

# Psalm 89— Logotechnical Analysis

## Guidelines

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

## Specific features of Psalm 89

- Like its predecessor - an Ezrahite Maskil - Psalm 89, is the *grand finale* concluding the corpus of the 17 psalms in Book III. It is, for the most part, a prayer addressed to God, but it contains 4 short passages in which the writer speaks about God. They are v. 2a, vs. 7,8. v. 19 and v. 53 (the coda.) There are also two divine speeches (vs. 4-5 and 20c-38), and 4 *selahs*. All these features combine to give structure to the text.
- The Doxology concluding Book III was clearly not added as an appendix, but carefully integrated into the body of the psalm to constitute a coda.
- YHWH's promise to David, positioned in the heart of the psalm (vs. 20c-38), renders it into a messianic poem, in respect of form and content very reminiscent of [Psalm 132](#).
- Psalm 89 is the last psalm in Books I-III in which *selahs* are used. They are absent in Book IV and emerge only in Psalms 140 and 143.

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

- Van der Lugt: 2-3, 4-5 | 6-7, 8-9 || 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 | 16-17, 18-19 ||| 20, 21-22 | 23-24, 25-26 | 27-28, 29-30 || 31-32, 33-34 | 35-36, 37-38 ||| 39-40, 41-42 | 43-44, 45-46 || 47-49 | 50-52 (3 cantos with sub-sections, 25 strophes, 52 verselines and 105 cola).
- Fokkelman: 2-3, 4-5 ||| 6-8, 9-11 ||| 12-13, 14-15 ||| 16-17, 18-19 ||| 20-21, 22-24 ||| 25-26, 27-28 ||| 29-30, 31-33 ||| 34-36, 37-38 ||| 39-40, 41-42 ||| 43-44, 45-46 ||| 47-49, 50-52 (11 stanzas with 22 strophes, 52 verselines and 105 cola).
- Labuschagne: 2-3, 4-5 | 6-8 || 9-11, 12-15 | 16-17, 18-19 ||| 20, 21-22, 23-24 | 25-27, 28-30 || 31-33 | 34-35, 36-38 ||| 39-40, 41-42 | 43-44, 45-46 || 47-49 | 50-52 (3 cantos with sub-sections, 21 strophes, 52 verselines and 105 cola).

## Logotechnical analysis

- Columns **a** and **b** show the number of words before and after the atnach.
- Column **c**: words spoken by the first person speaker; **d**: words in the two oracles.
- The numbering of the verselines is shown in **brown**.

		Total	a	b	c	d
1	מְשָׁכִיל לְאֵיֶתֶן הָאֲזָרְחִי:	3	3			
	Spoken about God					
	חֲסִדֵי יְהוָה עוֹלָם אֲשִׁירָה	1	4	4	4	
2b	לְדֹר וָדֹר אֹדִיעַ אֲמוֹנֹתֶךָ בְּפִי:	5		5	5	
3	כִּי־אֲמַרְתִּי עוֹלָם חֶסֶד יִבְנֶהָ	2	5	5	5	
	שָׁמַיִם תִּכְנֶן אֲמוֹנֹתֶךָ בְּהֵם:	4		4	4	
	<b>Strophe 1</b> Total, v. 2-3	18	= 9	+ 9	= 18	+ 0
4	כְּרַתִּי בְרִית לְבַחֲיָרִי	3	3			3
	Divine Speech					
	וְשִׁבַּעְתִּי לְדָוִד עַבְדִּי:	3		3		3
5	עַד־עוֹלָם אֲכִין זִרְעֶךָ	4	4	4		4
	וּבְנִיתִי לְדָוִד וְדָוִד בְּסֶאֱף סֵלָה:	4		4		4
	<b>Strophe 2</b> Total, v. 4-5	14	= 7	+ 7	= 0	+ 14
	<b>Canticle I.1.1</b> Total, v. 2-5	32	= 16	+ 16	= 18	+ 14

6		וַיִּזְדְּרוּ שָׁמַיִם פִּלְאָהּ יִתְּנָהּ ^	5	4	4	4	
		אַחַד־אֲמוֹנֵתָהּ בְּקִהְלֵךְ קְדָשִׁים:		4	4	4	
7		כִּי מִי בִשְׁחַק יַעֲרֹךְ לִיהֲנָהּ ^	6	5	5	5	
		יִדְמָה לִיהֲנָהּ בְּכַנֵּי אֱלִים:		4	4	4	
		Vs. 7-8 spoken about God	Total, v. 6-7	<u>17</u>	= 9 + 8	= 17 + 0	
8		אַל נַעֲרֵץ בְּסוּד־קְדָשִׁים רַבָּהּ ^	7	5	5	5	
		וְנוֹרָא עַל־כָּל־סְבִיבָיו:		4	4	4	
		Total, vs. 7-8		<u>18</u>	= 10 + 8	= 18 + 0	
		<b>Canticle I.1.2 Strophe 3, v. 6-8</b>		<u>26</u>	= 14 + 12	= 26 + 0	
		<b>Sub-canto I.1 Total, v. 2-8</b>		<u>58</u>	= 30 + 28	= 44 + 14	
9	<b>Pivotal occurrence of the 9 instances</b>	יִתְּנָהּ אֱלֹהֵי צְבָאוֹת	8	3	3	3	
		מִי־כְמוֹתָהּ חֲסִין יְהֵא ^		4	4	4	
		וְאֲמוֹנֵתָהּ סְבִיבוֹתֶיךָ:		2	2	2	
10		אַתָּה מוֹשֵׁל בְּנְאוֹת תְּהִים ^	9	4	4	4	
		בְּשׂוֹא גִלְיוֹ אַתָּה תִּשְׁבַּחֵם:		4	4	4	
		Total, v. 9-10		<u>17</u>	= 11 + 6	= 17 + 0	
		Total, v. 8-10		<u>26</u>	= 16 + 10	= 26 + 0	
11		אַתָּה דַּבַּתָּ כְּחִלְלֵךְ רַחֲבָא	10	4	4	4	
		בְּזִרְעֵךְ עֲזָה פְּזִרְתָּ אוֹיְבֶיךָ:		4	4	4	
		Strophe 4	Total, v. 9-11	<u>25</u>	= 15 + 10	= 25 + 0	
		Total, v. 8-11		<u>34</u>	= 20 + 14	= 34 + 0	
		Total, v. 6-11		<u>51</u>	= 29 + 22	= 51 + 0	
12		לָךְ שָׁמַיִם אַחַד־לָךְ אֶרֶץ ^	11	5	5	5	
		תִּבְלֵךְ וּמְלֵאָהּ אַתָּה יְסוּדֵתָם:		4	4	4	
13		צָפוֹן וַיִּמִּין אַתָּה בְּרֵאתָם ^	12	4	4	4	
		תְּבוֹר וְחֲרָמוֹן בְּשִׁמְךָ יִרְנְנוּ:		4	4	4	
		Total, v. 12-13		<u>17</u>	= 9 + 8	= 17 + 0	
		Total, v. 10-13		<u>33</u>	= 17 + 16	= 33 + 0	
		Total, v. 8-13		<u>51</u>	= 29 + 22	= 51 + 0	
14		לָךְ זִרְעֵךְ עִם־גְּבוּרָהּ ^	13	4	4	4	
		תַּעֲזוּ יָדְךָ תִּרְוֵם וַיִּמְנָךְ:		4	4	4	
15		צָדֵק וּמִשְׁפָּט מִכּוֹן כְּסֵאֲךָ ^	14	4	4	4	
		חֶסֶד וְאֱמֶת יִקְדְּמוּ פָּנֶיךָ:		4	4	4	
		Strophe 5	Total, v. 12-15	<u>33</u>	= 17 + 16	= 33 + 0	
		<b>Canticle I.2.1 Total, v. 9-15</b>		<u>58</u>	= 32 + 26	= 67 + 0	
16	See Observation 6	הָעַם יוֹדְעֵי תְרוּעָהּ ^	15	4	4	4	
		יִהְיֶה בְּאוֹר־פָּנֶיךָ יִתְלַכּוּן:		4	4	4	
17		בְּשִׁמְךָ יִגִּילוּן כָּל־הַיּוֹם ^	16	4	4	4	
		וּבְצַדִּיקְתָּהּ יִרְוֵמוּ:		2	2	2	
		Strophe 6	Total, v. 16-17	<u>14</u>	= 8 + 6	= 14 + 0	

18	כִּי־תִפְאֶרֶת עָזְמוּ אֶתְהָא־ וּבְרַצְנָךְ תִּרְוֹם קְרַנְנִי:	17	4	4	4	
19	Spoken about God כִּי לִיהוָה מְגַנְנִי וְלִקְדוֹשׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל מִלְּכַנּוּ:	18	3	3	3	
	Total, v. 19		<u>6</u>	= 3 + 3	= 6	+ 0
	Strophe 7 Total, v. 18-19		<u>13</u>	= 7 + 6	= 13	+ 0
	Canticle I.2.2 Total, v. 16-19		<u>27</u>	= 15 + 12	= 27	+ 0
	Sub-canto I.2 Total, v. 9-19		<u>85</u>	= 47 + 38	= 85	+ 0
	Canto I Total, v. 2-19		<u>143</u>	= 77 + 66	= 129	+ 14

20	אִז דְּבַרְתָּ בְּחִזּוֹן לְחִסְדֶּיךָ וְתֹאמֶר שְׁוִיתִי עֵזְרַי עַל־גְּבוּרָה הַרְיִמוֹתַי בְּחֹזֶר מִעַם:	19	3	3	3	
	Strophe 8 Total, v. 20		<u>12</u>	= 9 + 3	= 5	+ 7

21	מִצְאֵתִי דָוִד עֲבָדִי בְּשִׁמְן קָדְשִׁי מִשְׁחֵתִיו:	21	3	3	3	
22	אֲשֶׁר יָדִי תִכּוֹן עִמּוֹ אֶף־זְרוּעֵי תֹאמְצַנּוּ:	22	4	4	4	
	Strophe 9 Total, v. 21-22		<u>13</u>	= 7 + 6	= 0	+ 13

23	לֹא־יִשָּׂא אוֹיֵב בּוֹ וּבֶן־עוֹלָה לֹא יַעֲנֶנּוּ:	23	4	4	4	
24	וְכַתּוֹתַי מִפְּנֵי צָרֹתַי וּמִשְׁנֵאוֹי אֲגוּף:	24	3	3	3	
	Strophe 10 Total, v. 23-24		<u>13</u>	= 7 + 6	= 0	+ 13
	Canticle II.1.1 Total, 20-24		<u>38</u>	= 23 + 15	= 5	+ 33

25	וְאֲמוֹנַתִּי וְחִסְדֵי עִמּוֹ וּבְשִׁמְי תִרְוֹם קְרַנּוּ:	25	3	3	3	
	Middle words of vs. 2-52: 372 = 185 + 2 + 185		<u>3</u>	3	3	
	Total, v. 25		<u>6</u>	= 3 + 3	= 0	+ 6
26	וְשִׁמְתִי בֵּיָם יְרוּא־ וּבִנְהָרוֹת יְמִינִי:	26	3	3	3	
	Middle colon of psalm proper: 105 = 52 + 1 + 52		<u>2</u>	2	2	
	Total, v. 26		<u>5</u>	= 3 + 2	= 0	+ 5
27	Two middle verselines הוא יִקְרָאֵנִי אָבִי אֶתְהָא־ אֱלֹהֵי וְצוּר יִשׁוּעָתִי:	27	4	4	4	
	Off-centre core of psalm proper 52 = 25 + 2 + 25		<u>3</u>	3	3	
	Total, v. 27		<u>7</u>	= 4 + 3	= 0	+ 7
	Middle strophe: Strophe 11 Total, v. 25-27		<u>18</u>	= 10 + 8	= 0	+ 18

28	אֶף־אֲנִי בְּכּוֹר אֶתְנַהוּ עֲלִיּוֹן לְמַלְכֵי־אָרֶץ:	28	4	4	4	
29	לְעוֹלָם אֲשַׁמְרֶה־לוֹ חִסְדֵּי וּבְרִיתִי נְאֻמַּנֶת לוֹ:	29	4	4	4	
	Strophe 12 Total, v. 28-30		<u>20</u>	= 11 + 9	= 0	+ 20
	Canticle II.1.2 Total, v. 25-30		<u>38</u>	= 21 + 17	= 0	+ 38
	Canticle II.1 Total, v. 20-30		<u>76</u>	= 44 + 32	= 5	+ 71

31	אִם־יֵעֲזְבוּ בְּנֵי תוֹרָתִי <sup>^</sup>	31	4	4		4
	וּבְמִשְׁפָּטֵי לֹא יִלְכוּן:		3		3	3
32	אִם־חִקְתִּי יַחֲלִלוּ <sup>^</sup>	32	3	3		3
	וּמִצְוֹתַי לֹא יִשְׁמְרוּ:		3		3	3
33	וּפְקַדְתִּי בְּשֶׁבֶט פְּשָׁעִם <sup>^</sup>	33	3	3		3
	וּבְנִגְעִים עֹנָם:		2		2	2
	<b>Canticle II.2.1 Strophe 13 v. 31-33</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>= 10</b>	<b>+ 8</b>	<b>= 0 + 18</b>
34	וַחֲסֹדֵי לֹא־אֶפִּיר מֵעֲמוּ <sup>^</sup>	34	4	4		4
	וְלֹא־אֲשַׁקֵּר בְּאִמּוֹנָתִי:		3		3	3
35	לֹא־אֲחַלֵּל בְּרִיתִי <sup>^</sup>	35	3	3		3
	וּמוֹצֵא שִׁפְתַי לֹא אֲשַׁנֶּה:		4		4	4
	<b>Strophe 14 Total, v. 34-35</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>= 7</b>	<b>+ 7</b>	<b>= 0 + 14</b>
36	אַחַת נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי בְּקִדְשִׁי <sup>^</sup>	36	3	3		3
	אִם־לְדָוִד אֶכְזֹב:		3		3	3
37	זָרְעוּ לְעוֹלָם יְהִי <sup>^</sup>	37	3	3		3
	וּכִסְאוֹ כִשְׁמֹשׁ נִגְדִי:		3		3	3
38	כִּי־רַח יִכּוֹן עוֹלָם <sup>^</sup>	38	3	3		3
	וְעַד בְּשַׁחַק נֶאֱמַן סֵלָה:		3		3	3
	<b>Strophe 15 Total, v. 36-38</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>= 9</b>	<b>+ 9</b>	<b>= 0 + 18</b>
	<b>Canticle II.2.2 Total, v. 34-38</b>		<b>32</b>	<b>= 16</b>	<b>+ 16</b>	<b>= 0 + 32</b>
	<b>Sub-canto II.2 Total, v. 31-38</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>= 26</b>	<b>+ 24</b>	<b>= 0 + 50</b>
	<b>Canto II Total, v. 20-38</b>		<b>126</b>	<b>= 70</b>	<b>+ 56</b>	<b>= 5 + 121</b>
39	וְאַתָּה זִנְחָתָ וַתִּמְאַס <sup>^</sup>	39	3	3		3
	הַתְּעַבְרָתָ עִם־מְשִׁיחֶךָ:		3		3	3
40	נִאֲרַתָּה בְּרִית עֲבָדֶיךָ <sup>^</sup>	40	3	3		3
	חֲלַלְתָּ לְאֶרֶץ נִזְרוּ:		3		3	3
	<b>Strophe 16 Total, v. 39-40</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>= 6</b>	<b>+ 6</b>	<b>= 12 + 0</b>
41	פָּרַצְתָּ כָּל־גְּדֵרֵתַי <sup>^</sup>	41	3	3		3
	שִׁמְתָּ מִבְּצֻרַי מִחֲתָה:		3		3	3
42	שָׁסְהוּ כָּל־עֲבָרֵי דָרְךָ <sup>^</sup>	42	4	4		4
	הָיָה חֲרָפָה לְשִׁכְנָי:		3		3	3
	<b>Strophe 17 Total, v. 41-42</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>= 7</b>	<b>+ 6</b>	<b>= 13 + 0</b>
	<b>Canticle III.1.1 Total, v. 39-42</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>= 13</b>	<b>+ 12</b>	<b>= 25 + 0</b>
43	תְּרִימוֹתַי יָמִין צָרְיֹ <sup>^</sup>	43	3	3		3
	הַשְּׂמַחְתָּ כָּל־אוֹיְבָיו:		3		3	3
44	אֶרְתָּשִׁיב צוּר חֲרָבוֹ <sup>^</sup>	44	4	4		4
	וְלֹא תִקְיַמְתּוּ בְּמִלְחָמָה:		3		3	3
	<b>Strophe 18 Total, v. 43-44</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>= 7</b>	<b>+ 6</b>	<b>= 13 + 0</b>
45	הַשְּׁבַתָּ מִטְּהַרֹ <sup>^</sup>	45	2	2		2
	וּכִסְאוֹ לְאֶרֶץ מִנְרַתָּה:		3		3	3
46	הַקְּצַרְתָּ יָמַי עַל־וַיֹּ <sup>^</sup>	46	3	3		3
	הַעֲשִׂיתָ עָלָי בּוֹשָׁה סֵלָה:		3		3	3
	<b>Strophe 19 Total, v. 45-46</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>= 5</b>	<b>+ 6</b>	<b>= 11 + 0</b>
	<b>Canticle III.1.2 Total, v. 43-46</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>= 12</b>	<b>+ 12</b>	<b>= 24 + 0</b>
	<b>Sub-canto III.1 Total, v. 39-46</b>		<b>49</b>	<b>= 25</b>	<b>+ 24</b>	<b>= 49 + 0</b>

47	עֲדֹמָה יְהוָה תִּסְתַּר לְנֹצֵחַ	47	5	5	5
	תִּבְעַר כְּמוֹ אֵשׁ חֲמָתְךָ :		4		4
48	זְכֹר־אֲנִי מַה־חָלָד־	48	4	4	4
	עַל־מַה־שָּׂוֵא בְרָאֶת כָּל־בְּנֵי־אָדָם :		7		7
49	מִי גִבֹר יִתְּיָה וְלֹא יִרְאֶה־מָוֶת־	49	6	6	6
	יִמְלֹט נַפְשׁוֹ מִיַּד־שָׂוֹל סָלָה :		4		4
	<b>Canticle III.2.1 Strophe 20 v. 47-49</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>= 15</b>	<b>+ 15</b>	<b>= 30 + 0</b>
50	אֵי־הָ חֲסִדֶיךָ הִרְאִשְׁנִים אֲדֹנָי־	50	4	4	4
	נִשְׁבַּעְתָּ לְדָוִד בְּאַמּוֹנִיתְךָ :		3		3
51	זְכֹר אֲדֹנָי חֲרַפְתָּ עַבְדֶיךָ־	51	4	4	4
	שְׂאֵתִי בְחִיקִי כָּל־רַבִּים עַמִּים :		5		5
52	אֲשֶׁר חָרְפוּ אוֹיְבֶיךָ יְהוָה־	52	4	4	4
	אֲשֶׁר חָרְפוּ עַקְבוֹת מְשִׁיחֶךָ :		4		4
	<b>Canticle III.2.2 Strophe 21 v. 50-52</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>= 12</b>	<b>+ 12</b>	<b>= 24 + 0</b>
	<b>Canto III Total, v. 39-52</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>= 52</b>	<b>+ 51</b>	<b>= 103 + 0</b>
	<b>Sub-canto II.2 + III Total, v. 31-52</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>= 78</b>	<b>+ 75</b>	<b>= 103 + 50</b>
	Total, v. 2-52	372	= 199	+ 173	= 237 + 135
53	Spoken about God בְּרוּךְ יְהוָה לְעוֹלָם	53	3	3	3
	Doxology as Coda אָמֵן וְאָמֵן :		2		2
	Total, v. 53	5	= 5	+ 0	= 5 + 0
	Total, v. 2-53	377	= 204	+ 173	= 242 + 135
	With the heading, Total, v. 1-53	380	= 207	+ 173	
	With heading and סָלָה (4x), Total, v. 1-53	384	= 207	+ 177	

## Observations

- The arithmetic centre of the psalm proper (*excluding* the Doxology) can be found on different levels: in terms of its 372 words, 105 cola, **52** verselines and 21 strophes:

middle words (25b): תְּרוּם קַרְנוֹ, 'his horn shall be exalted' (372=185+2+185)

middle colon (26b): וּבְיַמֵּינֵי יְמִינוֹ, 'and his right hand on the rivers' (105=52+1+52)

middle verselines (vs. 26-27): God promises to establish David's rule (52=25+2+25)

middle strophe (vs. 25-27): God guarantees loyal support for David (21=10+1+10).

This means that vs. 25-27 (Strophe 11), God's confirmation of his promises to David to establish his dominion should be regarded as the meaningful centre of the psalm. On word level, the meaningful centre is off-centre (372 = 181 + 18 + 173), but this is compensated by the fact that it contains three arithmetic centres on different levels, which highlight its pivotal position.

The divine statements in the core eloquently express the central idea of the psalm which is clearly a messianic poem. In terms of form and content, Psalm 89 bears a marked resemblance to Psalm 132. The similarities suggest common authorship for the two psalms, or at least dependence of [Psalm 132](#) on Psalm 89.

- The arithmetic centre of the 377 words of the psalm *including* the Doxology is constituted by v. 26a (377 = 187 + 3 + 187). The 3 pivotal words, which are significantly flanked by **187** (11 x 17) words on either side, may be regarded as a most appropriate meaningful centre for the entire text:

וְשִׁמְתִי בְיָמָיו יָדוֹ, I shall set his hand on the sea.

3. What meets the eye immediately are the four relatively short sections containing words spoken about YHWH. They are v. 2, vs. 7-8, v. 19, and v. 53. Understanding these sections as structuring devices reveals that the text divides into three parts demarcated by words spoken about God:

2a, 2b-7+8      58 words, dividing into 32 (2-5) and 26 (6-8), *kebod*-YHWH formula  
 vs. 9-19          85 (5 x 17) words  
 vs. 20-53        234 (9 x 26) words.

This striking numerical framework can hardly be mere coincidence. It also suggests that the Doxology was not, as it were, simply pasted to the end of the psalm, but appended in a carefully designed way as a coda to the psalm, and of course to Book III.

A closer examination of the text shows that two additional structuring devices have been used: the two divine speeches, vs. 4-5 and 20c-38, and the four *selahs*, which have a demarcating function. Taking these features into account too, we find the following six caesurae: between vs. 5||6, vs. 8||9, vs. 19||20, vs. 38||39, vs. 46||47, and vs. 49||50.

On this basis, in combination with content, I propose the following strophic structure:

v. 2a	}	Str. 1a	I shall sing YHWH's love (spoken about God)
vs. 2b-3		Str. 1b	I shall proclaim <i>your</i> faithfulness ( <i>addressed to God!</i> )
vs. 4-5		Str. 2	Divine speech: YHWH's resolve in regards David + <i>selah</i>
vs. 6, 7-8		Str. 3	Praise to <i>you</i> , YHWH, + words spoken about God
vs. 9-11		Str. 4	Praise to <i>you</i> , YHWH the incomparable, <i>you</i> rule over the sea
vs. 12-15		Str. 5	The entire universe is <i>yours</i> , <i>you</i> reign with righteousness
vs. 16-19		Str. 6-7	Happy are those who rejoice in <i>you</i> , + words spoken about God
vs. 20-30		Str. 8-12	Divine speech: YHWH's solemn promise to <i>David</i>
vs. 31-38		Str. 13-15	Divine speech: YHWH's conditions for <i>David's</i> posterity + <i>selah</i>
vs. 39-46		Str. 16-19	Lament: <i>you</i> have repudiated the covenant with <i>David!</i> + <i>selah</i>
vs. 47-49		Str. 20	Supplication: how long must <i>your</i> rage burn like fire? + <i>selah</i>
vs. 50-52		Str. 21	Final appeal: YHWH, remember how <i>David</i> is scorned! + <i>coda</i>
v. 53		Doxology	Blessed be YHWH for ever! Amen, yes Amen (about God).

I agree with Van der Lugt on the 3 cantos, but we disagree on the sub-sections:

<b>Canto I.1</b>	Canticle I.1.1	Strophes 1-2	vs. 2-5	4 verselines	32 words
<b>Canto I.1</b>	Canticle I.1.2	Strophe 3	vs. 6-8	3 verselines	26 words
<b>Canto I.2</b>	Canticle I.2.1	Strophes 4-5	vs. 9-15	7 verselines	58 words
<b>Canto I.2</b>	Canticle I.2.2	Strophes 6-7	vs. 16-19	4 verselines	27 words
<b>Canto II.1</b>	Canticle II.1.1	Strophes 8-10	vs. 20-24	6 verselines	38 words
<b>Canto II.1</b>	Canticle II.1.2	Strophes 11-12	vs. 25-30	6 verselines	38 words
<b>Canto II.2</b>	Canticle II.2.1	Strophe 13	vs. 31-33	3 verselines	18 words
<b>Canto II.2</b>	Canticle II.2.2	Strophes 14-15	vs. 34-38	5 verselines	32 words
<b>Canto III.1</b>	Canticle III.1.1	Strophes 16-17	vs. 39-42	4 verselines	25 words
<b>Canto III.1</b>	Canticle III.1.2	Strophe 18-19	vs. 43-46	4 verselines	24 words
<b>Canto III.2</b>	Canticle III.2.1	Strophe 20	vs. 47-49	3 verselines	30 words
<b>Canto III.2</b>	Canticle III.2.2	Strophe 21	vs. 50-52	3 verselines	24 words
<b>3 Cantos</b>		<b>12 Canticles</b>	<b>21 Strophes</b>	<b>52 verselines</b>	<b>372 words</b>

Canto I.1 clearly reflects the *kebod*-YHWH formula: 58 = 32 + 26.

Canticle I.2.1 reflects it in another way, through the *atnach*: 58 = 32a + 26b.

Canto I.2 as a whole is composed of 85 (5 x 17) words.

Cantos II-III are made up of altogether 34 (2 x 17) verselines and 68 (4 x 17) cola.

Canto III has 103 words, with 52 (2 x 26) before and 51 (3 x 17) after *atnach*.



4. The divine name numbers are woven into the text in a particularly skilful way:
- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| vs. 6-7   | <b>17</b> words in total: + <b>9</b> words in v. 8  |
| vs. 6-8   | <b>26</b> words in total (concatenation: <b>17 + 9 = 26</b> )*                            |
| vs. 7-9   | <b>17</b> words after atnach  |
| vs. 9-10  | <b>17</b> words in total  |
| vs. 8-10  | <b>26</b> words in total: + <b>8</b> words in v. 11                                       |
| vs. 8-11  | <b>34</b> (2 x <b>17</b> ) words in total (concatenation: <b>26 + 8 = 34</b> )*           |
| vs. 6-11  | <b>51</b> (3 x <b>17</b> ) words in total   |
| vs. 12-13 | <b>17</b> words in total  |
| vs. 10-13 | <b>17</b> words before atnach   |
| vs. 8-13  | <b>51</b> (3 x <b>17</b> ) words in total   |
| vs. 12-15 | <b>17</b> words before atnach   |
| vs. 9-15  | <b>58</b> words in total ( <b>32a + 26b</b> ) the <i>kebod</i> -YHWH formula              |
| vs. 9-19  | <b>85</b> (5 x <b>17</b> ) words in total   |
| vs. 21-24 | <b>26</b> words in total  |
| vs. 2-24  | <b>52</b> (2 x <b>26</b> ) words in the divine speeches                                   |
| vs. 20-28 | <b>26</b> words after atnach  |
| vs. 31-38 | <b>26</b> words before atnach   |
| vs. 41-44 | <b>26</b> words in total  |
| vs. 39-52 | <b>52</b> (2 x <b>26</b> ) words before and <b>51</b> (3 x <b>17</b> ) after atnach       |
| vs. 31-52 | <b>153</b> (9 x <b>17</b> ) words in total, with <b>78</b> (3 x <b>26</b> ) before atnach |
| vs. 2-53  | <b>204</b> (4 x <b>26</b> ) words before atnach.  |

\* For the concatenation technique, see the [General Introduction](#), "Special patterns".

5. The first divine speech, vs. 4-5, is made up of **14** (2 x **7**) words, obviously to express the idea of fullness. In addition, **14** is the numerical value of the name David (4+6+4)! The number **7** reappears in Canto III (vs. 20-38) containing the second divine speech. It has **126** (18x7) words, with **70** (10x7) before and **56** (8x7) after atnach. Is it coincidence that the psalm has **105** (15x7) cola? The speech itself has **121** (11 x 11) words expressing the idea of fulfilment, which is not surprising in a text dealing with divine promises.
6. In 89:16a we find the last of the **13** occurrences of the important key-word **אַשְׁרֵי**, 'happy' in Books I-III, Psalms 1-89. See my remarks at the end of the Introduction to [Book III](#).
7. The name יהוה occurs 9 times in the psalm and 1x in the coda, with the pivotal occurrence in v. 9a emphasizing the important statement about YHWH's incomparability. The use of יה (v. 9b), אֲדֹנָי (vs. 50a and 51a), and אֵל (vs. 8 and 27) may be explained as intentional to have exactly 9 instances of the name יהוה. The word אֱלֹהִים in v. 7b refers to the 'gods'. The designation אֱלֹהֵי צְבָאוֹת, 'God of Hosts', in v. 9a contains the only occurrence of the word אֱלֹהִים.

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