

Psalm 78:1–72

Translation, Logoprosodic Analysis, and Observations

The Enigma of Sacred History

Psalm 78:1–72

A. Listen to My Instructions as I Utter Dark Sayings of Old (78:1–2) [6.4]

78:1	<i>Maskil</i> / belonging to Asaph //	<u>8</u> 2_	<u>2</u> 2 0
		77:18–78:1a	34 22 12
	Listen my people / to my instruction (Torah) //	<u>15</u> 2_	<u>3</u> 3 0
		77:17–78:1a	46 31 15
	Incline your ear / to the sayings of my mouth //	<u>12</u> 2_	<u>4</u> 0 4
		77:20–78:1	23 13 10
78:2	I will open in a parable / ^a my mouth //	11 2	3 3 0
	I will utter dark sayings / of old //	<u>14</u> 2_	<u>4</u> 0 4
		77:19–78:2	39 22 17

B. We Are To Tell His Wondrous Works to Generations to Come (78:3–4) [6.6]

78:3	Which we have heard / and we have known //	14 2	3 3 0
	and our fathers / have told us //	<u>16</u> 2_	<u>3</u> 0 3
		77:20–78:3	36 19 17
78:4	We will not conceal them / from their children /	<u>11</u> 2_	<u>3</u> 3 0
		77:21–78:4a	31 17 14
	To the generation to come / telling / the praises of YHWH //	20 3	5 5 0
	and his strength / ^a and his wondrous works /	13 2	2 0 2
	which he has done //	<u>6</u> 1	<u>2</u> 0 2
		78:1–4	34 19 15

C. God Commanded Our Fathers to Teach their Children's Children (78:5–6b) [6.5]

78:5	For he established a testimony / in Jacob /	13 2	3 3 0
	and Torah / he appointed in Israel //	<u>13</u> 2_	<u>3</u> 3 0
		78:3–5b	24 17 7
	Which he commanded / our fathers //	<u>13</u> 2_	<u>4</u> 4 0
		77:21–78:5c	50 32 18
	To teach them / to their children //	<u>11</u> 2_	<u>2</u> 0 2
		78:1–5	46 29 17

78:6	That they might know / the generation to come / children yet to be born //	14 2 <u>11 1</u>	4 4 0 <u>2 2 0</u>
		78:1-6a	52 35 17

D. *Their Children Are To Trust God and Keep His Commandments* (78:6c-7) [4.3]

	They may rise / and they may tell them to their children //	<u>17 2</u>	<u>3 0 3</u>
		78:2-6	46 30 16

78:7	And they shall put in God / their confidence //	<u>16 2</u>	<u>3 3 0</u>
		77:21-78:7a	64 41 23

	And they shall not forget / the works of God (EI) //	<u>13 2</u>	<u>4 4 0</u>
		78:5-7b	28 23 5

	And his commandments they shall keep //	<u>12 1</u>	<u>2 0 2</u>
		78:1-7	64 42 22

E. *The Children Are Not To Be Rebellious Like Their Fathers* (78:8) [4.4]

78:8	And they will not be / like their fathers / a generation / stubborn and rebellious //	12 2 <u>11 2</u>	3 3 0 <u>3 3 0</u>
		78:16-78:8b	104 69 35

	A generation / that did not prepare its heart // and it was not faithful to God / his spirit //	11 2 <u>14 2</u>	4 4 0 <u>5 0 5</u>
		78:7-8	24 17 7

F. *The Children of Ephraim Refused to Walk in the Torah* (78:9-11) [6.5]

78:9	The sons of Ephraim / were archers equipped with bows // they turned back / in the day of battle //	18 2 <u>11 2</u>	5 5 0 <u>3 0 3</u>
		78:2-9	78 52 26

78:10	They did not keep / the covenant of God //	<u>15 2</u>	<u>4 4 0</u>
		78:7-10a	36 26 10

	And in his Torah / they refused to walk //	<u>18 2</u>	<u>3 0 3</u>
		78:2-10	85 56 29

78:11	And they forgot his deeds // and his miracles / that he had shown them //	12 1 <u>12 2</u>	2 2 0 <u>3 0 3</u>
		78:2-11	90 58 32

G. God Did Wonders In Egypt—Dividing the Sea He Led the People (78:12–14) [8.4]

78:12 Before their fathers / he did wonders // _13 2_ 4 4 0
48 32 16

in the land of Egypt /^a in the fields of Zoan // _12 2_ 4 0 4
78:7–12 **52 32 20**

78:13 He divided the sea / and he brought them through // _12 2_ 3 3 0
78:10–13a **23 13 10**

And he made the waters stand up /^a like a heap // _10 2_ 4 0 4
78:9–13 **35 18 17**

78:14 And he led them in a cloud /^a by day // _13 2_ 3 3 0
78:11–14a **23 12 11**

And every night / in a light of fire // _11 2_ 4 0 4
78:10–14 **34 16 18**

H. God Gave Them Water from the Rock and Still They Rebelled (78:15–17) [4.8]

78:15 He split the rocks / in the wilderness // _11 2_ 3 3 0
78:13–15a **17 9 8**

And he gave them drink / as from a great deep // _10 2_ 3 0 3
78:8–15 **63 34 29**

78:16 He brought forth streams /^a from the rock // 14 2 3 3 0
and caused waters / to run down like rivers // _13 2_ 3 0 3
78:13–16 **26 12 14**

78:17 And they still continued / to sin against him // 15 2 4 4 0
to rebel against the Most High / in the desert // _11 2_ 3 0 3
78:14–17 **26 13 13**

I. The People Asked for Food Doubting God's Ability to Provide (78:18–19) [4.6]

78:18 And they put God (El) to the test /^a in their heart // 13 2 3 3 0
by asking food /^b for themselves // _10 2_ 3 0 3
78:14–18 **32 16 16**

78:19 And they spoke / against God // _12 2_ 2 2 0
78:14–19a **34 18 16**

They said / "Is God (El) able // 11 2 3 3 0
to prepare a table / in the wilderness // _11 2_ 3 0 3
78:13–19 **47 24 23**

J. God Heard Their Words of Doubt and He Was Angry (78:20–21a) [5.4]

78:20	Behold he struck the rock / and water gushed out / and streams were overflowing //	16 2 <u> 12 1</u>	5 5 0 <u> 2 2 0</u>
		78:16–20a	34 22 12

	Also bread / is he able to give? //	<u> 9 2</u>	<u> 4 4 0</u>
		78:17–20b	32 23 9

	And will he provide meat / ^a for his people //	<u> 12 1</u>	<u> 4 0 4</u>
		78:19–20	23 16 7

78:21	Therefore / YHWH heard / and he was full of wrath / ^a	<u> 16 3</u>	<u> 4 4 0</u>
		78:16–21a	46 30 16

K. God's Anger Mounted Because They Did Not Believe (78:21b–22) [4.4]

	And a fire / was kindled against Jacob //	<u> 12 2</u>	<u> 3 3 0</u>
		78:19–21B	30 23 7

	And also anger / mounted against Israel //	<u> 13 2</u>	<u> 4 0 4</u>
		78:20–21	26 18 8

78:22	Because they did not believe / in God //	<u> 16 2</u>	<u> 4 4 0</u>
		78:17–22a	51 34 13

	And they did not trust / in his salvation //	<u> 16 2</u>	<u> 3 0 3</u>
		78:18–22	47 30 17

L. God Rained Down Manna Upon Them in Abundance (78:23–25) [4.8]

78:23	And he commanded the clouds / ^a above //	<u> 12 2</u>	<u> 3 3 0</u>
		78:18–23a	50 33 17

	And the doors of heaven / he opened //	<u> 12 2</u>	<u> 3 0 3</u>
		78:19–23	47 30 17

78:24	And he rained down upon them manna / ^a to eat // and grain from heaven / he gave them //	14 2 <u> 15 2</u>	4 4 0 <u> 4 0 4</u>
		78:21–24	32 18 14

78:25	Bread of angels / man ate // food he sent them / in abundance //	12 2 <u> 15 2</u>	4 4 0 <u> 4 0 4</u>
		78:16–25	82 48 34

M. God Rained Meat of Winged Fowl upon Them in Abundance (78:26–27) [4.4]

78:26	He caused the east wind to blow / in the heavens // and he directed by his power / ^a the south wind //	12 2 <u> 13 2</u>	3 3 0 <u> 3 0 3</u>
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	78:22–26	35	18	17
78:27	And he rained upon them like the dust / ^a meat //	16	2	4 4 0
	and like the sand of the sea / winged fowl //	14	2	4 0 4
	78:19–27	77	45	32

N. God Let the Quail Fall in Their Camp; and They Ate Their Fill (78:28–29) [4.4]

78:28	And he let them fall / in the midst of their camp //	13	2	3 3 0
	78:26–28a	17	10	7
	Round about / their dwellings //	11	2	2 0 2
	78:24–28	35	18	17
78:29	And they ate and they were filled / ^a exceedingly //	14	2	3 3 0
	78:25–29a	30	17	13
	And their desire / he gave to them //	14	2	3 0 3
	78:25–29	33	17	16

O. While the Food Was Still in Their Mouths God Slew Them in Anger (78:30–31)[4.6]

78:30	And they had not satisfied / ^a their desires //	13	2	3 3 0
	while / their food was in their mouths //	12	2	3 0 3
	78:28–30	17	9	8
78:31	The anger of God / rose against them /	14	2	4 4 0
	78:27–31a	29	17	12
	And he slew / their stoutest ones //	11	2	2 2 0
	and the choice ones of Israel / ^a he subdued //	16	2	3 0 3
	78:28–31	26	15	11

P. The People Repented But They Lied (78:32–36) [8.4.8]

78:32	In spite of all this / they still sinned //	11	2	4 4 0
	and they did not believe / in his wondrous works //	16	2	3 0 3
	78:27–32	41	23	18
78:33	And he brought to end in futility / their days //	10	2	3 3 0
	and their years / in sudden terror //	13	2	2 0 2
	78:27–33	46	26	20
78:34	When he killed them / ^a then they sought him //	15	2	3 3 0
	and they returned [/] and they diligently sought God //	12	2	3 0 3
	78:26–34	58	32	26

78:35	And they remembered / that God was their Rock //	16	2	4	4	0
	and the Most High God / ^a their redeemer //	<u>11</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
		78:30-35		40	23	17

78:36	And they deceived him / ^a with their mouth //	11	2	2	2	0
	and with their tongue / they lied to him //	<u>14</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
		78:33-36		23	12	11

Q. In Spite of Their Unfaithfulness God Forgave Them (78:37-38) [6.4]

78:37	And their heart ^a was not steadfast toward him //	13	1	4	4	0
	and they were not faithful / to his covenant //	<u>12</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
		78:29-37		58	32	26

78:38	And he was compassionate / and he forgave their iniquity /	14	2	4	4	0
	and he did not destroy (them) //	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
		78:32-38a		43	26	17

	And often / he restrained his anger //	12	2	3	3	0
	and he did not rouse / ^a all his wrath //	<u>13</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	
		78:35-38		32	19	13

R. How Often The People Grieved God in the Wilderness (78:39-40) [4.4]

78:39	And he remembered / that they were but flesh //	14	2	4	4	0
	a wind that passes / and does not return //	<u>14</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>
		78:35-39		40	23	17

78:40	How often / they rebelled against him in the wilderness //	12	2	3	3	0
	they grieved him / in the desert //	<u>14</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
		78:35-40		43	26	17

S. Repeatedly They Tested God Forgetting Their Redemption (78:41-42) [4.4]

78:41	Repeatedly they tested / ^a God (EI) //	14	2	3	3	0
	and the Holy One of Israel / ^b they pained //	<u>13</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
		78:38-41		32	19	13

78:42	They did not remember / ^a his hand //	12	2	4	4	0
	the day / when he redeemed them from the adversary //	<u>13</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>
		78:38-42		41	23	18

T. God Sent Signs in Egypt—Plagues of Blood, Flies and Frogs (78:43-45) [8.4]

78:43	When he performed in Egypt / his signs //	14	2	4	4	0
	and his marvels / in the fields of Zoan //	<u>11</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
		78:39-43		35	18	17

78:44	And he turned to blood / their rivers //	14 2	3 3 0
	and their streams / they could not drink //	<u>13 2</u>	<u>3 0 3</u>
		78:40-44	33 17 16

78:45	And he sent on them swarms of flies / that devoured them //	<u>16 2</u>	<u>4 4 0</u>
		78:43-45a	17 11 6

	And frogs / that destroyed them //	<u>14 2</u>	<u>2 0 2</u>
		78:41-45	34 18 16

U. God Sent Plagues of Locusts and Hailstones (78:46-47) [4.4]

78:46	And he gave to the grasshopper / their crops //	14 2	3 3 0
	and the product of their labor / to the locust //	<u>10 2</u>	<u>2 0 2</u>
		78:44-46	17 10 7

78:47	And he destroyed with hailstones / their vines //	12 2	3 3 0
	and their sycamore trees / with frost //	<u>11 2</u>	<u>2 0 2</u>
		78:43-47	29 17 12

V. God Destroyed The Livestock and Sent "Angels of Calamity" (78:48-49) [4.5]

78:48	And he gave over to the hailstones / ^a their cattle //	<u>14 2</u>	<u>3 3 0</u>
		78:43-48a	32 20 12

	And their herds / to bolts of lightning //	<u>13 2</u>	<u>2 0 2</u>
		78:43-48	34 20 14

78:49	And he sent upon them / his burning anger /	<u>11 2</u>	<u>4 4 0</u>
		78:45-49a	25 17 8

	Fury and indignation and trouble //	<u>12 1</u>	<u>3 3 0</u>
			17 13 4

	A band / of angels of calamity //	<u>11 2</u>	<u>3 0 3</u>
		78:44-49	37 23 14

W. God Smote the First-born in Egypt (78:50-51) [6.4]

78:50	He leveled a path / for his anger //	12 2	3 3 0
	he did not spare from death / their soul //	<u>12 2</u>	<u>4 4 0</u>
		78:43-50	51 34 17

	And their lives / to the plague he delivered //	<u>12 2</u>	<u>3 0 3</u>
		78:48-50	25 17 8

78:51	And he smote all the first-born / ^a in Egypt //	11 2	4 4 0
	the first issue of virility / from the tents of Ham //	<u>15 2</u>	<u>4 0 4</u>
		78:44-51	55 34 21

X. God Led the People Like Sheep Through the Wilderness (78:52–54) [8.4]

78:52	And he led like sheep / ^a his people //	9 2	3 3 0
	and he guided them like a flock / in the wilderness //	<u>15 2</u>	<u>3 0 3</u>
		78:49–52	34 21 13
78:53	And he led them safely /	<u>8 1</u>	<u>2 2 0</u>
		78:50–53a	32 18 14
	And they did not fear //	9 1	2 2 0
	and their enemies / the sea engulfed //	<u>14 2</u>	<u>4 0 4</u>
		78:50–53	32 18 14
78:54	And he brought them / to his holy land //	<u>13 2</u>	<u>4 4 0</u>
		78:50–54a	34 20 14
	To this hill country / which his right hand acquired //	<u>12 2</u>	<u>4 0 4</u>
		78:1–54	411 238 173

Y. God Gave Them the Land But They Rebelled Like Their Fathers (78:55–57) [4.8]

78:55	And he drove out from before them ^a the <i>goyim</i> /	14 1	3 3 0
	and he apportioned ^b by measure as an inheritance //	13 1	3 3 0
	and he made to dwell in their tents / the tribes of Israel //	<u>18 2</u>	<u>4 0 4</u>
		78:52–55	26 14 12
78:56	And they tested and the rebelled / against the God Most High //	<u>18 2</u>	<u>5 5 0</u>
		78:51–56a	39 23 16
	And his testimonies / they did not keep //	<u>15 2</u>	<u>3 0 3</u>
		78:52–56	34 19 15
78:57	And they turned aside and acted treacherously / like their fathers //	17 2	3 3 0
	and they were turned aside / like a treacherous bow //	<u>12 2</u>	<u>3 0 3</u>
		78:54–57	32 18 14

Z. Provoked by Idolatry God Abandoned His “Tent” at Shiloh (78:58–60) [5.6]

78:58	And they provoked him with their high places //	<u>15 1</u>	<u>2 2 0</u>
		78:55–58a	26 16 10
	And with their graven images / they aroused his jealousy //	<u>15 2</u>	<u>2 0 2</u>
		78:52–58	50 27 23
78:59	God heard / and he was filled with wrath //	<u>13 2</u>	<u>3 3 0</u>
		78:54–59a	39 23 16
	And he greatly abhorred / Israel //	<u>12 2</u>	<u>3 0 3</u>
		78:54–59	42 23 19

78:60	And he abandoned / his dwelling place at Shiloh ^a //	<u> 10 2</u>	<u> 3 3 0</u>
		78:54-60a	45 26 19
	The tent / (where) he dwelt among humankind //	<u> 12 2</u>	<u> 3 0 3</u>
		78:54-60	48 26 22
AA.	<i>God Gave Them Up to Captivity and the Sword</i> (78:61-62)		[4.4]
78:61	And he gave up to captivity / ^a his strength //	11 2	3 3 0
	and his glory / ^b into the hands of the adversary //	<u> 9 2</u>	<u> 3 0 3</u>
		78:56-61	36 19 17
78:62	And he delivered to the sword / ^a his people //	10 2	3 3 0
	and his inheritance / was filled with wrath //	<u> 12 2</u>	<u> 2 0 2</u>
		78:60-62	17 9 8
BB.	<i>Israel's Young Men and Priests Fell by the Sword</i> (78:63-64)		[3.4]
78:63	His young men fire devoured //	12 1	3 3 0
	and his virgins / had no wedding songs //	<u> 17 2</u>	<u> 3 0 3</u>
		78:61-63	17 9 8
78:64	His priests / by the sword they fell //	14 2	3 3 0
	and their widows / could not weep //	<u> 14 2</u>	<u> 3 0 3</u>
		78:62-64	17 9 8
CC.	<i>God Rejected the Tent of Joseph</i> (78:65-67)		[5.6]
78:65	And he awoke as from sleep / the Lord //	13 2	3 3 0
	like a warrior / overcome by wine //	<u> 14 2</u>	<u> 3 0 3</u>
		78:62-65	23 12 11
78:66	And he drove / ^a his adversaries backward //	<u> 10 1</u>	<u> 3 3 0</u>
		78:61-66a	32 18 14
	An everlasting reproach / he put on them //	<u> 13 2</u>	<u> 4 0 4</u>
		78:58-66	52 26 26
78:67	And he rejected / the tent of Joseph //	11 2	3 3 0
	and the tribe of Ephraim / he did not choose //	<u> 15 2</u>	<u> 4 0 4</u>
		78:64-67	26 12 14
DD.	<i>God Chose the Tribe of Judah, Mount Zion, and David</i> (78:68-70)		[6.6]
78:68	And he chose / the tribe of Judah //	12 2	4 4 0
	and (he chose) Mount Zion / which he loves //	<u> 12 2</u>	<u> 5 0 5</u>
		78:66-68	23 10 13

78:69	And he built like the heights / his sanctuary //	<u>15</u> 2_	<u>4</u> 4 0
		78:65–69a	33 17 16
	Like the earth / he founded it forever //	<u>13</u> 2_	<u>3</u> 0 3
		78:67–69	23 11 12
78:70	And he chose / David his servant //	11 2	3 3 0
	and he took him / from the sheepfolds //	<u>15</u> 2	<u>3</u> 0 3
		78:66–70	36 17 19
EE.	God Brought David to Shepherd Israel His Inheritance (78:71–72)		[4.6]
78:71	From tending ewes / he brought him //	13 2	3 3 0
	to shepherd / Jacob his people //	<u>11</u> 2_	<u>3</u> 3 0
		78:68–71a	28 17 11
	And Israel / his inheritance //	<u>14</u> 2_	<u>2</u> 0 2
		78:67–71	37 20 17
78:72	And he shepherded them / according to the integrity of his heart //	12 2	3 3 0
	and with his skillful hands / ^a he guided them //	<u>13</u> 2	<u>3</u> 0 3
		78:1–72	530 301 229

Scansion in Accentual Stress Units:

(6.4).(6.6) . (6.5).(4.3).(4.4) . (6.5).(4.8).(4.8) . (4.6).(5.4).(4.4) . (4.8).(4.4).(4.4) . [(4.6) . (8.4.8) . (6.4)] . (4.4).(4.4) . (8.4) ...
(10+12)+(11+7+8)+(11+12+12)+(10+9+8)+(12+8+8)+[10+20+10]+(8+8+12)+(8+9+10)+(12+12+11)+(8+7+11)+(12+10)
= (22 + 26) + (35 + 27) + (28 + 40 + 28) + (27 + 35) + (26 + 22) = 316
(110 + 28) + 40 + (28 + 110) = 316 = 138 + 40 + 138 or: 178 // 178

Concentric Compositional Formula: 530 = 265 + 0 + 265 [word-count—with heading]

Notes:

- 78:2^a Reading two consecutive occurrences of *munaḥ* in BHS as disjunctive.
- 78:4^a Reading *mêrəkâ* preceded immediately by *ga'yâ* (= *meteg*) in Letteris as disjunctive. BHS omits *ga'yâ* (= *meteg*).
- 78:12^a Reading the sequence of *mêrəkâ* followed by *munaḥ* in BHS as disjunctive.
- 78:13^a Reading *mêrəkâ* preceded immediately by *ga'yâ* (= *meteg*) in BHS as disjunctive.
- 78:14^a Reading two consecutive occurrences of *munaḥ* in BHS as disjunctive.
- 78:16^a Reading two consecutive occurrences of *munaḥ* in BHS as disjunctive.
- 78:18^a Reading *mêrəkâ* here in BHS as disjunctive.
- 78:18^b Reading *mêrəkâ* preceded immediately by *ga'yâ* (= *meteg*) in BHS as disjunctive.
- 78:20^a Reading the sequence of *mêrəkâ* followed by *munaḥ* in BHS as disjunctive.
- 78:21^a Reading *mêrəkâ* preceded immediately by *ga'yâ* (= *meteg*) in BHS as disjunctive.
- 78:23^a Reading two consecutive occurrences of *munaḥ* in BHS as disjunctive.
- 78:24^a Reading two consecutive occurrences of *munaḥ* in BHS as disjunctive.
- 78:26^a Reading the sequence of *mêrəkâ* followed by *munaḥ* in BHS as disjunctive.
- 78:27^a Reading two consecutive occurrences of *munaḥ* in BHS as disjunctive.
- 78:29^a Reading two consecutive occurrences of *munaḥ* in BHS as disjunctive.

- 78:30^a Reading *mêrəkâ* here in BHS as disjunctive.
- 78:31^a Reading the sequence of *mêrəkâ* followed by *munaḥ* in BHS as disjunctive.
- 78:34^a Reading *mêrəkâ* here in BHS as disjunctive.
- 78:35^a Reading the disjunctive *rəḥîa' muḡraš* here with Letteris. BHS has only the first half of this 2-part accent.
- 78:36^a Reading *mêrəkâ* here in BHS as disjunctive.
- 78:37^a Reading *dəḥî* here in BHS as conjunctive.
- 78:38^a Reading *galgal* here in BHS as disjunctive. BHS omits the accent and joins the word (“and not”) with the following word with *maqqēp̄*.
- 78:41^a Reading two consecutive occurrences of *munaḥ* in BHS as disjunctive.
- 78:41^b Reading the sequence of *mêrəkâ* followed by *munaḥ* in BHS as disjunctive.
- 78:42^a Reading *mêrəkâ* here in BHS as disjunctive.
- 78:48^a Reading two consecutive occurrences of *munaḥ* in BHS as disjunctive.
- 78:51^a Reading two consecutive occurrences of *munaḥ* in BHS as disjunctive.
- 78:52^a Reading two consecutive occurrences of *munaḥ* in BHS as disjunctive.
- 78:55^a Reading *'azlâ ləḡarmeh* here in BHS as conjunctive.
- 78:55^b Reading *dəḥî* here in BHS as conjunctive.
- 78:60^b Reading *שִׁלּוֹ* (“Shiloh”) here with many Hebrew Mss in place of *שִׁלּוֹ* in BHS.
- 78:61^a Reading two consecutive occurrences of *munaḥ* in BHS as disjunctive.
- 78:61^b Reading *mêrəkâ* preceded immediately by *ga'yâ* (= *meṭeḡ*) in BHS as disjunctive.
- 78:62^a Reading two consecutive occurrences of *munaḥ* in BHS as disjunctive.
- 78:66^a Reading *mêrəkâ* here in BHS as disjunctive.
- 78:72^a Reading the sequence of *mêrəkâ* followed by *munaḥ* in BHS as disjunctive.

Summary of the Logoprosodic Analysis

1. Psalm 78 has 31 strophes: 78:1–2, 3–4 5–6b, 6c–7, 8, 9–11, 12–14, 15–17, 18–19, 20–21a, 21b–22, 23–25, 26–27, 28–29, 30–31, 32–36, 37–38, 39–40, 41–42, 43–45, 46–47, 48–49, 50–51, 52–54, 55–57, 58–60, 61–62, 63–64, 65–67, 68–70 and 71–72.

A	78:1–2	2 balanced dyads + pivot:	$[8 + 15] + 12 + [11 + 14]$	=	$23 + 12 + 25$	morae
B	78:3–4	2 balanced triads:	$[14 + 16 + 11] + [20 + 13 + 6]$	=	$41 + 39$	morae
C	78:5–6b	3 balanced dyads:	$[13 + 13] + [13 + 11] + [14 + 11]$	=	$26 + 24 + 25$	morae
D	78:6c–7a	balanced dyad:	$[17 + 16]$	=	$17 + 16$	morae
	78:7bc	balanced dyad:	$[13 + 12]$	=	$13 + 12$	morae
E	78:8	2 balanced dyads:	$[12 + 11] + [11 + 14]$	=	$23 + 25$	morae
F	78:9–11	2 balanced triads:	$[18 + 11 + 15] + [18 + 12 + 12]$	=	$44 + 42$	morae
G	78:12	balanced dyad:	$[13 + 12]$	=	$13 + 12$	morae
	78:13–14	2 balanced dyads:	$[12 + 10] + [13 + 11]$	=	$22 + 24$	morae
H	78:15	balanced dyad:	$[11 + 10]$	=	$11 + 10$	morae
	78:16–17	2 balanced dyads:	$[14 + 13] + [15 + 11]$	=	$27 + 26$	morae
I	78:18–19	2 balanced dyads + pivot:	$[13 + 10] + 12 + [11 + 11]$	=	$23 + 12 + 22$	morae
J	78:20–21a	2 balanced dyads + pivot:	$[16 + 12] + 9 + [12 + 16]$	=	$28 + 9 + 28$	morae
K	78:21b–c	balanced dyad:	$[12 + 13]$	=	$12 + 13$	morae
	78:22	balanced dyad:	$[16 + 16]$	=	$16 + 16$	morae
L	78:23	balanced dyad:	$[12 + 12]$	=	$12 + 12$	morae
	78:24–25	2 balanced dyads:	$[14 + 15] + [12 + 15]$	=	$29 + 27$	morae
M	78:26	balanced dyad:	$[12 + 13]$	=	$12 + 13$	morae
	78:27	balanced dyad:	$[16 + 14]$	=	$16 + 14$	morae
N	78:28	balanced dyad:	$[13 + 11]$	=	$13 + 11$	morae
	78:29	balanced dyad:	$[14 + 14]$	=	$14 + 14$	morae
O	78:30–31	2 balanced dyads + pivot:	$[13 + 12] + 14 + [11 + 16]$	=	$25 + 14 + 27$	morae

X	78:32–34	2 balanced dyads + pivot:	$[11+16] + [10+13] + [15+12]$	=	$27 + 23 + 27$	morae
	78:35–36	2 balanced dyads:	$[16+11] + [11+14]$	=	$27 + 25$	morae

O'	78:37–38	3 balanced dyads + pivot:	$[13 + 12] + [14 + 6] + [12 + 13]$	=	$25 + 20 + 25$	morae
N'	78:39–40	2 balanced dyads:	$[14 + 14] + [12 + 14]$	=	$28 + 26$	morae
M'	78:41–42	2 balanced dyads:	$[14 + 13] + [12 + 13]$	=	$27 + 25$	morae
L'	78:43–44	2 balanced dyads:	$[14 + 11] + [14 + 13]$	=	$25 + 27$	morae
	78:45	balanced dyad:	$[16 + 14]$	=	$16 + 14$	morae
K'	78:46–47	2 balanced dyads:	$[14 + 10] + [12 + 11]$	=	$24 + 23$	morae
J'	78:48	balanced dyad:	$[14 + 13]$	=	$14 + 13$	morae
	78:49	balanced triad:	$[11 + 12 + 11]$	=	$11 + 12 + 11$	morae
I'	78:50–51	2 balanced dyads + pivot:	$[12 + 12] + 12 + [11 + 15]$	=	$24 + 12 + 26$	morae
H'	78:52–53	2 balanced dyads + pivot:	$[9 + 15] + 8 + [9 + 14]$	=	$24 + 8 + 23$	morae
	78:54	balanced dyad:	$[13 + 12]$	=	$13 + 12$	morae
G'	78:55–57	2 balanced triads + pivot:	$[14 + 13 + 18] + 18 + [15 + 17 + 12]$	=	$45 + 18 + 44$	morae
F'	78:58–59a	balanced triad:	$[15 + 15 + 13]$	=	$15 + 15$	morae
	78:59b–60	balanced triad:	$[12 + 10 + 12]$	=	$10 + 12$	morae
E'	78:61–62	2 balanced dyads:	$[11 + 9] + [10 + 12]$	=	$20 + 22$	morae
D'	78:63–64	2 balanced dyads:	$[12 + 17] + [14 + 14]$	=	$29 + 28$	morae
C'	78:65–67	2 balanced triads:	$[13 + 14 + 10] + [13 + 11 + 15]$	=	$37 + 39$	morae
B'	78:68–70	2 balanced triads:	$[12 + 12 + 15] + [13 + 11 + 15]$	=	$39 + 39$	morae
A'	78:71–72	2 balanced dyads + pivot:	$[13 + 11] + 14 + [12 + 13]$	=	$24 + 14 + 25$	morae

2. The first strophe (78:1–2) is a single part arranged in four subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:1a, 1b, 1c and 2.
 - 77:20–78:1 **23** words
 - 77:19–78:2 **17** words after *atnach*

3. The second strophe (78:3–4) is a single part arranged in three subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:3, 4a and 4b–d.
 - 77:20–78:3 **17** words after *atnach*
 - 78:1–4 **34** (= **17** x 2) words

4. The third strophe (78:5–6b) is a single part arranged in four subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:5ab, 5c, 5d and 6.
 - 78:1–5 **46** (= **23** x 2) words and **17** words after *atnach*
 - 78:1–6a **52** (= **26** x 2) words and **17** words after *atnach*

5. The fourth strophe (78:6c–7) has two parts arranged in four subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:6c, 7a, 7b and 7c.
 - 78:2–6 **46** (= **23** x 2) words
 - 78:1–7 **64** (= **32** x 2 = 2x2x2x2x2x2) words

6. The fifth strophe (78:8) is a single part arranged in four subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:8ab and 8cd.
 - 78:7–8 **17** words before *atnach*
 - 78:2–8 **23** words after *atnach*
 - 78:1–8 **52** (= **26** x 2) words before *atnach*

7. The sixth strophe (78:9–11) is a single part arranged in four subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:9, 10a, 10b and 11.
 - 78:1–9 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words
 - 78:2–9 **78 = 52 + 26** [compositional formula—all divisible by 26]
 - 78:2–10 **85** (= **17** x 5) words
 - 78:2–11 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words after *atnach*

8. The seventh strophe (78:12–14) has two parts arranged in six subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:12a, 12b, 13a, 13b, 14a and 14b.
 - 78:7–12 **52** (= **26** x 2) words and **32** words before *atnach*
 - 78:9–13 **17** words after *atnach*
 - 78:10–14 **34** (= **17** x 2) words

9. The eighth strophe (78:15–17) has two parts arranged in four subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:15a, 15b, 16 and 17.
 - 78:8–15 **17** words
 - 78:1–15 **51** (= **17** x 3) after *atnach*
 - 78:13–16 **26** words
 - 78:14–17 **26** words

10. The ninth strophe (78:18–19) is a single part arranged in three subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:18, 19a and 19bc.
- 78:14–18 **32** words
 - 78:13–19 **23** words after *atnach*
11. The tenth strophe (78:20–21a) is a single part arranged in four subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:20a, 20b, 20c and 21a.
- 78:19–20 **23** words
 - 78:1–20 **102** (= **17** x 6) words before *atnach*
 - 78:16–21a **46** (= **23** x 2) words
12. The eleventh strophe (78:21b–22) has two parts arranged in four subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:21b, 21c, 22a and 22b.
- 78:20–21 **26** words
 - 78:18–22 **17** words after *atnach*
13. The twelfth strophe (78:23–25) has two parts arranged in four subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:23a, 23b, 24 and 25.
- 78:19–23 **17** words after *atnach*
 - 78:21–24 **32** words
 - 78:1–24 **120** (= **40** x 3) words **[40 = 17 + 23]**
 - 78:16–25 **34** (= **17** x 2) words after *atnach*
 - 78:1–25 **85** (= **17** x 5) words after *atnach*
14. The thirteenth strophe (78:26–27) has two parts: 78:26 and 27.
- 78:22–26 **17** words after *atnach*
 - 78:19–27 **32** words after *atnach*
 - 78:1–27 **92** (= **23** x 4) words after *atnach*
15. The fourteenth strophe (78:28–29) has two parts arranged in four subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:28a, 28b, 29a and 29b.
- 78:24–28 **17** words after *atnach*
 - 78:20–29 **80 = 46 + 34** [compositional formula]
 - 78:25–29 **17** words before *atnach*
16. The fifteenth strophe (78:30–31) is a single part arranged in three subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:30, 31a and 31bc.
- 78:28–30 **17** words
 - 78:28–31 **26** words
 - 78:1–30 **240** (= **40** x 6) words **[40 = 17 + 23]**
17. The sixteenth strophe (78:32–36) has two parts arranged in five subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:32, 33, 34, 35 and 36.
- 78:27–32 **23** words before *atnach*
 - 78:1–32 **256** (= **32** x 8 = 2x2x2x2x2x2x2x2) words

- 78:27–33 **46** (= **23** x 2) words and **26** words before *atnach*
- 78:1–33 **153** (= **17** x 9 = triangular **17**) words
- 78:26–34 **58 = 32 + 26** [compositional formula]
- 78:1–34 **156** (= **26** x 6) words before *atnach*
- 78:30–35 **40 = 23 + 17** [compositional formula]
- 78:1–35 **160** (= **40** x 4) words before *atnach*
- 78:33–36 **23** words
- 78:29–36 **58 = 32 + 26** [compositional formula]

18. The seventeenth strophe (78:37–38) is a single part arranged in three subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:37, 38ab and 38cd.

- 78:1–37 **120** (= **40** x 3) words after *atnach*
- 78:35–38 **32** words

19. The eighteenth strophe (78:39–40) is a single part arranged in two subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:39 and 40.

- 78:35–39 **40 = 23 + 17** [compositional formula]
- 78:1–39 **128** (= **32** x 4 = 2x2x2x2x2x2x2) words after *atnach*
- 78:35–40 **43 = 26 + 17** [compositional formula]
- 78:1–40 **130** (= **26** x 5) words after *atnach*

20. The nineteenth strophe (78:41–42) is a single part arranged in two subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:41 and 42.

- 78:38–41 **32** words
- 78:38–42 **23** words before *atnach*
- 78:1–42 **138** (= **23** x 6) words after *atnach*

21. The twentieth strophe (78:43–45) has two parts arranged in four subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:43, 44, 45a and 45b.

- 78:39–43 **17** words after *atnach*
- 78:40–44 **17** words before *atnach*
- 78:1–44 **340** (= **17** x 2 x 10) words and **196** (= **49** x 4) words before *atnach*
- 78:41–45 **34** (= **17** x 2) words

22. The twenty-first strophe (78:46–47) is a single part arranged in two subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:46 and 47.

- 78:44–46 **17** words
- 78:43–47 **17** words before *atnach*

23. The twenty-second strophe (78:48–49) has two parts arranged in four subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:48a, 48b, 49a, 49b and 49c.

- 78:43–48 **34** (= **17** x 2) words
- 78:44–49 **23** words before *atnach*

24. The twenty-third strophe (78:50–51) is a single part arranged in three subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:50ab, 50c and 51.

- 78:48–50 **17** words before *atnach*
- 78:43–50 **51 = 34 + 17** [compositional formula]
- 78:44–51 **34** (= **17** x 2) words before *atnach*

25. The twenty-fourth strophe (78:52–54) has two parts arranged in five subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:52, 53a, 53bc, 54a and 54b.

- 78:49–52 **34** (= **17** x 2) words
- 78:1–52 **230** (= **23** x 10) words before *atnach*
- 78:50–53 **32** words
- 78:1–54 **238** (= **17** x 9 x 2 = 2 x triangular **17**) words before *atnach*

26. The twenty-fifth strophe (78:55–57) is a single part arranged in four subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:55, 56a, 56b and 57.

- 78:52–55 **26** words
- 78:52–56 **34** (= **17** x 2) words
- 78:54–57 **32** words

27. The twenty-sixth strophe (78:58–60) has two parts arranged in six subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:58a, 58b, 59a, 59b, 60a and 60b.

- 78:52–58 **23** words after *atnach*
- 78:54–59 **23** words before *atnach*
- 78:54–60 **26** words before *atnach*
- 78:1–60 **260** (= **26** x 10) words before *atnach*

28. The twenty-seventh strophe (78:61–62) is a single part arranged in two subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:61 and 62.

- 78:56–61 **17** words after *atnach*
- 78:60–62 **17** words

29. The twenty-eighth strophe (78:63–64) is a single part arranged in two subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:63 and 64.

- 78:61–63 **17** words
- 78:62–64 **17** words

30. The twenty-ninth strophe (78:65–67) is a single part arranged in four subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:65, 66a, 66b and 67.

- 78:62–65 **23** words
- 78:1–65 **480** (= **40** x 12) words
- 78:58–66 **52 = 26 + 26** [compositional formula]
- 78:64–67 **26** words

31. The thirtieth strophe (78:68–70) is a single part arranged in four subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:68, 69a, 69b and 70.

- 78:66–68 **23** words
- 78:66–68 **23** words
- 78:58–68 **52 = 26 + 26** [compositional formula]

- 78:1–69 **510** (= 17 x 3 x 10) words
- 78:66–70 **17** words before *atnach*
- 78:1–70 **516** (= 43 x 12) words **[43 = 17 + 26]**

32. The thirty-first strophe (78:71–72) is a single part arranged in three subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 78:71ab, 71c and 72.

- 78:67–71 **17** words after *atnach*

Observations

1. The 31 strophes in Psalm 78:1–72 are arranged in 13 cantos, which may be outlined in a nested menorah pattern, which is determined on prosodic grounds, as follows:

1st Level Menorah: The Enigma of Sacred History (Ps 78:1–72)

A	God has commanded us to teach the children yet to be born	[10.12.11]	78:1–6b
B	God wants obedience but Ephraim refused to walk in the Torah	[7.8.11]	78:6c–11
C	God did wonders—dividing the sea and providing water	[12.12]	78:12–17
X	The people angered God by their rebellion	—	78:18–51
C'	God led them to his holy land; but they rebelled	[12.12]	78:52–57
B'	They provoked God with idolatry and he abandoned Shiloh	[11.8.7]	78:58–64
A'	God rejected the tent of Joseph and chose Judah and David	[11.12.10]	78:65–72

2nd Level Menorah: The People Angered God by Their Rebellion (78:18–51)

A	They angered God demanding food and God sent manna	[10.9.8.12]	78:18–25
B	God gave them meat (quail) and they ate their fill	[8.8]	78:26–29
C	While the food was still in their mouths, he slew them in anger	[4.6]	78:30–31
X	The people repented; but they lied	[8.4.8]	78:32–36
C'	Though they were not faithful to his covenant, he forgave them	[6.4]	78:37–38
B'	Repeatedly they tested God but he redeemed them	[8.8]	78:39–42
A'	They forgot the signs (plagues) God sent in Egypt	[12.8.9.10]	78:43–51

2. At the same time, the 31 individual strophes may be outlined in a five-level nested menorah pattern, as follows:

1st Level Menorah: The Enigma of Sacred History: From Zoan to Zion (Ps 78:1–72)

A	Listen to my instruction for I will utter dark sayings of old	[6.4]	78:1–2
B	We will reveal his wondrous works to the generation to come	[6.6]	78:3–4
C	God commanded our fathers to teach the children yet to be born	[6.5]	78:5–6b
X	God extends grace to his rebellious people		78:6c–64
C'	He drove his adversaries back and rejected the tent of Joseph	[5.6]	78:65–67
B'	He chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion, and David his servant	[6.6]	78:68–70
A'	He brought David to shepherd Israel his inheritance	[4.6]	78:71–72

2nd Level Menorah: God Extends Grace to His Rebellious People (Ps 78:6c–64)

- A That their children will trust God and keep his commandments [4.3] 78:6c–7
- B That they will not be rebellious like their fathers [4.4] 78:8
- C The sons of Ephraim refused to walk in the Torah [6.5] 78:9–11
- X **God did great wonders and still his people rebelled** 78:12–57
- C' When provoked with idolatry, he abandoned his “tent” at Shiloh [5.6] 78:58–60
- B' He gave them up to captivity as his inheritance was filled with wrath [4.4] 78:61–62
- A' His young men and his priests fell by the sword [3.4] 78:63–64

3rd Level Menorah: God Did Wonders and Still His People Rebelled (Ps 78:12–57)

- A God did wonders in Egypt—he divided the sea and led the people [8.4] 78:12–14
- B He gave them water from the rock—and still they rebelled [4.8] 78:15–17
- C They asked food doubting God’s ability to provide [4.6] 78:18–19
- X **God sent manna even though they had forgotten his signs** 78:20–49
- C' He smote the first-born in Egypt [6.4] 78:50–51
- B' He led his people like sheep in the wilderness to his holy land [8.4] 78:52–54
- A' He gave them the land but they rebelled like their fathers [4.8] 78:55–57

4th Level Menorah: God Sent Manna Though They Forgot His Signs (Ps 78:20–49)

- A God heard their words of doubt and he was full of wrath [5.4] 78:20–21a
- B God’s anger mounted because they did not believe [4.4] 78:21b–22
- C He rained down manna upon them sending food in abundance [4.8] 78:23–25
- X **God sent judgment and grace in the wilderness** 78:26–42
- C' God’s signs in Egypt—plagues of blood, flies and frogs [8.4] 78:43–45
- B' Plagues of locusts and hailstones [4.4] 78:46–47
- A' He destroyed their livestock and sent “angels of calamity” [4.5] 78:48–49

5th Level Menorah: God’s Judgment and Grace in the Wilderness (Ps 78:26–42)

- A He rained upon them the meat of winged fowl like the sand of the sea [4.4] 78:26–27
- B He let them fall in their camp and they ate their fill [4.4] 78:28–29
- C While the food was still in their mouths, he slew them in anger [4.6] 78:30–31
- X **When he killed them they repented; but they lied to him** 78:32–36
- C' Though they were not faithful to his covenant, he forgave them [6.4] 78:37–38
- B' How often they grieved him in the wilderness [4.4] 78:39–40
- A' Repeatedly they tested God forgetting the day he redeemed them [4.4] 78:41–42

3. The density in the use of the four primary compositional numbers (**17**, **23**, **26** and **32**) in Psalm 78 is remarkable, in spite of the fact that Labuschagne concludes “that the author made no effort to weave the divine name into the word-fabric of the text” (p. 1 of his file); and “There is no sign of any attempt by the author to underscore the structure of the text and the final compositional formula in terms of words with the help of the divine name numbers” (p. 10).

4. In terms of the 530 words in Psalm 78, the **arithmological center** falls between the words **ושבו ושחרו** (“and he returned and he searched for [God]”) in 78:34b, with 265 words on either side. The initial *Concentric Compositional Formula* is:

$$530 = 265 + 0 + 265 \quad [\text{word count—with heading}]$$

One candidate for the **meaningful center** is found by adding two words on either side of the **arithmological center** as follows:

וּדְרָשׁוּהוּ	And they searched for him;
אֶל וּשְׁבוּ וּשְׁחָרוּ	And they repented and they looked diligently for God.

In this instance the *Concentric Compositional Formula* becomes:

$$530 = 263 + 4 + 263 \quad [\text{word count—with heading}]$$

or: 267 // 267 [with pivot counted in each half]

The **meaningful center** may be expanded by adding nine words on either side of the **arithmological center**, which includes the whole of verses 33–35, as follows:

33	וַיִּכַּל בְּהַבֵּל יְמֵיהֶם	And so he ended their days in a breath
	וּשְׁנוֹתָם בְּבַהֲלָה	And their years in sudden calamity
34	אִם הִרְגָם וּדְרָשׁוּהוּ	When he slew them they sought him;
	אֶל וּשְׁבוּ וּשְׁחָרוּ	And they repented and they looked earnestly for God.
35	וַיִּזְכְּרוּ כִּי אֱלֹהִים צוּרָם	And they remembered that God was their Rock
	וְאֵל עֲלִיּוֹן גֹּאֲלָם	And that God Most High redeemed them.

In this instance the *Concentric Compositional Formula* becomes:

$$530 = 256 + 18 + 256 \quad [\text{word count—with heading}]$$

or: 274 // 274 [with pivot counted in each half]

{256 = 32 x 8 = 2x2x2x2x2x2x2x2 = 2⁸}

The **meaningful center** may be expanded further by adding twenty-seven words on either side of the **arithmological center** so as to include 78:30b–38a, as follows:

	אֲכָלָם בְּפִיהֶם	And their food was in their mouths—
31	וַאֲפֵ אֱלֹהִים עָלָה בָהֶם	And the anger of God rose against them
	וַיַּהַרְגַם בְּמַשְׁמַנֵיהֶם	And he slew their best men
	וּבַחֹרֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל הִכְרִיעַ	And the youths of Israel he brought down
32	בְּכָל זֹאת חָטְאוּ עוֹד	Despite all this they kept on sinning
	וְלֹא הֵאֱמִינוּ בְּנִפְלְאוֹתָיו	And they did not trust in his wonders
33	וַיִּכַּל בְּהַבֵּל יְמֵיהֶם	And so he ended their days in a breath
	וּשְׁנוֹתָם בְּבַהֲלָה	And their years in sudden calamity

34	אם הרגם ודרשוהו	When he slew them they sought him;
	אל ושבו ושחרו	And they repented and they looked earnestly for God.
35	ויזכרו כי אלהים צורם	And they remembered that God was their Rock
	ואל עליון גאלם	And that God Most High redeemed them.
36	ויפתוהו בפיהם	And they deceived him with their mouth
	ובלשונם יכזבו לו	And with their tongue they lied to him
37	ולבם לא נכון עמו	And their heart was not steadfast toward him
	ולא נאמנו בבריתו	And they were not faithful in his covenant
38	והוא רחום	But he was compassionate
	יכפר עון ולא ישחית	He forgave their iniquity and he did not destroy (them).

In this instance the *Concentric Compositional Formula* becomes:

$$530 = 238 + 54 + 238 \quad [\text{word count—with heading}]$$

$$\text{or: } 292 // 292 \quad [\text{with pivot counted in each half}]$$

$$\{238 = 17 \times 7 \times 2\}$$

5. Summary of the concentric compositional formulae:

$$530 = 256 + 18 + 256 \quad \text{or: } 274 // 274 \quad \{256 = 32 \times 8\}$$

$$530 = 238 + 54 + 238 \quad \text{or: } 292 // 292 \quad \{238 = 17 \times 7 \times 2\}$$

{with others in between}

$$530 = 27 + 476 + 27 \quad \text{or: } 503 // 503$$

$$530 = 14 + 502 + 14 \quad \text{or: } 516 // 516$$

$$316 = 138 + 40 + 136 \quad \text{or: } 178 // 178 \quad \text{syntactic accentual-stress units}$$

$$\{138 = 23 \times 6\}$$

$$164 = 72 + 20 + 72 \quad \text{or: } 92 // 92 \quad \text{briques (primary accentual-stress units)}$$

$$\{92 = 23 \times 4\}$$

6. In the prosodic structure of Psalm 78 as a whole, the basic building blocks in each poetic “verseline” are the *briques* (primary syntactic accentual stress units). These sub-units are delineated by the Masoretes, who marked the boundaries with one of the following:

- **Soph Pasuq** A large colon following a word signifies the end of a verse, which does not always coincide with the end of a sentence.
- **Atnach** A small caret-like mark (like ^) beneath the consonantal text, pointing upward, is used to divide most verses. Its primary importance for our purposes concerns its use in the matter of numerical composition—i.e., the total word-count in each line is divided into the number of words before and after *atnach*.

- **Ole Weyored** A combination of two accentual signs: a caret-like mark above the consonantal text, pointing to the left, used together with the accent *merka* (an upright line beneath the consonantal text slanting to the right). These two marks usually appear on the same word, but when that word is monosyllabic the *merka* falls on the following word. This major divider is usually considered to be a stronger disjunctive accent than *atnach*.

In the prosodic analysis presented in the translation (above), the presence of these three markers is indicated with a double slash (/). Psalm 78 has 164 *briques*, 153 of which are marked by: *soph pasuq* (72 times, at the end of each verse), *atnach* (72 times, in each verse), and *ole weyored* (9 times, in vv. 1, 5, 7, 8, 19, 20, 38, 50 and 71). The remaining 11 boundaries are marked by *rəḥîa^c* (6 times, in vv. 4, 5, 8, 31, 49 and 55), *rəḥîa^c muğraš* (v. 14), *dəḥî* (2 times, in vv. 4 and 6), *šinnôr* (v. 20), and *mérəḵâ* (v. 21).

7. The details in the prosodic structure of Psalm 78 may be displayed as follows [^ represents *atnach*; : represents *soph pasuq*; † represents *ole weyored*, and † represents all other accent markers]:

I	<p>A ¹ <i>mizmôr lə'āsāp[†]</i> <i>haṭṭû 'oznəḵem lə'imrê-ḡî :</i> ² <i>'əptəḥāh ḥəməšāl ḡî ^</i></p> <p>B ³ <i>'āšer šāma^cnû wannēdā^cēm ^</i> ⁴ <i>lō' nəḵahēd mibbənêhem †</i> <i>təhillôt yhwḥ ^</i></p> <p>C ⁵ <i>wayyāqem 'ēdūt bəya^cāqōb[†]</i> <i>'āšer šiwwāh 'et-'əḥôtênû ^</i> ⁶ <i>ləma^can yēḏə'û dōr 'aḥārôn †</i></p>	<p><i>ha'āzînāh 'ammî tōrātî ^</i></p> <p><i>'abî'āh ḥîdôt minnî-qeḏem :</i></p> <p><i>wa'əḥôtênû sippərû-lānû :</i> <i>ləḏōr 'aḥārôn məsappərîm †</i> <i>wə'əzūzō wəniḡlə'ôtāyw 'āšer 'āsāh :</i></p> <p><i>wəṭōrāh šām bəyiśrā'ēl[†]</i> <i>lehôḏî'ām liḡnêhem :</i> <i>bānîm yiwwālēḏû ^</i></p>
<hr/>		
II	<p>D <i>yaqūmû wîsappərû liḡnêhem :</i> <i>wəlō' yiškəḥû ma'aləlê-'ēl ^</i></p> <p>E ⁸ <i>wəlō' yihyû ka'əḥôtām †</i> <i>dōr lō'-hēḵîn libbô ^</i></p> <p>F ⁹ <i>bənê-'eḡrayim nôšəqê rômê-qāšet ^</i> ¹⁰ <i>lō' šāmərû bərîṭ 'ēlōḥîm ^</i> ¹¹ <i>wayyiškəḥû 'ālîlôtāyw ^</i></p>	<p>⁷ <i>wəyāsîmû ḥē'lōḥîm kislām †</i> <i>ûmišwōtāyw yinšōrû :</i></p> <p><i>dōr sōrēr ûmōreh †</i> <i>wəlō'-ne'əmnāh 'et-'ēl rūḥô :</i></p> <p><i>hoḡḵû bəyôm qərāb :</i> <i>ûḥəṭōrātô mē'ānû lāleḵet :</i> <i>wəniḡlə'ôtāyw 'āšer her'ām :</i></p>
<hr/>		
III	<p>G ¹² <i>neḡeḏ 'əḥôtām 'āsāh ḡele[^]</i> ¹³ <i>bāqa^c yām wayya^cəḥîrēm ^</i> ¹⁴ <i>wayyanḥēm be'ānān yômām ^</i></p>	<p><i>bə'ereš mišrayim səḏēh-šō'an :</i> <i>wayyašḡeb-mayîm kəmə-nēḏ :</i> <i>wəḵol-hallaylāh †</i> <i>bə'ōr 'ēs :</i></p>

H	¹⁵ <i>yəḅaqqā^c šūrīm bammiḏbār[^]</i> ¹⁶ <i>wayyôṣîṯ[?] nôzəlîm missāla^c ^</i> ¹⁷ <i>wayyôṣîṯpû[?] ʿôḏ laḥăṯô[?]-lô[^]</i>	<i>wayaşq kiṯhômôṯ rabbāh :</i> <i>wayyôreḏ kannəḥārôṯ māyim :</i> <i>lamrôṯ ʿelyôn başşîyāh :</i>
<hr/>		
IV	<p>I</p> ¹⁸ <i>wayənassû-ʿəl biləḅābām[^]</i> ¹⁹ <i>wayəḏabbərû bēʿlôhîm[†]</i> <i>laʿārôḵ şulḥān bammiḏbār :</i>	<p><i>lišʿol-ʿôḵel lənaḫšām :</i> [?]<i>āmərû ḥâyûḵal ʿəl[^]</i></p>
J	²⁰ <i>hēn hikkāh-şūr wayyāzûḅû mayim[†]</i> <i>ḥăḡam-leḥem yûşal tēt[^]</i> ²¹ <i>lākēn šāma^c yhwḥ wayyit^cabbār[†]</i>	<p><i>ûnəḥālîm yişṯôḅû[†]</i> [?]<i>im-yākîn šəʿər ləʿammô :</i></p>
K	²² <i>wəʿēš niśśəqāh ḅəyaʿăqôḅ[^]</i> ²² <i>kîlô[?] heʿēmînu bēʿlôhîm[^]</i>	<p><i>wəḡam-ʿap[?] ʿālāh ḅəyiśrāʿəl :</i> <i>wəlô[?] ḅātəḥû bîşûʿăṯô :</i></p>
<hr/>		
V	<p>L</p> ²³ <i>wayəşaw šəḥāqîm mimmāʿal[^]</i> ²⁴ <i>wayyamṯēr ʿălêhem mān leʿəḵôl[^]</i> ²⁵ <i>leḥem ʿabbîrîm ʿăḵal ʿîş[^]</i>	<p><i>wəḏaltê šāmayim pātāḥ :</i> <i>ûḏəḡan-šāmayim nāṯan lāmô :</i> <i>şêḏāḥ šālāḥ lāhem lāsôḅa^c :</i></p>
M	²⁶ <i>yissa^c qādîm başşāmāyim[^]</i> ²⁷ <i>wayyamṯēr ʿălêhem keʿāpār šəʿər[^]</i>	<p><i>wayənahēḡ bəʿuzzô tēmān :</i> <i>ûḵəḥôl yammîm ʿôḫ kănāḫ :</i></p>
N	²⁸ <i>wayyappēl bəqereḅ maḥănêḥû[^]</i> ²⁹ <i>wayyôʿḵəlû wayyîşbəʿû məʿôḏ[^]</i>	<p><i>sāḅîḅ ləmişkənôṯāyw :</i> <i>wəṯaʿăwātām yāḅîʿ lāhem :</i></p>
<hr/>		
VI	<p>O</p> ³⁰ <i>lô[?]-zārû mittaʿăwātām[^]</i> ³¹ <i>wəʿap[?] ʿəlôhîm^c ʿālāh ḅāhem[†]</i> <i>ûḅahûrê yiśrāʿəl hiḵrîa^c :</i>	<p><i>ʿôḏ ʿăḵəlām bəḫîhem :</i> <i>wayyahărôḡ bəmişmannêhem[^]</i></p>
X	³² <i>bəḵkol-zôṯ ḥăṯəʿû-ʿôḏ[^]</i> ³³ <i>wayəḵal-baheḅel yəmêhem[^]</i> ³⁴ <i>ʿim-ḥārāḡām ûşîḥărû-ʿəl[^]</i> ³⁵ <i>wayyizkərû kî-ʿəlôhîm şûrām[^]</i> ³⁶ <i>wayəḫpattûḥû bəḫîhem[^]</i>	<p><i>wəlô[?]-heʿēmînu bəniḫlôʿôṯāyw :</i> <i>ûşənôṯām babbehālāh :</i> <i>wəṯôḵaḥṯî labbqārîm :</i> <i>wəʿəl ʿelyôn ḡôʿālām :</i> <i>ûḅîlşônām yəḵazzəḅû-lô :</i></p>
O'	³⁷ <i>wəlibbām lô[?]-nāḵôn ʿimmô[^]</i> ³⁸ <i>wəḥû[?] raḥûm yəḵappēr ʿāwôn wəlô[?]-yaşḥîṯ[†]</i> <i>wəḥîrbāḥ ləḥāşîḅ ʿappô[^]</i>	<p><i>wəlô[?] neʿemnu bîḅrîṯô :</i> <i>wəlô[?]-yāʿîr kol-ḥāmāṯô :</i></p>

VII	N'	³⁹ wayyizkōr kî-bāsār hēmmāh ^ ⁴⁰ kammāh yamrūhū ḥammīdbār ^	rūah hōlēk wəlō' yāsūḥ : ya'āšīḥūhū bīšīmōn :
	M'	⁴¹ wayyāsūḥū wayənassū 'ēl ^ ⁴² lō'-zākərū 'et-yādō ^	ūqəḏōš yīsrā'ēl hiṭwū : yôm 'āšer-pādām minnī-šār :
	L'	⁴³ 'āšer-sām bəmišrayim 'ōtōtāyw ^ ⁴⁴ wayyahāpōk ləḏām yə'ōrēhem ^ ⁴⁵ yəšallah bāhem 'ārōḥ wayyō'kələm ^	ūmōpəṭāyw bīsdēh-šō'an : wənōzələhem bal-yištāyūn : ūšəpardēa' wattašḥīṭēm :
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VIII	K'	⁴⁶ wayyittēn leḥāsīl yəḥūlām ^ ⁴⁷ yahārōg babbārād gaḥnām ^	wīgī'am lā'arbeh : wəšiqmōtām baḥnāmāl :
	J'	⁴⁸ wayyasgēr labbārād bə'īrām ^ ⁴⁹ yəšallah-bām ḥārōn 'appō † mišlahat mal'ākē rā'im :	ūmiqnēhem lārəšāpīm : 'əbrāh wāza'am wəšārāh ^
	I'	⁵⁰ yəpallēs nātīḥ lə'appō † wəḥayyātām laddeber hisgīr : ⁵¹ wayyaq kol-bəkōr bəmišrayim ^	lō'-ḥāsaq mimməwet napšām ^ rē'sīt 'ōnīm bə'ohālē-ḥām :
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IX	H'	⁵² wayyassa' kaššō'n 'ammō ^ ⁵³ wayyanḥēl lāḇetaḥ wəlō' pāḥādū ^ ⁵⁴ wayəḥ'ēm 'el-gəḥūl qodšō ^	wayənahāgēm ka'ēder bammīdbār : wə'et-'ōyəḥēhem kissāh hayyām : har-zeh qānəṭāh yəminō :
	G'	⁵⁵ wayəgāreš mippənēhem gōyīm † wayyaškēn bə'ohōlēhem šīḇtē yīsrā'ēl : ⁵⁶ wayənassū wayyamrū et-'ēlōhīm 'elyōn ^ ⁵⁷ wayyissōgū wayyīḡgəḏū ka'āḥōtām ^	wayyappīlēm bəḥeḥl naḥālāh ^ wə'edōtāyw lō' šāmārū : nehpəḳū kəqešet rəmīyāh :
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X	F'	⁵⁸ wayyaq'isūhū bəbāmōtām ^ ⁵⁹ šāma' 'ēlōhīm wayyī'abbār ^ ⁶⁰ wayyīṭṭōš miškan šilō ^	ūbīpsīlēhem yaqni'ūhū : wayyim'as mə'ōḏ bəyīsrā'ēl : 'ōhel šikkēn bā'ādām :
	E'	⁶¹ wayyittēn laššəḥī 'uzzō ^ ⁶² wayyasgēr laḥereḥ 'ammō ^	wəṭīp'artō ḥəyaḏ šār : ūḥənaḥālātō hiṭ'abbār :
	D'	⁶³ baḥūrāyw 'ākəlāh-'ēs ^ ⁶⁴ kōḥānāyw bhḥereḥ nāpālū ^	ūḇəṭūlōtāyw lō' hūllālū : wə'almənōtāyw lō' ṭīḇkənāh :

XI	C'	⁶⁵ wayyiqāṣ kəyāsēn ʾāḏōnāy ^	<i>kəḡibbôr mīṭrônēn miyyāyīn :</i>
		⁶⁶ wayyak-ṣārāyw ʾāḥôr ^	<i>ḥerpaṭ ʿólām nāṭan lāmô :</i>
		⁶⁷ wayyimʾas bəʾōhel yōsēp ^	<i>ûḡṣēḡeṭ ʾeṗrayim lōʾ ḡāḥār :</i>
	B'	⁶⁸ wayyibḥar ʾeṭ-šēḡeṭ yəḥûḏāḥ ^	<i>ʾeṭ-har ṣiyyôn ʾāšer ʾāḥēḡ :</i>
		⁶⁹ wayyiben kəmə-rāmīm miqdāšô ^	<i>kəʾeres yəsādāḥ ləʿólām :</i>
		⁷⁰ wayyibḥar bədāwīḏ ʿaḡḏô ^	<i>wayyiqāḡēḡū mimmiḡləʾōṭ ṣōʾn :</i>
	A'	⁷¹ mēʾaḥar ʿālôṭ ḡēḡôṭ †	<i>lirʿôṭ bəyaʿāqōḡ ʿmmô ^</i>
		<i>ûḡəyisrāʾēl naḡālāṭô :</i>	
		⁷² wayyirʿēm kəṭôm ləḡāḡô ^	<i>ûḡiṭḡûnôṭ kappāyw yanḡēm :</i>

8. The 164 **briques** (primary SAS units) are distributed in 31 strophes in Psalm 78 as follows:
 $164 = (5+6+6)+(4+4+6)+(7+6)+(5+5+4)+(6+4+4)+(5+10+5)+(4+4+6)+(4+5+5)+(6+7)+(6+4+4)+(6+6+5)$
 $= (17+14)+(13+14+14) + 20 + (14+14+13)+(14+17) = (31+41) + 20 + (41+31) = 72+20+72 = 164$

9. Terrien finds 7 “Parts,” arranged in a total of 21 strophic units, plus an “Exordium in vv. 1–2 (*The Psalms: Strophic Structure and Theological Commentary* [Eerdmans, 2003], pp. 558–70). Van der Lugt and Labuschagne find 30 strophes, while Fokkelman has 32. The analysis presented here, which is based on balance in mora-count and the concentric pattern in the distribution of SAS units, finds 31 strophes arranged concentrically in 11 cantos.

Christensen	Terrien	Van der Lugt/Labuschagne
I A 78:1–2	Exordium (78:1–2)	I 1 78:1–2
B 78:3–4	I 1 78:3–4	2 78:3–4
C 78:5–6b	2 78:5–6	3 78:5–6
II D 78:6c–8	3 78:7–8	4 78:7–8
E 78:9–11	II 4 78:9–11	II.1.1 5 78:9–11
III F 78:12–14	5 78:12–14	6 78:12–14
G 78:15	6 78:15–17	7 78:15–16
H 78:16–17		
IV I 78:18–19	III 7 78:18–20	II.1.2 8 78:17–19
J 78:20–21a		9 78:20
K 78:21b–22		10 78:21–22
V L 78:23–25	8 78:21–24	II.2.1 11 78:23–25
M 78:26–27	9 78:25–28	12 78:26–28
N 78:28–29	IV 10 78:29–32	13 78:29–31
VI O 78:30–31		II.2.2 14 78:32–33
X 78:32–36	11 78:33–37	15 78:34–35
O' 78:37–38		16 78:36–37
VII N 78:39–40	12 78:38–40	17 78:38–39
M' 78:41–42	V 13 78:41–44	III.1.1 18 78:40–41
L 78:43–45		19 78:42–44

VIII K	78:46–47	14	78:45–48	20	78:45–46
J	78:48–49			21	78:47–48
I	78:50–51	15	78:49–51	III.1.2	22 78:49–51
<hr/>					
IX H	78:52–53	VI 16	78:52–55	23	78:52–53
G	78:54			24	78:54–55
F	78:55–57	17	78:56–59	III.2.1	25 78:56–58
<hr/>					
X E	78:58–60			26	78:59–61
D	78:61–64	18	78:60–63	27	78:62–64
XI C	78:65–67	VII 19	78:64–66	III.2.2	28 78:65–66
B'	78:68–70	20	78:67–69	29	78:67–69
A'	78:71–72	21	78:70–72	30	78:70–72

10. Determining the details of the musical and literary structures of Psalm 78 as a whole calls for input on the part of others in the BIBAL Forum, as we consider the rhetorical features in greater depth and further information contained in the *te'amim* of this particular text.

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