

PSALM 109

To the Chief Musician (1 word – לְמַנְצֵחַ)

Of David (1 word – לְדָוִד)

A Psalm (1 word – מְזֻמָּר)

v. 1 – O God of my praise, (2 words – אֱלֹהֵי תְהִלָּתִי)
(You) do not keep silent. (2 words – אַל - תִּחְרֹשׁ)

v. 2 – For, (1 word – כִּי)
the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of treachery against me have opened,
(פִּי רָשָׁע וּפִי - מְרֻמָּה עָלַי פָּתְחוּ - 6 words)
they have spoken with me (with) a tongue of falsehood. (4 words – דִּבְרוּ אֵתִי לְשׁוֹן שָׁקֶר - 4 words)
Synthetic/Synonymous Parallelism, with Chiasm, plus the next line.

v. 3 – and (with) words of hatred they have surrounded me, (3 words – וּדְבָרֵי שִׁנְאָה סָבְבוּנִי)
then they fought with me without cause. (2 words – וַיִּלָּחֲמוּנִי חִנָּם)

v. 4 – Instead of my love, they accuse me, (3 words – תַּחַת - אֶהְבֶּתִּי יִשְׁטְנוּנִי)
but I, prayer. (2 words – וַאֲנִי תַפִּלָּה)

v. 5 – Then they set against me evil instead of good, (5 words – וַיִּשְׂמוּ עָלַי רָעָה תַּחַת טוֹבָה)
and hatred instead of my love. (3 words – וַשִּׁנְאָה תַּחַת אֶהְבֶּתִּי - 3 words)
Synonymous/Synthetic Parallelism with Ellipsis

v. 6 – (You) appoint against him a wicked man, (3 words – הִפְקַד עָלָיו רָשָׁע)
and let an accuser stand against his right hand. (4 words – וַשֵּׁטֶן יַעֲמֵד עַל - יְמִינוֹ)
Synthetic/Synonymous Parallelism with Chiasm –verb, prep phrase, object; subject, verb, prep phrase
The word for accuser is “Satan.” See vv. 4, 20, 29

v. 7 – When he is judged, (1 word – בְּהִשְׁפָּטוֹ)
let him come forth guilty, (2 words – יֵצֵא רָשָׁע)
and let his prayer be in regard to sin. (3 words – וַתִּפְלֹתוּ תְהִיָּה לְחַטָּאָה)
The word for guilty is the same word for wicked in v. 6.

v. 8 – Let his days be few, (3 words – יְהִיוּ - יָמָיו מְעַטִּים)
and his office, let another take. (3 words – פְּקֻדָּתוֹ יִקַּח אֲחֵר - 3 words)

v. 9 – Let his sons be orphans, (3 words – יְהִיוּ - בְּנָיו יְתוּמִים)
and his wife a widow. (2 words – וְאִשְׁתּוֹ אֶלְמָנָה - 2 words)
Ellipsis

- v. 10 – and let his sons surely roam, (3 words – וְנוֹעַ יְנוּעוּ בָנָיו)
 and let them beg, (1 word – וְשָׁאֲלוּ)
 and let them seek from their ruins. (2 words – וְדָרְשׁוּ מִחֲרֻבוֹתֵיהֶם)
 Repeated verb in 1st line – roam, roam
- v. 11 – Let the creditor ensnare in regard to all that (is) to him, (5 words – יִנְקֹשׁ נוֹשֶׁה לְכֹל - אֲשֶׁר - לוֹ)
 and let the strange ones plunder his labor. (3 words – וַיִּבְזוּ זָרִים יְגִיעוֹ)
 Synthetic Parallelism
- v. 12 – Let there not be to him one who extends covenant love, (5 words – אֵל - יְהִי - לוֹ מִשְׁעָב חֶסֶד)
 and let there not be one who shows favor to his orphans. (4 words – וְאֵל - יְהִי חוֹנֵן לִיתֻמֹּי)
 Synthetic Parallelism
- v. 13 – Let his posterity be in regard to a cutting off, (3 words – יְהִי - אַחֲרֵיתוֹ לְהַכְרִית)
 in a following generation, let their name be wiped out. (4 words – בְּדוֹר אַחֵר יִמַח שְׁמֵם)
 Synonymous Parallelism with Chiasm – verb, subject, prep phrase; prep phrase, verb, subject
- v. 14 – Let the iniquity of his fathers be remembered with regard to Yahweh,
 (5 words – יִזְכֹּר עֵזֶן אָבֹתָיו אֵל - יְהוָה)
 and let not the sin of his mother be wiped out. (4 words – וְחַטָּאת אָמוֹ אֵל - תִּמַּח)
 Synthetic Parallelism with Chiasm – verb, subject, prep phrase; subject, verb
- v. 15 – Let them be before Yahweh continually, (4 words – יְהִיוּ נֹגֵד - יְהוָה תָּמִיד)
 and let Him cut off from the earth their remembrance. (3 words – וַיִּכְרֵת מֵאֶרֶץ זָכָרָם)
 (3 words – וַיִּכְרֵת מֵאֶרֶץ זָכָרָם)
- v. 16 – Because of which, (2 words – יַעַן אֲשֶׁר)
 he did not remember to do covenant love, (4 words – לֹא זָכַר עֲשׂוֹת חֶסֶד)
 then he pursued the poor and needy man and he who is humbled of heart,
 (6 words – וַיִּרְדֹּף אִישׁ - עָנִי וְאֶבְיוֹן וְנֹכְאָה לֵבָב)
 in order to kill. (1 word – לְמוֹתָת)
- v. 17 – Then he loved a curse, (2 words – וַיֵּאָהֵב קִלְלָה)
 so it came in to him, (1 word – וַתִּבְוָאֵהוּ)
 and he did not delight in a blessing, (3 words – וְלֹא - חִפֵּץ בְּבִרְכָה)
 so it was distant from him. (2 words – וַתִּרְחַק מִמֶּנּוּ)
 Antithetic Parallelism
- v. 18 – Then he put on a curse as his garment, (3 words – וַיִּלְבַּשׁ קִלְלָה כְּמִדּוֹ)
 then it came in like water in his inward part, (3 words – וַתִּבְוָא כַּמַּיִם בְּקִרְבּוֹ)
 and like oil in his bones. (2 words – וְכַשֶּׁמֶן בְּעֲצָמוֹתָיו)
 Synthetic Parallelism with Ellipsis

- v. 19 – Let it be to him like a garment (that) he wraps around himself,
 (4 words – תָּהִי - לוֹ כְּבִגְד יַעֲטָהּ)
 and for a belt at all times he girds it. (3 words – וּלְמִזַּח תָּמִיד יַחְגְּרָהּ)
 The antecedent of “it” is “curse” from vv. 17, 18
- v. 20 – (Let) this (be) the reward of my accusers from Yahweh,
 (5 words – זֹאת פְּעֻלַּת שֹׁטְנֵי מַאֲת יְהוָה)
 and of those who are speaking evil against my soul. (4 words – וְהַדְּבָרִים רָעַעַל - נַפְשִׁי)
 Synthetic Parallelism and Ellipsis
 The first line possibly assumes another imperative. One could translate with a simple “is”.
- v. 21 – But You, O Yahweh my Lord, (3 words – וְאַתָּה יְהוָה אֱדֹנָי)
 (You) work with me for the sake of Your name, (4 words – עֲשֵׂה - אֵתִי לְמַעַן שְׁמֶךָ)
 because Your covenant love is good, (You) deliver me. (4 words – כִּי - טוֹב חֲסִדְךָ הַצִּילֵנִי)
 Synthetic Parallelism with Chiasm
- v. 22 – For (1 word – כִּי -)
 poor and needy am I, (4 words – עָנִי וְאַבְיוֹן אֲנֹכִי)
 and my heart he pierced in my inward part. (3 words – וְלִבִּי חָלַל בְּקִרְבִּי)
- v. 23 – Like a shadow when it is lengthening I am gone, (3 words – כַּצֶּל - כְּנִטּוֹתָו נִהְלַכְתִּי)
 I am shaken off like the locust. (2 words – נִנְעַרְתִּי כְּאַרְבֶּה)
 Synthetic Parallelism with Chiasm
- v. 24 – My knees are stumbling from fasting, (3 words – בְּרַפְּי כְּשָׁלוֹ מִצּוּם)
 and my flesh has grown lean away from olive oil. (3 words – וּבִשְׂרֵי כַּחַשׁ מִשָּׁמֶן)
 Synthetic Parallelism
- v. 25 – And I, I was a reproach to them, (4 words – וְאֲנִי הָיִיתִי חֲרָפָה לָהֶם)
 they saw me, they are shaking their head. (3 words – יִרְאוּנִי יִנְעוּן רֹאשָׁם)
- v. 26 – (You) help me, O Yahweh my God, (3 words – עֲזָרְנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהָי)
 (You) save me according to Your covenant love. (2 words – הוֹשִׁיעֵנִי כְּחֲסִדְךָ)
 Synthetic/Synonymous Parallelism
- v. 27 – And let them know that Your hand is this, (4 words – וַיֵּדְעוּ כִּי - יָדְךָ זֹאת)
 You, O Yahweh, You have done it. (3 words – אַתָּה יְהוָה עָשִׂיתָהּ)
- v. 28 – They, they are cursing, but You, You are blessing, (4 words – יִקְלְלוּ - הֵמָּה וְאַתָּה תְּבָרֵךְ)
 they arose, so they are being ashamed, but Your servant will be glad.
 (4 words – קָמוּ וַיִּבְשּׁוּ וְעַבְדְּךָ יִשְׂמַח)

v. 29 – **My accusers are putting on disgrace,** (3 words – יִלְבְּשׁוּ שׁוֹטְנֵי כְלָמָה)
so they are wrapping like a robe their shame. (3 words – וַיַּעֲטוּ כַמְעִיל בְּשָׂתָם)
Synthetic Parallelism

v. 30 – **I will praise Yahweh exceedingly with my mouth,** (4 words – אֹדְדָה יְהוָה מְאֹד בְּפִי)
and in the midst of many I will praise Him. (3 words – וּבְתוֹךְ רַבִּים אֶהְלֵלֵנּוּ)
Synthetic Parallelism with Chiasm
There are two words for praise – the first one is from the word for Judah and the second one comes from Hallelujah.

v. 31 – **For He is standing at the right hand of the needy,** (4 words – כִּי - יַעֲמֵד לְיָמִין אֲבִיוֹן)
in order to save from those who judge his soul. (3 words – לְהוֹשִׁיעַ מִשֹּׁפְטֵי נַפְשׁוֹ)

Broader Structure:

Title

- vv. 1-5 – Plural Accusers
- vv. 6-19 – Singular Accuser
- vv. 20-31 – Plural Accusers

Title

- vv. 1-5 – A Prayer For Help
- vv. 6-20 – A Prayer For Justice
- vv. 21-31 – A Prayer For Protection

Title

- vv. 1-5 – The Complaint
- vv. 6-20 – The Imprecation
- vv. 21-29 – The Prayer
- vv. 30-31 – The Vow of Praise

Title

- vv. 1-5 – Petition for Deliverance
- vv. 6-15 – Appeal for Eye for an Eye
- vv. 16-20 – Character of the Accuser
- vv. 21-25 – I Need Help
- vv. 26-29 – Petition for Help
- vv. 30-31 – Concluding Praise

Title

- vv. 1-5 – The Wicked Speak Against Me
- vv. 6-19 – The Wicked Deserve Judgment
- vv. 20-25 – The Wicked Wear Me Out
- vv. 26-31 – The Wicked are Dressed in Shame

Title

A – v. 1 – Invocation to the God of Praise

B – vv. 2-5 – The Words and Acts of the Ungodly

C – vv. 6-15 – Imprecation

vv. 6-8 – Be Guilty On Earth

vv. 9-10 – Family Without a Father/Husband

v. 11 – Possessions Taken

v. 12-13 – Family With Nothing

vv. 14-15 – Guilty Before God

B' – vv. 16-20 – The Acts and Words of the Ungodly

C' – vv. 21-29 – Prayer for God's Love and Judgment

v. 21 – David Turns to Yahweh

vv. 22-24 – David's Need

v. 25 – The Wicked Wag Their Heads

v. 26 – Help!

v. 27 – Show Them You Are On My Side

vv. 28-29 – Blessings For The Righteous & Curses For the Wicked

A' – vv. 30-31 – Benediction of the God of Praise

Yahweh – 7x

Elohim – God – 2x

Adonai – 1x – v. 21

2nd Person Singular referring to Yahweh – 16x

3rd Person Singular referring to Yahweh – 3x

1st Person Singular – 32x (vv. 1-5, 20-31)

3rd Person Singular – 33x (all but 2x in vv. 6-19)

3rd Person Plural – 23x

2nd Person imperatives – 6x

3rd Person imperatives – 21x (vv. 6-19, 27)