

# 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, 26-30 || 31-35, 36-39, 40-43, 44-46 || 47-49, 50-51 (5 cantos, 14 strophes, with **52** verselines and 111 cola), with due regard for the sudden switches in the way God is referred to: vs. 3||4, 25||26, 30||31, 35||36, and 46||47. The transition from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> person in v. 49 functions as a device for drawing special attention to what is said in v. 49b, as in Ps. 23,4.
- 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 spoken *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 אֹתוֹ	4		4		
	מִכַּף כָּל־אִיָּבוֹ וּמִיַּד שָׂאוּל:	5		5		
2a	וַיֹּאמֶר 2a, despite the lack of an <i>atnach</i> after	1	= 1	+ 0		
	Heading and introduction, v. 1-2a	21	= 12	+ 9		
2b	אֶרְחַמֶּךָ יְהוָה חֲזָקִי: 1	3	3		3	
3	יְהוָה סִלְעִי וּמְצוּדָתִי וּמִפְלְטִי	4	4		4	
	אֱלֹהֵי צוּרֵי אַחֲסֵה־בִּוֵי 2	4	4		4	
	מִגִּנִּי וּקְרִן־יִשְׁעֵי מִשְׁגָּבִי:	4		4	4	
	Total, v. 3	12	= 8	+ 4	= 12	+ 0
	<b>Canto 1 Strophe 1 Total, v. 2b-3</b>	<b>15</b>	= 11	+ 4	= 15	+ 0

4	מִהֲלֵל אֶקְרָא יְהוָה <sup>א</sup> וּמִן־אִבֵי אֲנִשֶׁע:	3	3	3	3
5	אֶפְפוּנֵי חֶבְלֵי־מָוֶת <sup>א</sup> וְנַחֲלֵי בְלִיעַל יִבְעֶתוּנִי:	4	3	3	3
6	חֶבְלֵי שְׂאוֹל סִבְבוּנִי <sup>א</sup> קִדְמוּנֵי מוֹקְשֵׁי מָוֶת:	5	3	3	3
	Strophe 2	Total, v. 4-6 v. 2b-6	<u>18 = 9 + 9 = 0 + 18</u> <u>33 = 20 + 13 = 15 + 18</u>		
7	בַצַּר־לִי אֶקְרָא יְהוָה <sup>א</sup> וְאֶל־אֱלֹהֵי אֲשֻׁעַ יִשְׁמַע מִהִיכְלוֹ קוֹלִי <sup>א</sup> וְשׁוֹעֲתֵי לִפְנֵי הַבּוֹא בְּאָזְנוֹי:	6	4	4	4
		Total, v. 7: Total, v. 4-7:	<u>14 = 10 + 4 = 0 + 14</u> <u>32 = 19 + 13 = 0 + 32</u>		
8	וַתִּגַּעַשׂ וַתִּרְעַשׂ הָאָרֶץ <sup>א</sup> וּמִסְדֵי הָרִים יִרְגְּזוּ <sup>א</sup> וַיִּתְנַעֲשׂוּ כִי־חָרָה לֹו:	8	3	3	3
		Total, v. 8	<u>10 = 6 + 4 = 0 + 10</u>		
9	עָלָה עֶשֶׂן בְּאֶפֶס <sup>א</sup> וְאִש־מִפִּי תֹאכֵל <sup>א</sup> גְּחָלִים בְּעֶרְוֵי מִמְנוֹ:	9	3	3	3
	Strophe 3	Total, v. 7-9	<u>9 = 6 + 3 = 0 + 9</u> <u>33 = 22 + 11 = 0 + 33</u>		
	Strophes 2-3	Total, v. 4-9	<u>51 = 31 + 20 = 0 + 51</u>		
10	וַיֵּט שָׁמַיִם וַיִּרְד־ <sup>א</sup> וַעֲרַפֵּל תַּחַת רַגְלָיו:	10	3	3	3
		Total, v. 10	<u>6 = 3 + 3 = 0 + 6</u>		
11	וַיִּרְפַּב עַל־כְּרוֹב וַיַּעֲרַף <sup>א</sup> וַיִּדָּא עַל־כְּנַפֵי־רוּחַ:	11	4	4	4
		Total, v. 11	<u>8 = 4 + 4 = 0 + 8</u>		
12	יֵשֶׁת חֹשֶׁךְ סִתְרוּ סִבִּיבוֹתָיו סִפְתוֹ <sup>א</sup> חֶשְׁכֶת מַיִם עֲבִי שְׁחָקִים:	12	5	5	5
		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*	מִנְגִּיחַ נִגְדוּ עֵבְיוֹ עֲבָרוֹ <sup>א</sup> בְּרַד וְנַחֲלֵי־אֵשׁ:	13	4	4	4
		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 <sup>א</sup> וַעֲלִיזוֹן יִתֵּן קוֹלוֹ בְּרַד וְנַחֲלֵי־אֵשׁ:	14	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	וַיִּשְׁלַח חֲצִיזוֹ וַיִּפְיֹצֵם <sup>^</sup>	15	3	3	3
	וַיְבָרְקֵם רַב וַיְהַמֵּם:		3		3
16	וַיֵּרְאוּ אֶפְיָקִי מִיָּם	16	3	3	3
	וַיִּגְלוּ מוֹסְדוֹת תְּבִיל		3	3	3
	Words addressed to God מְנַשְׁמַת רִוַח אֶפְדָּה <sup>^</sup>	17	2	2	2
	different in 2 Sam. 22:16 : אֶפְדָּה		3	3	3
	<b>Strophe 5</b> Total, v. 14-16		<b>26</b>	= 17 + 9	= 5 + 21
	<b>Strophe 5</b> Emended text, v. 14-16		<b>23</b>	= 17 + 6	= 5 + 18
	<b>Strophes 4-5</b> Total, v. 10-16		<b>56</b>	= 33 + 23	= 5 + 51
	<b>Canto II</b> Total, v. 4-16		<b>107</b>	= 64 + 43	= 5 + 102
	<b>Canticle II.2</b> Emended text, v. 10-16		<b>53</b>	= 33 + 20	= 5 + 48
	<b>Canto II</b> Emended text, v. 4-16		<b>104</b>	+ 64 + 40	= 5 + 99
	Total, v. 2b-16		<b>122</b>	= 75 + 47	= 20 + 102
	Emended text, v. 2b-16		<b>119</b>	= 75 + 44	= 20 + 99
17	יִשְׁלַח מִמְרוֹם יִקְחֵנִי <sup>^</sup>	18	3	3	3
	יִמְשְׁנֵי מַמִּים רַבִּים:		3		3
18	יִצִּילֵנִי מֵאִיְבֵי עֵז <sup>^</sup>	19	3	3	3
	וּמִשְׁנֵאֵי כִּי־אֶמְצֵוּ מִמְּנִי:		4		4
19	יִקְדְּמוּנִי בְיוֹם־אִי־דֵי <sup>^</sup>	20	3	3	3
	וַיְהִי־יְהִנֶּה לְמִשְׁעַן לִי:		4		4
20	וַיּוֹצִיאֵנִי לְמִרְחֹב <sup>^</sup>	21	2	2	2
	יִחַלְצֵנִי כִּי חִפְזָא בִּי:		4		4
	<b>Strophe 6</b> Total, v. 17-20		<b>26</b>	= 11 + 15	= 0 + 26
21	וַיְגַמְלֵנִי יְהִנֶּה כְּצַדִּיקִי <sup>^</sup>	22	3	3	3
	כְּבַר יְדֵי יִשִּׁיב לִי:		4		4
22	כִּי־שָׁמַרְתִּי דְרָכֵי יְהִנֶּה <sup>^</sup>	23	4	4	4
	וְלֹא־רָשַׁעְתִּי מֵאֲלֹהֵי:		3		3
23	כִּי כָל־מִשְׁפָּטָיו לִנְגְדֵי <sup>^</sup>	24	4	4	4
	וַחֲקִתָּיו לֹא־אָסִיר מְנִי:		4		4
24	וְאֵהִי תָמִים עִמּוֹ <sup>^</sup>	25	3	3	3
	וְאֲשַׁתְּמַר מֵעוֹנֵי:		2		2
25	וַיִּשְׁבֵּי־יְהִנֶּה לִּי כְּצַדִּיקִי <sup>^</sup>	26	4	4	4
	כְּבַר יְדֵי לִנְגַד עֵינָיו:		4		4
	<b>Strophe 7</b> Total, v. 21-25		<b>35</b>	= 18 + 17	= 0 + 35
	Emended text, v. 4-25		<b>165</b>	= 93 + 72	= 5 + 160
	Total, v. 2b-25		<b>183</b>	= 104 + 79	= 20 + 163
	Emended text, v. 2b-25		<b>180</b>	= 104 + 76	= 20 + 160
26	MT's 2 middle cola: עִם־חֶסֶד תִּתְחַסְּדָה <sup>^</sup>	27	3	3	3
	112 = 55 + 2 + 55 : עִם־נֶבֶר תָּמִים תִּתְמַם <sup>^</sup>		4		4
	Middle words: 376 = 186+4+186 Total, v. 26		7	= 3 + 4	= 7 + 0
27	Em. text: 373=186+1+186 עִם־נֶבֶר תִּתְבַּרְרָה <sup>^</sup>	28	3	3	3
	26b-27a 7 middle words: וְעִם־עֶקֶשׁ תִּתְפַּתֵּל:		3		3
	373=183+7+183 Total, v. 27		6	= 3 + 3	= 6 + 0

28	כִּי־אַתָּה עִם־עָנִי תוֹשִׁיעַ־ וְעֵינַיִם רָמוֹת תִּשְׁפִּיל׃	29	5	5		5	
			3		3	3	
29	כִּי־אַתָּה תֵּאֵיר גְּרִי־ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי וְגִיַת חֶשְׁבֵי׃	30	4	4		4	
			4		4	4	
30	כִּי־בָךְ אֶרְצֵן גְּדוּד־ וּבְאֱלֹהֵי אֲדַלְג־שׁוּר׃	31	4	4		4	
			3		3	3	
	<b>Strophe 8</b>	<b>Total, v. 26-30</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>= 19</b>	<b>+ 17</b>	<b>= 36</b>	<b>+ 0</b>
	<b>Canto III</b>	<b>Total, v. 17-30</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>= 48</b>	<b>+ 49</b>	<b>= 36</b>	<b>+ 61</b>
		Total, v. 4-30	<b>204</b>	<b>= 112</b>	<b>+ 92</b>	<b>= 41</b>	<b>+ 163</b>
		Emended text, v. 4-30	<b>201</b>	<b>= 112</b>	<b>+ 89</b>	<b>= 41</b>	<b>+ 160</b>
		Total, v. 2b-30	<b>219</b>	<b>= 123</b>	<b>+ 96</b>	<b>= 56</b>	<b>+ 163</b>
		Emended text, v. 2b-30	<b>216</b>	<b>= 129</b>	<b>+ 93</b>	<b>= 56</b>	<b>+ 160</b>
31	הָאֵל תָּמִים דְּרָכּוֹ אִמְרַת־יְהוָה צְרוּפָה־ מִגֵּן הוּא לְכֹל הַחַסִּים בּוֹ׃	32	3	3		3	
			3	3		3	
			5		5	5	
		Total, v. 29-31	<b>26</b>	<b>= 14</b>	<b>+ 12</b>	<b>= 15</b>	<b>+ 11</b>
32	כִּי מִי אֱלֹהִים מִבְּלַעֲדֵי יְהוָה־ וּמִי צוּר זֹולָתִי אֱלֹהֵינוּ׃	33	5	5		5	
			4		4	4	
33	הָאֵל הַמְּאֻזְרָנִי חֵיל־ וַיִּתֵּן תָּמִים דְּרָכָי׃	34	3	3		3	
			3		3	3	
34	מְשׁוּנָה רַגְלֵי כְּאֵילֹת־ וְעַל כַּמְתִּי יַעֲמִידֵנִי׃	35	3	3		3	
			3		3	3	
35	מְלַמֵּד יָדַי לְמַלְחָמָה־ וְנִחַתְתָּה קִשְׁת־נְחוּשָׁה זְרוּעֵתִי׃	36	3	3		3	
			4		4	4	
	<b>Strophe 9</b>	<b>Total, v. 31-35</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>= 20</b>	<b>+ 19</b>	<b>= 0</b>	<b>+ 39</b>
		Total, 17-35	<b>136</b>	<b>= 68</b>	<b>+ 68</b>	<b>= 36</b>	<b>+ 100</b>
36	וַתִּתְּוֶלֶי מִגֵּן יִשְׁעָךְ וַיִּמְיֶנְךָ תִּסְעָרָנִי־ וַעֲנוּתְךָ תִּרְבֵּנִי׃	37	4	4		4	
			2	2		2	
			2		2	2	
37	תִּרְחִיב צַעְדֵי תַחְתֵּי־ וְלֹא מְעַדוּ קַרְסְלָי׃	38	3	3		3	
			3		3	3	
38	אֲרַדּוּף אוֹיְבֵי וְאֲשִׁיגֵם־ וְלֹא־אָשׁוּב עַד־כְּלוּתָם׃	39	3	3		3	
			4		4	4	
39	אֲמַחֲצֵם וְלֹא־יִכְלוּ קוּם־ יִפְלוּ תַחַת רַגְלָי׃	40	4	4		4	
			3		3	3	
	<b>Strophe 10</b>	<b>Total, v. 36-39</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>= 16</b>	<b>+ 12</b>	<b>= 28</b>	<b>+ 0</b>
40	וַתִּאֻזְרָנִי חֵיל לְמַלְחָמָה־ תִּכְרִיעַ קַמִּי תַחְתֵּי׃	41	3	3		3	
			3		3	3	
		Total, v. 36-40	<b>34</b>	<b>= 19</b>	<b>+ 15</b>	<b>= 34</b>	<b>+ 0</b>
		Total, v. 17-40	<b>170</b>	<b>= 87</b>	<b>+ 83</b>	<b>= 70</b>	<b>+ 100</b>

41		וְאִיבֵי נִתְתָּה לִי עֲרָפָא	42	4	4	4
		וּמִשְׁנֵאֵי אֲצִמִיתִם:		2	2	2
		Total, v. 38-41		<u>26</u>	= 14 + 12	= 26 + 0
		Total, v. 36-41		40	= 23 + 17	= 40 + 0
42		יִשְׁעוּ וְאִין־מוֹשִׁיעֵא	43	3	3	3
		עַל־יְהִנָּה וְלֹא עָנָם:		4	4	4
43		וְאֲשַׁחֲקֶם כְּעֶפֶר עַל־פְּנֵי־רוּחָא	44	5	5	5
		כְּטִיט חוּצוֹת אֲרִיקָם:		3	3	3
		Total, v.42-43		<u>15</u>	= 8 + 7	= 0 + 15
		Total, v. 17-43		191	= 99 + 92	= 76 + 115
	<b>Strophe 11</b>	<b>Total, v. 40-43</b>		<u>27</u>	= 15 + 12	= 12 + 15
	<b>Strophes 10-11</b>	<b>Total, v. 36-43</b>		<u>55</u>	= 31 + 24	= 40 + 15
44		תְּפִלְטֵנִי מְרִיבֵי עָם	45	3	3	3
		תְּשִׁימֵנִי לְרֹאשׁ גּוֹיִם		3	3	3
		עִם לֹא־יִדְעֵתִי יַעֲבֹדוּנִי:		4	4	4
45		לְשִׁמְעֵ 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
	<b>Strophe 12</b>	<b>Total, v. 44-46</b>		<u>23</u>	= 13 + 10	= 23 + 0
		Total, v. 36-46		<u>78</u>	= 44 + 34	= 63 + 15
	<b>Canto IV</b>	<b>Total, v. 32-46</b>		<u>106</u>	= 58 + 48	= 63 + 43
		Total, v. 17-46		214	= 112 + 102	= 99 + 115
47		חֵי־יְהִנָּה וּבְרוּךְ צוּרֵי	48	4	4	4
		וַיְרוּם אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:		3	3	3
48		הָאֵל הַנּוֹתֵן נֶקְמוֹת לִי	49	4	4	4
		וַיִּדְבֹּר עַמִּים תַּחֲתָי:		3	3	3
49		מִפְּלִטֵי מֵאִיבֵי	50	2	2	2
		אֶרֶץ מִן־קָמִי תִרְוּמֵמִנֵי		4	4	4
		מֵאִישׁ חָמָס תִּצְיֵלְנִי:		3	3	3
	<b>Strophe 13</b>	<b>Total, v. 47-49</b>		<u>23</u>	= 14 + 9	= 7 + 16
50		עַל־כֵּן אֹרְךָ בְּגוֹיִם יְהוָה	51	5	5	5
		וּלְשִׁמְךָ אֲזַמְרָה:		2	2	2
		Total, v. 4-50		<u>351</u>	= 195 + 156	= 118 + 233
		Emended text, v. 4-50		348	= 195 + 153	= 118 + 230
51	<b>Coda</b>	מְגִדִּיל יְשׁוּעוֹת מְלָכֹו	52	3	3	3
		וְעֹשֶׂה חֶסֶד לְמִשְׁיחוֹ		3	3	3
		לְדָוִד וּלְזֹרְעוֹ עַד־עוֹלָם:		4	4	4
	<b>Coda</b>	<b>Total, v. 51</b>		<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
	<b>Canto V</b>	<b>Total, v. 47-51</b>		<u>40</u>	= 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 וַיֵּאמֶר, v.1-51		<u>397</u>	= 228 + 169	
		Emended text, v.1-51		394	= 228 + 166	

\* There are several text-critical 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 וְנִחְלֵי־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 **עָבְרֵי עָבְרוּ** should not be read as one word, **בְּעָבְרוּ**, 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:

**עִם־נֹכַח 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. 26** ( $112 = 55 + 2 + 55$ ), constitute an even more meaningful centre:

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

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 2<sup>nd</sup> person form in vs. 16c, strongly suggests that it was designed as a literary unity.

This brings us to the strophic structure of the text, which is, in my opinion, to a great extent determined by the switch in the way God is referred to: in 2<sup>nd</sup> person (Column c) or in 3<sup>rd</sup> person (Column d). Therefore, such transitions should be taken into account when we try to determine the structure of the text: between vs. 3||4, 25||26, 30||31, 35||36, and 46-47. The transition in 49a||49b is an exception, for it clearly functions only as a device for drawing special attention, as in Ps. 23,4. Finally, v. 51 may be regarded as a coda. For the coda, see the [General Introduction](#), "The use of a coda as a device for conclusion".

In this respect it is significant that the main body of the Song between the Prelude and the Coda consists of **338** (13x**26**) words: **17** (Prelude) + **338** + **10** (Coda) = 382.

2. I propose the following canto and strophic structure:

Strophe 1 (2-3)	Spoken <i>to</i> God: affirmation of trust in YHWH as a refuge.
Strophe 2 (4-6)	Spoken <i>about</i> God: praise to YHWH for deliverance from enemies.
Strophe 3 (7-9)	Spoken <i>about</i> God: YHWH's anger was evident on the earth.
Strophe 4 (10-13)	Spoken <i>about</i> God: YHWH displayed his power in nature.
Strophe 5 (14-16)	Spoken <i>about</i> God: he thundered from heaven and shot arrows.
Strophe 6 (17-20)	Spoken <i>about</i> God: reaching from on high, YHWH delivered me.
Strophe 7 (21-25)	Spoken <i>about</i> God: he treated me according to my righteousness.
Strophe 8 (26-30)	Spoken <i>to</i> God: YHWH, you reward the just with your loyalty.
Strophe 9 (31-35)	Spoken <i>about</i> God: YHWH is my help in times of war.
Strophe 10 (36-39)	Spoken <i>to</i> God: your help made me prevail over my enemies.
Strophe 11 (40-43)	Spoken <i>to</i> God: you helped me to destroy my assailants.
Strophe 12 (44-46)	Spoken <i>to</i> God: you delivered me from strife among the nations.
Strophe 13 (47-49)	Spoken <i>about</i> God: I praise YHWH for his steadfast love.
Strophe 14 (50-51)	Spoken <i>to</i> God: for this I will extol you among the nations.

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

vs. 38-41	<b>26</b> words in total
vs. 36-41	<b>17</b> words after atnach
vs. 38-43	<b>26</b> words addressed to God
vs. 36-46	<b>78</b> (3 x <b>26</b> ) words in total, with <b>34</b> ( 2 x <b>17</b> ) after atnach
vs. 17-46	<b>102</b> (6 x <b>17</b> ) words after atnach
vs. 50-51	<b>17</b> words in total
vs. 49-51	<b>26</b> words in total
vs. 4-51	<b>156</b> (6 x <b>26</b> ) words after atnach
vs. 4-51 (emended)	<b>153</b> (9 x <b>17</b> ) words after atnach.

For more particulars, see page 17 in my logotechnical analysis of the book of [1 Samuel](#).

In vs. 3 we find the first occurrence of the **26** instances of the word **צִוּר**, ‘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.<sup>1</sup>

The **17<sup>th</sup>** 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 **צִוּר**, ‘rock’, in the Psalter is strongly reminiscent of the **26** instances of the word **אֲשֵׁרִי**, ‘happy’. See my analysis of [Psalm 1](#), Observation 3.

- 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.
- In order to study the differences between the two parallel texts, please consult the logotechnical analysis of [2 Samuel 22](#).

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