

Psalm 60— Logotechnical Analysis

Guidelines

- Please read the [General Introduction](#) as well as the Introduction to [Book I](#) and [Book II](#).
- 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, גִּלְעָד, Gilead (3+12+16+4=35), and מְנַשֶּׁה, 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**.

		Total	a	b	c	d
1	לְמַנְצַחַת עַל־שׁוֹשַׁן עֲדוּתָא מִכְתָּם לְדָוִד לְלַמֵּד:	7	= 4	+ 3		
2	בְּהַצּוֹתוֹ אֶת אֶרֶם נְהַרִים	4	4			
	וְאֶת־אֶרֶם צוֹכָה וַיֵּשֶׁב יוֹאָב	5	5			
	וַיִּדְ אֶת־אֲרוֹם בְּנִיא־מְלֶחָא שְׁנַיִם עָשָׂר אָלָף:	8	= 5	+ 3		
	Total, v. 2	17	= 14	+ 3		
	Heading, v. 1-2	24	= 18	+ 6		
3	אֱלֹהִים זִנְחַתְנוּ פִּרְצַתְנוּ	3	3		3	
	אֲנַפְתָּ הַשּׁוֹכֵב לָנוּ:	3		3	3	
	Total, v. 3	6	= 3	+ 3	= 6	+ 0
4	הִרְעַשְׂתָּה אֶרֶץ פְּצַמְתָּהָ	3	3		3	
	רָפָה שְׁבָרֶיהָ כִּי־מָטָה:	4		4	4	
	Total, v. 4	7	= 3	+ 4	= 7	+ 0
5	הִרְאִיתָה עַמּוּד קִשְׁתָּה	3	3		3	
	הַשְּׁקִיתָנוּ יַיִן תִּרְעַלָּה:	3		3	3	
	Total, v. 5	6	= 3	+ 3	= 6	+ 0
	Strophe 1 Total, v. 3-5	19	= 9	+ 10	= 19	+ 0
6	נִתְתָּה לִירְאִיךָ נִס לְהַתְנוֹסֵס	4	4		4	
	מִפְּנֵי קִשְׁט סָלָה:	2		2	2	
	Total, v. 6	6	= 4	+ 2	= 6	+ 0
7*	לְמַעַן יִחַלְצֵנוּ יְדִידֶיךָ	3	3		3	
	הוֹשִׁיעָה יְמִינְךָ וַעֲנֵנוּ:	3		3	3	
	Total, v. 7	6	= 3	+ 3	= 6	+ 0
	Strophe 2 Total, v. 6-7	12	= 7	+ 5	= 12	+ 0
	Canto I Total, v. 3-7	31	= 16	+ 15	= 31	+ 0

Observations

1. In terms of the 88 words of the poem, **מְנַשֶּׁה וְאֶפְרַיִם**, '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 גִלְעָד 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: **גִלְעָד**, $3 + 12 + 16 + 4 = 35$, and **מְנַשֶּׁה**, $13 + 14 + 21 + 5 = 53$, 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	}	+	44	=	88
vs. 8-12	44 words					
vs. 13-14	13 words					

3. 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** (2×17), 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 (2×17) words preceding the divine speech
vs. 7-10	34 (2×17) words in total
vs. 8b-10	17 words before atnach in the divine speech
vs. 10-12	26 words in total (15a + 11b)
vs. 8-13	51 (3×17) words in total
vs. 3-14	51 (3×17) words before atnach, depending on the placement of the atnach in v. 6a (see <i>BHS</i>).
6. The name YHWH does not occur in the psalm; **אֱלֹהִים**, 'God', appears 5 times (3a, 8a, 12a, 12b, 14a).

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