

# Psalm 96— Logotechnical Analysis

## Guidelines

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

## Specific features of Psalm 96

- Like Psalm 93, Psalm 96 has a charmingly lucid and simple structure. With Psalm 91 it shares two features: both are made up of **112** (16 x 7) words, and both are apparently structured by the number 7.

With Psalm 95 it shares two features: the use of syntax to structure the text and the absence of words directly addressed to God.

- The **11** occurrences of the name YHWH is a feature it shares with Psalm 94.

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

- Van der Lugt, Fokkelman and Labuschagne: 1-3, 4-6 || 7-8, 9-10 | 11-12, 13 (2 cantos with 6 strophes, 14 verselines and 29 cola).

## 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.
- The numbering of the verselines is shown in **brown**.

		<b>Total</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>d</b>
1	שִׁירוֹ לַיהוָה שִׁיר הַדָּשׁ	1	4	4	4	
	שִׁירוֹ לַיהוָה כָּל־הָאָרֶץ:	4		4	4	
	Total, v. 1	8	= 4	+ 4	= 8	+ 0
2	שִׁירוֹ לַיהוָה בְּרָכוּ שָׁמַיִם	2	4	4	4	
	בְּשָׁרוֹ מַיִם־לַיּוֹם יְשׁוּעָתוֹ:	4		4	4	
	Total, v. 2	8	= 4	+ 4	= 8	+ 0
3	סִפְּרוּ בְּגוֹיִם כְּבוֹדֵי	3	3		3	
	בְּכָל־הָעַמִּים גְּבֻלֹתָיו:	3		3	3	
	Total, v. 3	6	= 3	+ 3	= 6	+ 0
	<b>Strophe 1 Total, v. 1-3</b>	22	= 11	+ 11	= 22	+ 0
4	כִּי גָדוֹל יְהוָה וּמְהֵלָל מְאֹד	4	5	5		5
	נִזְרָא הוּא עַל־כָּל־אֱלֹהִים:	5		5		5
	Total, v. 4	10	= 5	+ 5	= 0	+ 10
	Numerical v. 1-2	16	= 8	+ 8	= 16	+ 0
	Chiasmus v. 3-4	16	= 8	+ 8	= 6	+ 10
	Total, v. 1-4	32	= 16	+ 16	= 22	+ 10
5	כִּי כָל־אֱלֹהֵי הָעַמִּים אֱלִילִים	5	5			5
	וַיִּהְיֶה שָׁמַיִם עָשָׂה:	3		3		3
	Total, v. 5	8	= 5	+ 3	= 0	+ 8
	Total, v. 2-5	32	= 17	+ 15	= 22	+ 10
6	הוֹדִי וְהִדְרֵר לְפָנָיו	6	3	3		3
	עַז וְחַפְּזָרֶת בְּמִקְדָּשׁוֹ:	3		3		3
	Total, v. 6	6	= 3	+ 3	= 6	+ 0
	Numerical v. 1-3	22	= 11	+ 11	= 22	+ 0
	<b>Strophe 2 Chiasmus v. 4-6</b>	24	= 13	+ 11	= 6	+ 18
	<b>Canto I Total, v. 1-6</b>	46	= 24	+ 22	= 28	+ 18



Moreover, the phrase forms the climax of the 3 anaphoras at the beginning of Canto II.

The meaningful centre is flanked by 54 words, which means that it is embraced by **58** words ( $54 + 4 + 54$ ), the numerical value of *kebod*-YHWH, representing the glory of YHWH's name ( $58 = 32 + 26$ ). See the [General Introduction](#), "Special Patterns".

The glory of YHWH (signifying his presence!) is additionally emphasized by the *kabod* numbers elsewhere in the text: the **58** words in the main clauses of Canto II (Column c), and the **46** ( $2 \times 23$ ) words in total in Canto I. Special mention deserves the occurrence of **32** words in vs. 1-4, the numerical value of the keyword **כבוד** ( $20 + 2 + 6 + 4 = 32$ ) in vs. 7b and 8a. It also features in vs. 2-5 and 4-7, in both cases as  $32 = 17 + 15$ .

Additional emphasis is provided by the **7** occurrences of **לִיהוָה**, 'to YHWH' (out of altogether **11** instances of the name YHWH) precisely in the anaphora at the beginning of Canto I (in vs. 1-2a), and Canto II (in vs. 7-8a and 9a).

The idea of fullness is expressed by the fact that the psalm is made up of **112** ( $16 \times 7$ ) words – which is also the case in Psalm 91 and 92. The **70** words in vs. 1-9 may perhaps also have been chosen deliberately.

2. The device of the numerical chiasmus is used twice, of which the function is to tie sections of the text in Canto I together: 1-2 + 3-4, as well as 1-3 + 4-6 (Strophes I and 2).
3. A feature shared with Psalm 95 is the apparent use of syntax to structure the text: 86 words in the main clauses (column c) and **26** in the subordinate clauses, generating still another divine name number (Column d).
4. The divine name numbers woven into the text are to be found in:

vs. 2-5	<b>17</b> words before atnach
vs. 4-7	<b>17</b> words before atnach
vs. 1-7	<b>26</b> words after atnach
vs. 1-9	<b>34</b> ( $2 \times 17$ ) words after atnach
vs. 1-9	<b>52</b> ( $2 \times 26$ ) words in the main clauses
vs. 8-10	<b>17</b> words before atnach
vs. 9-11	<b>17</b> words before atnach
vs. 11-12	<b>17</b> words in total
vs. 10-13	<b>34</b> ( $2 \times 17$ ) words in the main clauses
vs. 1-13	<b>26</b> words in the subordinate clauses.
5. As is the case in Psalm 94, there are no less than **11** occurrences of the name **יְהוָה**. Compare Observation 1 above, and also Observation 5 in my Analysis of [Psalm 95](#). The two occurrences of the word **אֱלֹהִים** refer to the gods of the nations (vs. 4b and 5a).

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