88, shows that, for some reason, the two names were considered to be of paramount importance.

2. Taking vs. 8-12, Canto II, as the central core of the poem, it is interesting to find the following pattern: the **44**-word Canto II is surrounded by 44 words:

vs. 3-7	31 words
vs. 8-12	44 words + 44 = 88
vs. 13-14	13 words

- It is worth noting that the 28 words spoken *about* God (Column d) including the divine speech cited (vs. 8b-10) and the 6 words in the coda (v. 14) bring the total number of words spoken *about* God up to 34 (2 x 17), exactly as in Psalm 59 and in the (partly parallel) Psalm 108. See Observation 3 in my Analysis of Psalm 59, and Observation 3 in my Analysis of Psalm 108 (of which 108:7-14 corresponds to Ps. 60:7-14).
- 4. At the end of the psalm, v. 14 stands out by the sudden change in the direction of address, which means that the concluding verseline is a coda, precisely as in Psalms 54, 56, 59, 62 and 108.
- 5. The divine name numbers appear in the following instances:

vs. 3-8a	34 (2 x 17) words preceding the divine speech
vs. 7-10	34 (2 x 17) words in total
vs. 8b-10	17 words before atnach in the divine speech
vs. 10-12	26 words in total (15 a + 11 b)
vs. 8-13	51 (3 x 17) words in total
vs. 3-14	51 (3 x 17) words before atnach, depending on the placement of the atnach in v. 6a (see <i>BHS</i>).

The name YHWH does not occur in the psalm; אֱלֹהִים, 'God', appears 5 times (3a, 8a, 12a, 12b, 14a).

© 2008 Dr. C.J. Labuschagne Brinkhorst 44 9751 AT Haren (Gron) The Netherlands Iabuschagne.cj@planet.nl