

Psalm 89:1–53

Translation, Logoprosodic Analysis, and Observations

God’s Covenant with David as King of Israel

Psalm 89:1–53

A. *I Will Sing of Your Covenant-Love for Generations to Come* (89:1–3a) [4.4]

89:1	<i>Maskil</i> / belonging to Ethan the Ezrahite //	_15 2_	<u>3 3 0</u>
		88:14–89:1	42 26 16
89:2	Of the covenant-love of YHWH / I will sing forever //	_17 2_	<u>4 4 0</u>
		88:16–89:2a	32 22 10
	To all generations /	_7 1_	<u>2 0 2</u>
		88:16–89:2c	34 22 12
	I will make known your faithfulness with my mouth //	_15 1_	<u>3 0 3</u>
		88:15–89:2	44 26 18
89:3	For you said / “Forever ^a covenant-love will be built up” //	<u>17 2</u>	<u>5 5 0</u>
		89:1–3a	17 12 5

B. *YHWH Has Established His Eternal Covenant with David* (89:3b–5) [4.4]

	In the heavens / you will establish your faithfulness in them //	_18 2_	<u>4 0 4</u>
		88:18–89:3	34 20 14
89:4	I have made a covenant / with my chosen //	_13 2_	<u>3 3 0</u>
		88:18–89:4a	37 23 14
	I have sworn / to David my servant //	_12 2_	<u>3 0 3</u>
		88:18–89:4	40 23 17
89:5	Forever I will establish ^a your seed //	12 1	4 4 0
	and I will build up for all generations your throne, selah //	<u>21 1</u>	<u>5 0 5</u>
		89:1–5	36 19 17

C. *The Heavens Praise YHWH for He Is Incomparable* (89:6–8) [4.8]

89:6	The heavens will praise your wonders / ^a O YHWH //	16 2	4 4 0
	your faithfulness also / in the assembly of the holy ones //	_15 2_	<u>4 0 4</u>
		89:5–6	17 8 9
89:7	For who in the skies / is comparable to YHWH //	16 2	5 5 0
	who is like unto YHWH / among the sons of God (<i>Elim</i>) //	_14 2_	<u>4 0 4</u>
		89:6–7	17 9 8

89:8	A God greatly feared / in the council of the holy ones //	17	2	5	5	0	
	and awesome / above all those who are around him //	12	2	4	0	4	
89:6-8		<hr/>			26	14	12

D. YHWH Rules the Sea and Scatters Enemies (89:9-11) [8.4]

89:9	O YHWH ^a God of hosts /	_14	1_	3	3	0	
89:6-9a		<hr/>			29	17	12

	Who is like you O mighty YAH //	_11	1_	4	4	0	
89:7-9b		<hr/>			25	17	8

	And your faithfulness / surrounds you //	16	2	2	0	2	
89:7-9		<hr/>			27	17	10

89:10	You rule / the swelling of the sea //	_15	2_	4	4	0	
89:3-10a		<hr/>			63	37	26

	When its waves rise / you still them //	14	2	4	0	4	
89:4-10		<hr/>			58	32	26

89:11	You yourself crushed Rahab / ^a like one who is slain //	_16	2_	4	4	0	
89:5-11a		<hr/>			56	33	23

	With your mighty arm / you scattered your enemies //	17	2	4	0	4	
89:8-11		<hr/>			34	20	14

E. YHWH Owns the Heavens and the Earth (89:12-14) [6.6]

89:12	To you belong the heavens / also the earth is yours //	12	2	5	5	0	
	the world and its fullness / you founded them //	_18	2_	4	0	4	
89:11-12		<hr/>			17	9	8
89:6-12		<hr/>			60	34	26

89:13	North and south / you created them //	_17	2_	4	4	0	
89:10-13a		<hr/>			29	17	12

	Tabor and Hermon / at your name they shout for joy //	_17	2_	4	0	4	
89:12-13		<hr/>			17	9	8
89:7-13		<hr/>			60	34	26

89:14	Yours is a strong arm / with might //	12	2	4	4	0	
	your hand is mighty / your right hand is exalted //	17	2	4	0	4	
89:11-14		<hr/>			33	17	16

F. Blessed Are Those Who Walk in YHWH's Righteousness (89:15–18) [8.8]

89:15	Righteousness and justice / are the foundation of your throne //	<u> 13 2_</u>	<u> 4 4 0</u>
		89:12–15a	29 17 12
	Covenant-love and truth / go before you //	<u> 15 2_</u>	<u> 4 0 4</u>
		89:9–15	58 32 26
89:16	Blessed are the people / who know the joyful sound //	<u> 17 2_</u>	<u> 4 4 0</u>
			62 36 26
	O YHWH / in the light of your countenance they walk //	<u> 18 2_</u>	<u> 4 0 4</u>
		89:13–16	32 16 16
89:17	In your name / they rejoice all the day //	<u> 12 2_</u>	<u> 4 4 0</u>
		89:8–17a	79 45 34
	And by your righteousness / ^a they are exalted //	<u> 12 2_</u>	<u> 2 0 2</u>
		89:11–17	55 29 26
89:18	For you are the glory of their strength / ^a you yourself //	<u> 14 2_</u>	<u> 4 4 0</u>
		89:15–18a	26 16 10
	And by your favor / your horn is exalted //	<u> 15 2_</u>	<u> 3 0 3</u>
		89:14–18	37 20 17

G. YHWH, Our King, Says: "I Have Found My Servant David" (89:19–21) [7.6]

89:19	For to YHWH / belongs our shield //	14 2	3 3 0
	and to the holy one of Israel / ^a our king //	<u> 14 2_</u>	<u> 3 0 3</u>
		89:14–19	43 23 20
89:20	Then you spoke in a vision / to your godly ones /	18 2	4 4 0
	and you said /	<u> 4 1_</u>	<u> 1 1 0</u>
		89:16–20a	32 20 12
	"I have given help / to one who is mighty //	12 2	4 4 0
	I have exalted one chosen from the people //	<u> 15 1_</u>	<u> 3 0 3</u>
		89:14–20	55 32 23
89:21	I have found / David my servant //	13 2	3 3 0
	with my holy oil I have anointed him //	<u> 10 1_</u>	<u> 3 0 3</u>
		89:3–21	153 85 68

H. YHWH's Hand Will Establish Him and His Arm Will Strengthen Him (89:22) [2.2]

89:22 With whom my hand / will be established // _12 2_ 4 4 0
89:18-22a 35 23 12

Also my arm /^a will strengthen him // _12 2_ 3 0 3
89:8-22 **119 68 51**

I. YHWH Will Crush the King's Adversaries before Him (89:23-24) [4.4]

89:23 The enemy will not deceive / him // 10 2 4 4 0
and the son of wickedness / will not afflict him //
13 2 4 0 4
89:5-23 **153 85 68**

89:24 And I will crush before him /^a his adversaries // 15 2 3 3 0
and those who hate him /^b I will strike //
9 2 2 0 2
89:14-24 **55 32 23**

J. YHWH's Covenant-Love Is Established with David (89:25-27) [4.2.4]

89:25 [And]^a my faithfulness and my covenant-love /^b will be with him // 14 2 3 3 0
89:22-25a **23 14 9**

And in my name / his horn will be exalted // _12 2_ 3 0 3
89:12-25 **104 58 46**

89:26 And I will put on the sea my hand // 11 1 3 3 0
and on the rivers my right hand //
13 1 2 0 2
89:19-26 **55 32 23**

89:27 He himself will cry to me / _9 1_ 2 2 0
89:23-27a **26 15 11**

"You are my father // 8 1 2 2 0
my God / and the Rock of my salvation //
14 2 3 0 3
89:23-27 31 17 14

K. YHWH Confirmed His Covenant Making David His "First-born" (89:28-29) [4.4]

89:28 I also / shall make him my first-born // 14 2 4 4 0
the highest (*Elyon*) / of the kings of the earth //
10 2 3 0 3
89:24-28 30 17 13

89:29 Forever ^a I will keep with him my covenant-love // 13 2 4 4 0
and my covenant / shall be confirmed to him //
13 2 3 0 3
89:21-29 **58 32 26**

L. *YHWH Will Establish David's Throne Forever* (89:30) [2.2]

89:30 And I will establish forever /^a his seed // _10 2_ 3 3 0
89:28-30a **17 11 6**

[And]^b his throne / as the days of heaven // _12 2_ 3 0 3
89:22-30 **58 32 26**

M. *YHWH Will Remain Faithful Even If David's Sons Forsake Him* (89:31-34) [6.7]

89:31 If his sons forsake my Torah // 15 1 4 4 0
15 2 3 0 3
89:10-31 **153 85 68**
89:1-31 **230 128 102**
and in my judgments / they do not walk //

89:32 If they violate my statutes // 11 1 3 3 0
13 2 3 0 3
89:4-32 **215 119 96**
and my commandments / they do not keep //

89:33 And I will visit with the rod / their transgressions // 14 2 3 3 0
12 1 2 0 2
89:29-33 **31 17 14**
and with stripes their iniquity //

89:34 And my covenant-love / I will not withdraw from him // 15 2 4 4 0
15 2 3 0 3
89:30-34 **31 17 16**
and I will not betray / my faithfulness //

N. *YHWH Will Not Break His Covenant with David's Descendants* (89:35-38) [8.8]

89:35 I will not violate /^a my covenant // 11 2 3 3 0
15 2 4 0 4
89:31-35 **32 17 15**
and what goes out of my lips / I will not alter //

89:36 Once / I have sworn on my holiness // 10 2 3 3 0
10 2 3 0 3
89:8-36 **208 116 92**
nor to David / will I lie //

89:37 His descendants / shall endure forever // 12 2 3 3 0
10 2 3 0 3
89:34-37 **26 13 13**
and his throne as the sun / before me //

89:38 Like the moon / it shall be established forever // 13 2 3 3 0
13 2 4 0 4
89:12-38 **187 102 85**
89:4-38 **253 138 115**
and the witness in the sky / is faithful, **selah** //

O. Because You Spurn the Covenant You Have Become a Reproach (89:39–42) [6.6]

89:39	And you have cast off ^a and you have rejected // you have been full of wrath / against your anointed one //	13 1 _11 2_	3 3 0 3 0 3
		89:5–39	253 138 115
89:40	You have spurned ^a the covenant of your servant // you have profaned in the dust / his crown //	11 1 _12 2_	3 3 0 3 0 3
		89:1–40	286 156 130
89:41	You have broken down all his walls // you have brought his strongholds / to ruin //	13 1 _12 2_	3 3 0 3 0 3
		89:10–41	221 119 102
89:42	They plunder him ^a all who pass along the way // he has become a reproach / to his neighbors //	14 1 _12 2_	4 4 0 3 0 3
		89:15–42	187 102 85

P. You Exalted the Enemy and Covered Your King with Shame (89:43–46) [4.8]

89:43	You have exalted / the right hand of his adversaries // you have made to rejoice / all his enemies //	14 2 _10 2_	3 3 0 3 0 3
		89:34–43	64 32 32
89:44	Also you turn back / the edge of the sword // and you did not allow him to stand / in the battle //	10 2 _16 2_	4 4 0 3 0 3
		89:35–44	64 32 32
89:45	And you made to cease / his splendor // and his throne / you cast to the earth //	10 2 _13 2_	2 2 0 3 0 3
		89:20–45	170 92 78
		89:13–45	221 119 102
89:46	You have shortened / the days of his youth // you have covered him ^a with shame, selah //	12 2 _17 2_	3 3 0 4 0 4
		89:42–46	32 16 16

Q. How Long Will YHWH Hide Himself from Us? (89:47–49) [8.4]

89:47	How long, O YHWH / will you hide yourself forever // will it burn / like fire your wrath //	16 2 _12 2_	5 5 0 4 0 4
		89:43–47	34 17 17
		89:34–47	92 46 46
		89:15–47	221 119 102
89:48	Think about me / how long is (my) life // for what vanity / you have created all the sons of Adam //	9 2 _18 2_	4 4 0 7 0 7

	89:45–48		32	14	18	
89:49	What virile man can live / and not see death //	14	2	6	6	0
	can he deliver his soul from the hand of Sheol / ^a selah //	<u>15</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>
	89:30–49		138	69	69	

R. Where Are the Covenant-Mercies YHWH Promised to David (89:50–51) [4.4]

89:50	Where ^a are your former covenant-mercies / O Lord //	21	2	4	4	0
	you swore to David /	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
	89:49–50			17	10	7

	In your faithfulness //	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
	89:46–50			45	22	23

89:51	Remember / ^a O Lord / the reproach of your <servant> ^b //	13	2	4	4	0
	(how do) I bear in my bosom / all the many peoples //	<u>17</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>
	89:47–51			47	23	24

S. Though Enemies Reproach Us, Blessed be YHWH Forever (89:52–53) [4.4]

89:52	With which your enemies taunt / O YHWH //	<u>17</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>
	89:47–52a			51	27	24

	With which they taunt / the footsteps of your anointed //	<u>16</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>
	89:31–52			156	78	78

89:53	Blessed be YHWH / ^a	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
	89:50–53a			26	14	12

	Forever /	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
	89:49–53b			38	21	17

	Amen / and Amen //	<u>9</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
	89:49–53			40	23	17

89:7–53 **340 184 156**

89:1–53 **384** 207 177

Scansion in Accentual Stress Units:

[(4.4).(4.4).(4.8)].[(8.4).(6.6)].[(8.8).(7.6)].[(2.2).(4.4).(4.2.4).(4.4).(2.2)].[(6.7).(8.8)].[(6.6).(4.8)].[(8.4).(5.4).(4.4)]
= (16+12) + (12+12) + (16+13) + (12+10+12) + (13+16) + (12+12) + (12+17) =

(28 + 24 + 29) + 34 + (29 + 24 + 28) = 81 + **34** + 81 = 196 or: **115 // 115**

or: **115 // 115** [with pivot counted in each half]

{**115** = 23 x 5; 196 = 49 x 4; 81 = 3⁴; and **34** = 17 x 2}

Concentric Compositional Formula: **384** = **192** + 0 + **192** [word-count—with heading]

{**192** = 32 x 6 = 2x2x2x2x2x2x3}

Notes:

- 89:3^a Reading the *dəḥî* in BHS as conjunctive.
- 89:5^a Reading the *dəḥî* in BHS as conjunctive.
- 89:6^a Reading the sequence of two successive occurrences of *munaḥ* here in BHS as disjunctive.
- 89:9^a Reading the *məhuppak ləḡarmēh* in BHS as conjunctive.
- 89:11^a Reading the sequence of two successive occurrences of *munaḥ* here in BHS as disjunctive.
- 89:17^a Reading the *mērəkā* preceded immediately by *ga'yā* (= *meteg*) in Ginsburg and Letteris as disjunctive. BHS omits the *ga'yā* (= *meteg*).
- 89:18^a Reading the sequence of two successive occurrences of *munaḥ* preceded by *ga'yā* (= *meteg*) in BHS as disjunctive.
- 89:19^a Reading the sequence of *mērəkā* followed by *munaḥ* here in BHS as disjunctive.
- 89:22^a Reading the *mērəkā* here in BHS as disjunctive.
- 89:24^a Reading the sequence of two successive occurrences of *munaḥ* in BHS as disjunctive.
- 89:24^b Reading the *mērəkā* here in BHS as disjunctive.
- 89:25^a The balance in mora-count is improved by omitting the *waw*-conjunctive here.
- 89:25^b Reading the sequence of two successive occurrences of *munaḥ* preceded by *ga'yā* (= *meteg*) in BHS as disjunctive.
- 89:26^a Reading the sequence of two successive occurrences of *munaḥ* in BHS as disjunctive.
- 89:26^b Reading the *mērəkā* preceded immediately by *ga'yā* (= *meteg*) in BHS as disjunctive.
- 89:29^a Reading the *dəḥî* in BHS as conjunctive.
- 89:30^a Reading the sequence of two successive occurrences of *munaḥ* in BHS as disjunctive.
- 89:30^b The balance in mora-count is improved by omitting the *waw*-conjunctive here.
- 89:31^a Reading the *dəḥî* in BHS as conjunctive.
- 89:35^a Reading the *mērəkā* preceded immediately by *ga'yā* (= *meteg*) in Ginsburg and Letteris as disjunctive. BHS omits the *ga'yā* (= *meteg*).
- 89:46^a Reading the sequence of *mērəkā* followed by *munaḥ* here in BHS as disjunctive.
- 89:49^a Reading the sequence of *mērəkā* followed by *munaḥ* here in BHS as disjunctive.
- 89:50^a Reading the *məhuppak ləḡarmēh* in BHS as conjunctive.
- 89:51^a Reading the *munaḥ* here in BHS as disjunctive.
- 89:51^b Reading the singular form עֲבָדֶיךָ ("your servant") in place of עֲבָדֶיךָ ("your servants") in BHS with many Hebrew Mss, LXX and Syriac.
- 89:53^a Reading the sequence of *tarḥâ* followed by *mērəkā* here in BHS as disjunctive.

Summary of the Logoprosodic Analysis

1. In terms of balance in mora-count, Psalm 89 has fifteen strophes: 89:1–5, 6–8, 9–11, 12–14, 15–18, 19–21, 22–24, 25–27, 28–30, 31–34, 35–38, 39–42, 43–46, 47–49 and 50–53.

A	89:1–3a	2 balanced dyads + pivot:	$[15 + 17] + 7 + [15 + 17]$	=	$32 + 7 + 32$	morae
B	89:3b–5	2 balanced dyads + pivot:	$[18 + 13] + 12 + [12 + 21]$	=	$31 + 12 + 33$	morae
C	89:6–8	3 balanced dyads:	$[16 + 15] + [16 + 14] + [17 + 12]$	=	$31 + 30 + 29$	morae
D	89:9–10	2 balanced dyads:	$[14 + 16] + [15 + 14]$	=	$30 + 29$	morae
	89:11	balanced dyad:	$[16 + 17]$	=	$16 + 17$	morae
E	89:12–14	2 balanced triads:	$[12 + 18 + 17] + [17 + 12 + 17]$	=	$47 + 46$	morae
F	89:15	balanced dyad:	$[13 + 15]$	=	$13 + 15$	morae
	89:16	balanced dyad:	$[17 + 18]$	=	$17 + 18$	morae
	89:17	balanced dyad:	$[12 + 12]$	=	$12 + 12$	morae
	89:18	balanced dyad:	$[14 + 15]$	=	$14 + 15$	morae
G	89:19–21	2 balanced quatrains:	$[(14+14) + (18+4)] + [(12+15) + (13+10)]$	=	$50 + 50$	morae
H	89:22	balanced dyad:	$[12 + 12]$	=	$12 + 12$	morae
I	89:23–24	2 balanced dyads:	$[10 + 13] + [15 + 9]$	=	$23 + 24$	morae

X	89:25	balanced dyad:	$[14 + 12]$	=	$14 + 12$	morae
	89:26–27	2 balanced dyads + pivot:	$[11 + 13] + 9 + [8 + 14]$	=	$24 + 9 + 22$	morae

I'	89:28–29	2 balanced dyads:	$[14 + 10] + [13 + 13]$	=	$24 + 26$	morae
H'	89:30	balanced dyad:	$[10 + 12]$	=	$10 + 12$	morae
G'	89:31–34	2 balanced quatrains:	$[(15+15) + (11+13)] + [(14+12) + (15+15)]$	=	$54 + 56$	morae
F'	89:35–38	2 balanced quatrains:	$[(11+15) + (10+10)] + [(12+10) + (13+13)]$	=	$46 + 48$	morae
E'	89:39–40	2 balanced dyads:	$[13 + 11] + [11 + 12]$	=	$24 + 23$	morae
	89:41–42	2 balanced dyads:	$[13 + 12] + [14 + 12]$	=	$25 + 26$	morae
D'	89:43–46	2 balanced quatrains:	$[(14+10) + (10+16)] + [(10+13) + (12+17)]$	=	$50 + 52$	morae
C'	89:47–49	3 balanced dyads:	$[16 + 12] + [9 + 18] + [14 + 15]$	=	$28 + 27 + 29$	morae
B'	89:50–51	2 balanced triads + pivot:	$[21 + 8] + 8 + [13 + 17]$	=	$29 + 8 + 30$	morae
A'	89:52–52	2 balanced triads + pivot:	$[17 + 16]$	=	$17 + 16$	morae
	89:53	balanced dyad + pivot:	$[8 + 5 + 9]$	=	$8 + 5 + 9$	morae

2. The first strophe (89:1–3a) is a single part arranged in five subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 89:1, 2a, 2b, 2c and 3a.

- 88:14–89:1 **26** words before *atnach*
- 88:15–89:2 **26** words before *atnach*

3. The second strophe (89:3b–5) is a single part arranged in four subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 89:3b, 4a, 4b and 5.

- 88:18–89:3 **34** (= **17 x 2**) words
- 88:18–89:4 **40 = 23 + 17** [compositional formula]

4. The third strophe (89:6–8) is a single part arranged in three subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 89:6, 7 and 8.
- 89:5–6 **17** words
 - 89:4–6 **23** words
 - 89:3–6 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words
 - 89:1–6 **23** words after *atnach*
 - 89:6–7 **17** words
 - 89:5–7 **26** words
 - 89:4–7 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words
 - 89:5–8 **17** words after *atnach*
 - 89:6–8 **26** words
5. The fourth strophe (89:9–11) has three parts arranged in seven subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 89:9a, 9b, 9c, 10a, 10b, 11a and 11b.
- 89:7–9 **17** words before *atnach*
 - 89:3–9 **26** words after *atnach*
 - 89:9–10 **17** words
 - 89:8–10 **26** words
 - 89:4–10 **58 = 32 + 26** [compositional formula]
 - 89:8–11 **34** (= 17 x 2) words
6. The fifth strophe (89:12–14) is a single part arranged in four subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 89:12, 13a, 13b and 14.
- 89:11–12 **17** words
 - 89:12–13 **17** words
 - 89:10–13 **17** words before *atnach*
 - 89:11–14 **17** words before *atnach*
 - 89:8–14 **26** words after *atnach*
 - 89:12–15 **17** words before *atnach*
7. The sixth strophe (89:15–18) has four parts: 89:15, 16, 17 and 18.
- 89:9–15 **58 = 32 + 26** [compositional formula]
 - 89:13–16 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words
 - 89:11–17 **26** words after *atnach*
 - 89:9–17 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words after *atnach*
 - 89:14–18 **17** words after *atnach*
8. The seventh strophe (89:19–21) is a single part arranged in four subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 89:19, 20ab, 20cd and 21.
- 89:14–19 **23** words before *atnach*
 - 89:12–19 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words before *atnach*
 - 89:14–20 **55 = 32 + 23** [compositional formula—double *kabod*-number]
 - 89:17–21 **23** words before *atnach*
 - 89:14–21 **26** words after *atnach*
 - 89:3–21 **153 = 85 + 68** [compositional formula—all divisible by 17]

9. The eighth strophe (89:22) is a single part arranged in two subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 89:22a and 22b.
- 89:18–22 **23** words before *atnach*
 - 89:17–22 **17** words after *atnach*
 - 89:8–22 **119 = 68 + 51** [compositional formula—all divisible by **17**]
10. The ninth strophe (89:23–24) is a single part arranged in two subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 89:23 and 24.
- 89:19–23 **23** words before *atnach*
 - 89:5–23 **153 = 85 + 68** [compositional formula—all divisible by **17**]
 - 89:21–24 **26** words
 - 89:17–24 **55 = 32 + 23** [compositional formula—double *kabod*-number]
11. The tenth strophe (89:25–27) has two parts arranged in four subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 89:25, 26, 27a and 27b.
- 89:22–25 **26** words
 - 89:21–25 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words and **17** words before *atnach*
 - 89:20–25 **26** words before *atnach*
 - 89:17–25 **26** words after *atnach*
 - 89:22–26 **17** words before *atnach*
 - 89:21–26 **17** words after *atnach*
 - 89:19–26 **55 = 32 + 23** [compositional formula—double *kabod*-number]
 - 89:18–26 **26** words after *atnach*
 - 89:16–26 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words after *atnach*
 - 89:24–27 **23** words
 - 89:23–27 **17** words before *atnach*
 - 89:20–27 **23** words after *atnach*
 - 89:19–27 **26** words after *atnach*
12. The eleventh strophe (89:28–29) is a single part arranged in two subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 89:28 and 29.
- 89:24–28 **17** words before *atnach*
 - 89:23–28 **17** words after *atnach*
 - 89:20–28 **26** words after *atnach*
 - 89:18–28 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words after *atnach*
 - 89:26–29 **26** words
 - 89:25–29 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words
 - 89:22–29 **23** words after *atnach*
 - 89:21–29 **58 = 32 + 26** [compositional formula]
 - 89:10–29 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words after *atnach*
13. The twelfth strophe (89:30) is a single part arranged in two subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 89:30a and 30b.
- 89:26–30 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words
 - 89:25–30 **17** words after *atnach*
 - 89:20–30 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words after *atnach*

14. The thirteenth strophe (89:31–34) is a single part arranged in four subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 89:31, 32, 33 and 34.

- 89:26–31 **17** words after *atnach*
- 89:23–31 **23** words after *atnach*
- 89:22–31 **26** words after *atnach*
- 89:21–31 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words after *atnach*
- 89:14–31 **120 = 68 + 52** [compositional formula]
- 89:14–31 **153 = 85 + 68** [compositional formula—all divisible by 17]
- 89:1–31 **230 = 128 + 102** [compositional formula]
- 89:29–32 **26** words
- 89:25–32 **51** (= 17 x 3) words and **23** words after *atnach*
- 89:22–32 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words after *atnach*
- 89:4–32 **215 = 119 + 96** [compositional formula]
- 89:29–33 **17** words before *atnach*
- 89:28–33 **17** words after *atnach*
- 89:30–34 **17** words before *atnach*
- 89:29–34 **17** words after *atnach*
- 89:17–34 **120 = 69 + 51** [compositional formula]

15. The fourteenth strophe (89:35–38) is a single part arranged in four subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 89:35, 36, 37 and 38.

- 89:31–35 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words and **17** words before *atnach*
- 89:27–35 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words before *atnach*
- 89:25–35 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words after *atnach*
- 89:30–36 **23** words before *atnach*
- 89:26–36 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words after *atnach*
- 89:8–36 **208 = 116 + 92** [compositional formula]
- 89:34–37 **26** words
- 89:31–37 **23** words before *atnach*
- 89:30–37 **17** words before *atnach*
- 89:35–38 **26** words
- 89:34–38 **17** words after *atnach*
- 89:12–38 **187 = 102 + 85** [compositional formula—all divisible by 17]
- 89:4–38 **253 = 138 + 115** [compositional formula—all divisible by 23]

16. The fifteenth strophe (89:39–42) has two parts arranged in four subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 89:39, 40, 41 and 22.

- 89:35–39 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words and **17** words after *atnach*
- 89:30–39 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words before *atnach*
- 89:5–39 **253 = 138 + 115** [compositional formula—all divisible by 23]
- 89:34–40 **23** words after *atnach*
- 89:31–40 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words before *atnach*
- 89:1–40 **286 = 156 + 130**[compositional formula—all divisible by 26]
- 89:35–41 **23** words after *atnach*
- 89:10–41 **221 = 119 + 102**[compositional formula—all divisible by 17]

- 89:38–42 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words
 - 89:35–42 **26** words after *atnach*
 - 89:33–42 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words before *atnach*
 - 89:15–42 **187 = 102 + 85** [compositional formula—all divisible by **17**]
17. The sixteenth strophe (89:43–46) is a single part arranged in four subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 89:43, 44, 45 and 46.
- 89:34–43 **64 = 32 + 32** [compositional formula—all divisible by **32**]
 - 89:41–44 **26** words
 - 89:40–44 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words and **17** words before *atnach*
 - 89:38–44 **23** words before *atnach*
 - 89:35–44 **64 = 32 + 32** [compositional formula—all divisible by **32**]
 - 89:20–45 **170 = 92 + 78** [compositional formula]
 - 89:42–46 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words
 - 89:37–46 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words after *atnach*
18. The seventeenth strophe (89:47–49) is a single part arranged in three subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 89:47, 48 and 49.
- 89:43–47 **34 = 17 + 17** [compositional formula—all divisible by **17**]
 - 89:41–47 **23** words after *atnach*
 - 89:40–47 **26** words after *atnach*
 - 89:34–47 **92 = 46 + 46** [compositional formula—all divisible by **23**]
 - 89:15–47 **221 = 119 + 102** [compositional formula—all divisible by **17**]
 - 89:45–48 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words
 - 89:45–49 **23** words after *atnach*
 - 89:44–49 **26** words after *atnach*
 - 89:42–49 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words after *atnach*
 - 89:30–49 **138 = 69 + 69** [compositional formula—all divisible by **23**]
19. The eighteenth strophe (89:50–51) is a single part arranged in three subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 89:50ab, 50c and 51.
- 89:46–50 **23** words after *atnach*
 - 89:45–50 **26** words after *atnach*
 - 89:43–50 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words after *atnach*
 - 89:47–51 **23** words before *atnach*
 - 89:46–51 **26** words before *atnach*
 - 89:44–51 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words before and **34** (= **17** x 2) words after *atnach*
20. The nineteenth strophe (89:52–53) has two parts arranged in five subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 89:52a, 52b, 53a, 53b and 53c.
- 89:46–50 **23** words after *atnach*
 - 89:45–50 **26** words after *atnach*
 - 89:43–50 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words after *atnach*
 - 89:47–51 **23** words before *atnach*
 - 89:46–51 **26** words before *atnach*
 - 89:44–51 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words before and **34** (= **17** x 2) words after *atnach*

- 89:51–52 **17** words
- 89:49–52 **17** words after *atnach*
- 89:46–52 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words after *atnach*
- 89:45–52 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words before *atnach*
- 89:31–52 **156 = 78 + 78** [compositional formula—all divisible by **26**]
- 89:49–53 **40 = 23 + 17** [compositional formula]
- 89:47–53 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words after *atnach*
- 89:46–53 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words before *atnach*
- 89:7–53 **340 = 184 + 156**[compositional formula]
- 89:1–53 **384** (= **32** x 12) words

Observations

1. The 19 strophes in Psalm 89:1–53 are arranged in 7 cantos, which may be outlined in a menorah pattern, which is determined on prosodic grounds, as follows (see also Observation 7 below):

Menorah Pattern: God's Covenant with David as King of Israel (Ps 89:1–53)

A	YHWH's covenant with David is eternal; Yhwh is incomparable	[16.12]	89:1–8
B	YHWH rules the sea and he owns the heavens and the earth	[12.12]	89:9–14
C	Yhwh our king found his servant David and anointed him	[16.17]	89:15–22
X	YHWH established his eternal covenant with David	[8.10.8]	89:23–29
C'	YHWH will not break his covenant with David's descendants	[17.16]	89:30–38
B'	You spurned the covenant and covered your king with shame	[12.12]	89:39–46
A'	O Yhwh, where are your covenant-mercies you swore to David?	[12.16]	89:47–53

2. At the same time, the 19 individual strophes may also be outlined in a three-level nested menorah pattern, as follows:

1st Level Menorah: God's Covenant with David as King of Israel (Ps 89:1–53)

A	I will sing of your covenant-love for generations to come	[4.4]	89:1–3a
B	YHWH speaks: I have established my eternal covenant with David	[4.5]	89:3b–5
C	The heavens praise you—for YHWH is incomparable?	[4.8]	89:6–8
X	The people spurn YHWH's eternal covenant with David	—	89:9–46
C'	How long, O YHWH, will you hide yourself from us?	[8.4]	89:47–49
B'	Where are your covenant-mercies you swore to David?	[5.4]	89:50–51
A'	Though enemies reproach us, blessed be YHWH forever	[4.4]	89:52–53

2nd Level Menorah: The People Spurn YHWH's Covenant (Ps 89:9–46)

A	Who is like you, who rules the sea and scatters your enemies?	[8.4]	89:9–11
B	You own the heavens and the earth—"your right hand is exalted"	[6.6]	89:12–14
C	Blessed are those who walk in your righteousness	[8.8]	89:15–18
X	YHWH established his eternal covenant with David	—	89:19–34
C'	I will not break my covenant with David's descendants	[8.8]	89:35–38
B'	Because you spurn the covenant you have become a reproach	[6.6]	89:39–42
A'	You have exalted the enemy and covered your king with shame	[4.8]	89:43–46

3rd Level Menorah: YHWH Established His Eternal Covenant with David (Ps 89:19–34)

A	YHWH, our king, speaks: "I have found my servant David"	[7.6]	89:19–21
B	My hand will establish him and my arm will strengthen him	[2.2]	89:22
C	I will crush before him his adversaries	[4.4]	89:23–24
X	My covenant-love is established with him	[4.4.4]	89:25–27
C'	I make him "my first-born" and I confirm my covenant in him	[4.4]	89:28–29
B'	I will establish his throne forever	[3.3]	89:30
A'	If his sons forsake me, I will punish them but I will remain faithful	[6.7]	89:31–34

3. In terms of the 384 words in Psalm 89, the **arithmological center** falls between the words **ישמתי בים** ("and I will extend [his hand] over the sea") in 89:26a, with 192 words on either side. The initial *Concentric Compositional Formula* is:

$$384 = 192 + 0 + 192 \quad [\text{word count—with heading}]$$

$$\{192 = 32 \times 6\}$$

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

ובשמי תרום קרנו And in my name his horn shall be exalted.
 ידו **ישמתי בים** And I will extend his hand over the sea;
 ובנהרות ימינו And his right hand over the rivers.

In this instance the *Concentric Compositional Formula* becomes:

$$384 = 188 + 8 + 188 \quad [\text{word count—with heading}]$$

$$\text{or: } 196 // 196$$

$$\{196 = 49 \times 4\}$$

The **meaningful center** may be extended by including nine words on either side of the **arithmological center** as follows:

ומשנאיו אנוף And those who hate him I will strike down.
 ואמונתו וחסדי עמו And my faithfulness and covenant-love shall be with him;
 ובשמי תרום קרנו And in my name his horn shall be exalted.

ידו	ושמתי בים	And I will extend his hand over the sea;
ובנהרות ימינו		And his right hand over the rivers.
הוא יקראני		As for him, he will declare of me:
אבי אתה אלִי		“You are my father (and) my God.”

In this instance the *Concentric Compositional Formula* becomes:

$$384 = 183 + 18 + 188 \quad [\text{word count—with heading}]$$

$$\text{or: } 201 // 201$$

$$\{196 = 49 \times 4\}$$

The **meaningful center** may be extended further by including sixteen words on either side of the **arithmological center** as follows:

ובן עולה לא יעננו	No evil person shall afflict him;
וכתותי מפניו צריו	And I shall crush his foes before him;
ומשנאיו אנוף	And those who hate him I will strike down.
ואמונתו וחסדי עמו	And my faithfulness and covenant-love shall be with him;
ובשמי תרום קרנו	And in my name his horn shall be exalted.
ידו	ושמתי בים
ובנהרות ימינו	And his right hand over the rivers.
הוא יקראני אבי אתה	As for him, he will declare of me: “You are my father,
אלִי וצור ישועתי	My God and the Rock of my salvation.”
אף אני בכור אתנהו עליון	I also shall make him my first-born, the highest one.

In this instance the *Concentric Compositional Formula* becomes:

$$384 = 176 + 32 + 176 \quad [\text{word count—with heading}]$$

$$\{208 = 26 \times 8 = 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 13 \text{ and } 176 = 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 11\}$$

4. The 40-word “nested framework” (with the 9-word framework underlined) reads as follows:

1	<u>משכיל לאיתן האזרחי</u>	<u>A maskil belonging to Ethan the Ezrahite</u>
2	<u>חסדי יהוה עולם אשירה</u>	<u>Of the covenant-love of YHWH I will sing forever</u>
	<u>לדר ודר</u>	<u>For all generations</u>
	אודיע אמונתך בפי	I will make known your faithfulness with my mouth
3	כי־אמרתי עולם חסד יבנה	For you said: “Covenant love has eternal foundations.”
	שמים תכן אמונתך בהם	In the heavens you will establish your faithfulness in them
4	כרתי ברית לבחירי	I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
	נשבעתי לדוד עבדי	I have sworn to David my servant

5	עד־עולם אכין זרעך	Forever I will establish your seed
	ובניתי לדר־ודור כסאך סלה	And I will build up for all generations your throne, <i>selah</i> .
6	ויודו שמים פלאך יהוה	The heavens will praise your wonders, O YHWH.
49	מי גבר יחיה ולא יראה־מות	What virile man can live and not see death?
	ימלט נפשו מיד־שאול סלה	Can he deliver his soul from the hand of Sheol, <i>selah</i> ?
50	איה חסדיך הראשנים אדני	Where are your former covenant-mercies, O Lord?
	נשבעת לדוד באמונתך	You swore to David in your faithfulness
51	זכר אדני חרפת עבדיך	Remember, O Lord, the reproach of your servant.
	שאתי בחיקי כל־רבים עמים	(How do) I bear in my bosom all the many peoples
52	אשר חרפו אויביך יהוה	With which your enemies taunt, O YHWH
	אשר חרפו עקבות משיחך	<u>With which they taunt the footsteps of your anointed</u>
53	ברוך יהוה לעולם	<u>Blessed be YHWH forever</u>
	אמן ואמן	<u>Amen and Amen.</u>

5. Summary of the concentric compositional formulae:

384	= 188 + 8 + 188	or: 196 // 196	{ 384 = 3 x 2 ⁶ }
384	= 176 + 32 + 176	or: 208 // 208	{ 208 = 26 x 2 ³ }
	{with others in between}		
384	= 40 + 304 + 40	or: 344 // 344	{344 = 43 x 2 ³ }
384	= 9 + 366 + 9	or: 375 // 375	{375 = 3x5x5x5}
196	= 81 + 34 + 81	or: 115 // 115	SAS units
	{196 = 49 x 4; 115 = 23 x 5; 81 = 3 ⁴ and 34 = 17 x 2}		
115	= 50 + 15 + 50	or: 65 // 65	briques
	{ 115 = 23 x 5 and 65 = 13 x 5}		

6. In the prosodic structure of Psalm 89, the basic building blocks in each poetic verset are the **briques** (primary SAS units). These sub-units are delineated by the Masoretes, who marked most of 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 89 has 115 **briques**, 104 of which are marked by: *soph pasuq* (53 times; at the end of each verse), *atnach* (51 times; in each verse except vv. 1 and 53). The remaining 11 boundaries are marked by *revia* (2 times; in vv. 9 and 20), *revia mugash* (6 times; in vv. 10, 12, 27, 51, 52 and 53), *šalšelet gəḏôlâ* (v. 2), *dəḥî* (v. 12), and *pazer* (v. 20).

7. The details in the prosodic structure of Psalm 89 may be displayed as follows [^ represents *atnach*; : represents *soph pasuq*; † represents *ole weyored*, and † represents all other accent markers]:

I A ¹ *maškil ləʔētān hāʔezrahî :* ² *ḥasdê yhwḥ ʕôlām ʔāsîrāh ^*
ləḏôr wāḏôr † *ʔôḏîaʕ ʔəmûnātəkā bəpî :*
³ *kî ʔāmartî ʕôlām ḥesed yibbāneh ^*

B *šāmayim tākîn ʔəmûnātəkā bāhem :* ⁴ *kārattî bərit libḥîrî ^*
nišbaʕtî ləḏāwîd ʕabḏî :
⁵ *ʕad ʕôlām ʔākîn zarʕekā ^* *ûḇānîṭî ləḏôr wāḏôr kisʔākā **selāh** :*

C ⁶ *wəyôḏû šāmayim pilʔākā yhwḥ ^* *ʔap ʔəmûnātəkā biqhal qəḏôšîm :*
⁷ *kî mî ḥaššahaq yaʕārôk la-yhwḥ ^* *yidmeh la-yhwḥ biḇnê ʔelîm :*
⁸ *ʔel naʕārāš bəsôḏ qəḏôšîm rabbāh ^* *wənôrāʔ ʕal kol səḇîḇāyw :*

II D ⁹ *yhwḥ ʔəlôhê səḇāʔôṭ †* *mî kāmôkâ ḥâsîḏ yāh ^*
wəʔəmûnātəkā səḇîḇôṭəkā : ¹⁰ *ʔattāh môšêl bəḡēʔût hayyām ^*
bəsôʔ ḡallāyw † *ʔattāh təšabbəḥēm :*
¹¹ *ʔattāh dikkiʔtā keḥālāl rāhab ^* *bizrôaʕ ʕuzzəkā pizzartā ʔoyəḇəkā :*

E ¹² *ləkâ šāmayim †* *ʔap ləkâ ʔareš ^*
təḇêl ûməlôʔāh † *ʔattāh yəsəḏtāh :*
¹³ *šāpôn wəyāmîn ʔattāh bəraʔtām ^* *tāḇôr wəḥermôn bəšimkā yərannēnû :*
¹⁴ *ləkâ zərôaʕ ʕim ḡəḇûrāh ^* *tāʕoz yāḏəkā tārûm yəminəkā :*

III F 15 *ṣeḏeq ûmišpāt məkôn kisʿekā* ^ *ḥesed weʿemet yaqaddamû pānêkā* :
 16 *ʾašrê hāʿām yôḏəʿê tərûʿah* ^ *yhwh bəʾôr pānêkā yəhallêkûn* :
 17 *bəšimkā yəgîlûn kol hayyôm* ^ *ûbəšidqātəkā yārûmû* :
 18 *kî tîpʾeret ʿuzzāmô ʾattāh* ^ *ûbiršōnəkā tārûm qarṇênû* :

G 19 *kî la-yhwh māginnēnû* ^ *wəliqdôš yiśrāʾel malkēnû* :
 20 *ʾāz dibbartā bəḥāzôn* † *lahāsîdêkā wattōʾmer* †
šîwwîṭî ʿezer ʿal gibbôr ^ *hārîmôṭî bāḥûr mēʿām* :
 21 *māšāʾtî dāwîd ʿabdî* ^ *bəšemen qodšî məšaḥtîw* :

H 22 *ʾāšer yādî tikkôn immô* ^ *ʾap zərôʿî təʾamməšennû* :

IV I 23 *lōʾ yašsîʾ ʾôyēb bô* ^ *ûben ʿawlāh lōʾ yəʿannennû* :
 24 *wəḥattôṭî mippānāyw šārāyw* ^ *ûməsanʾāyw ʾeggôp* :

X 25 <i>weʿemûnāṭî wəḥasdî ʿimmô</i> ^	<i>ûbišmî tārûm qarṇô</i> :
26 <i>wəsamṭî bayyām</i> yādô ^	<i>ûbannəhārôṭ yəminô</i> :
27 <i>hûʾ yiqrāʾēnî ʾābî ʾattāh</i> ^ ʾēlî †	<i>wəšûr yəšûʿatî</i> :

Iʿ 28 *ʾap ʾānî bəḳôr ʾettənēhû* ^ *ʿelyôn ləṃalkê ʾāreš* :
 29 *ləʿôlām ʾəšmār lô ḥasdî* ^ *ûbərîṭî neʿemet lô* :

V Hʿ 30 *wəsamṭî lāʿad zarʿô* ^ *wəḳisʾô kîmê šāmayim* :

Gʿ 31 *ʾim yaʿazbû bānāyw tôrātî* ^ *ûbəmišpāṭay lōʾ yēlēkûn* :
 32 *ʾim ḥuqqōṭay yəhallēlû* ^ *ûmišwōṭay lōʾ yišmōrû* :
 33 *ûpāqadtî bəšēbet pišʿām* ^ *ûbingāʿim ʿawōnām* :
 34 *wəḥasdî lōʾ ʾapîr mēʿimmô* ^ *wəlōʾ ʾāšaqqēr beʿemûnāṭî* :

Fʿ 35 *lōʾ ʾəhallēl bərîṭî* ^ *ûmôšāʾ səpāṭay lōʾ ʾāšanneh* :
 36 *ʾaḥaṭ nišbaʿtî bəqodšî* ^ *ʾim ləḏāwîd ʾəḳazzēb* :
 37 *zarʿô ləʿôlām yihyeh* ^ *wəḳisʾô ḳaššemeš neḡdî* :
 38 *kəyārēah yikkôn ʿôlām* ^ *wəʿəd baššahaq neʿemān selāh* :

VI	E' ³⁹ <i>wəʔattāh zānaḥtā wattimʔās</i> ^ ⁴⁰ <i>nēʔartāh bəriṭ ʿabdekā</i> ^ ⁴¹ <i>pāraštā kol gəḏērōṭāyw</i> ^ ⁴² <i>šassūhū kol ʿōbərə ḏārek</i> ^	<i>hiṭʿabbarta ʿim məšḥekā</i> : <i>ḥillaltā lāʔāreṣ nizrō</i> : <i>šamtā miḥsārāyw məḥittāh</i> : <i>ḥāyāh ḥerpāh liškēnāyw</i> :
	D' ⁴³ <i>ḥārīmōṭā yəmin šārāyw</i> ^ ⁴⁴ <i>ʔāp tāšib šūr ḥarbō</i> ^ ⁴⁵ <i>hišbatā miṭṭəhārō</i> ^ ⁴⁶ <i>hiqšartā yəmə ʿālūmāyw</i> ^	<i>hišmaḥtā kol ʔōyəḥāyw</i> : <i>wəlōʔ ḥəqəmōṭō bammilḥāmāh</i> : <i>wəḳisʔō lāʔāreṣ miggartāh</i> : <i>heʿēṭitā ʿālāyw būsāh selāh</i> :

VIII	C' ⁴⁷ <i>ʿad māh yhwh tissātēr lāneṣah</i> ^ ⁴⁸ <i>zəḳor ʔānī meh ḥāleḏ</i> ^ ⁴⁹ <i>mī ḡeber yiḥyeh wəlōʔ yirʔeh māwet</i> ^	<i>tiḥʿar kəmə ʔēš ḥāmāteḳā</i> : <i>ʿal mah šāwʔ bārāʔtā kol bənē ʔāḏām</i> : <i>yəmallēt napšō mayyaḏ šəʔōl selāh</i> :
	B' ⁵⁰ <i>ʿayyēh ḥāsādēḳā ḥārīʔšōnīm ʔāḏōnāy</i> ^ ⁵¹ <i>zəḳōr ʔāḏōnāy ḥerpat ʿābādēḳā</i> ^	<i>nišbaʿtā ləḏāwīḏ beʔəmūnāteḳā</i> : <i>šəʔētī ḥəḥēqī† kol rabbīm ʿammīm</i> :
	A' ⁵² <i>ʔāšer ḥērəpū ʔōyəḥēḳā yhwh</i> ^ ⁵³ <i>bārūk yhwh ləʿōlām†</i>	<i>ʔāšer ḥērəpū† ʿiqqəḥōṭ məšḥekā</i> : <i>ʔāmēn wəʔāmēn</i> :

8. The 115 **briques** (primary SAS units) are distributed in 19 strophes in Psalm 89 as follows: **115** = [(5+5) + (6+8+8) + (8+8+2) + [4+7+4] + (2+8+8) + (8+8+6) + (5+5)] = 50 + 15 + 50. The **concentric compositional formula** is 65 // 65, with the central pivot included in each half.
9. The **arithmological center** of Psalm 89 falls between the words *wəšamtī bayyām* (“and I will put on the sea”) in 89:26a, with 192 words on either side. Psalm 89 has 196 SAS units, 115 **briques**, 55 versets, 19 strophes and 7 cantos. The **arithmological center** is in the middle canto, the middle strophe, the middle verset, the middle two **briques**, and the middle four SAS units.
10. Terrien finds 7 “Parts,” arranged in a total of 16 strophic units, plus the heading in v. 1 and the concluding doxology in v. 53 (*The Psalms: Strophic Structure and Theological Commentary* [Eerdmans, 2003], pp. 631–40). Van der Lugt and Labuschagne find 25 strophes, while Fokkelman has 22. The analysis presented here, which is based on balance in mora-count and the concentric pattern in the distribution of SAS units, indicates that there are 19 strophes arranged concentrically in a 3-level nested menorah pattern (see Observation 2 above) in 7 cantos (89:1–8, 9–14, 15–22, 23–29, 30–38, 39–46 and 47–53), which may also be outlined in a menorah pattern (see Observation 1 above).

Christensen	Terrien	Van der Lugt/Labuschagne	Fokkelman
I A 89:1–3a	Heading (v. 1)	Heading (v. 1)	Heading (v. 1)
B 89:3b–5	I 1 89:2–5	I.1 1 89:2–3	1 89:2–3
		2 89:4–5	2 89:4–5
C 89:6–8	2 89:6–8	I.2 3 89:6–7	3 89:6–8
II D 89:9–11	II 3 89:9–12	4 89:8–9	4 89:9–11
		I.2.1 5 89:10–11	
E 89:12–14	4 89:13–15	6 89:12–13	5 89:12–13
III F 89:15–18		7 89:14–15	6 89:14–15
	III 5 89:16–19	I.2.2 8 89:16–17	7 89:16–17
G 89:19–21		9 89:18–19	8 89:18–19
	6 89:20–21	II.1 10 89:20	9 89:20–21
H 89:22	IV 7 89:22–25	11 89:21–22	10 89:22–24
IV I 89:23–24		12 89:23–24	
X 89:25–27	8 89:26–28	13 89:25–26	11 89:25–26
I' 89:28–29		14 89:27–28	12 89:27–28
V H' 89:30	V 9 89:29–32	15 89:29–30	13 89:29–30
G' 89:31–34	11 89:33–37	II.2 16 89:31–32	14 89:31–33
	12 89:33–35	17 89:33–34	15 89:34–36
F' 89:35–38	VI 13 89:36–39	18 89:35–36	
		19 89:37–38	16 89:37–38
VI E' 89:39–42	14 89:40–42	III.1 20 89:39–40	17 89:39–40
		21 89:41–42	18 89:41–42
D' 89:43–46	VII 15 89:43–49	22 89:43–44	19 89:43–44
	--	23 89:45–46	20 89:45–46
VII C' 89:47–49		III.2 24 89:47–49	21 89:47–49
B' 89:50–51a	16 89:50–52	25 89:50–52	22 89:50–52
A' 89:51b–53	-- -- 89:53	-- 89:53	-- 89:53

11. Significant Compositional Numbers—counting from the beginning of Psalm 89:

Note that all of the numbers below are based on the Hebrew text as it stands in Codex L (BHS), including the 5-word heading (verse 1) and the four occurrences of *Selah* (in verses 5, 38, 46 and 49).

89:1–5	17	words after <i>atnach</i>
89:1–6	23	words before <i>atnach</i>
89:1–12	96	(= 32 x 3) words
89:1–13	104	(= 26 x 4) words
89:1–14	51	(= 17 x 3) words
89:1–16	128	(= 32 x 4) words and 69 (= 23 x 3) words before <i>atnach</i>
89:1–18	64	(= 32 x 2) words after <i>atnach</i>
89:1–21	92	(= 23 x 4) words before <i>atnach</i>
89:1–22	96	(= 32 x 3) words before <i>atnach</i>
89:1–25	85	(= 17 x 5) words after <i>atnach</i>
89:1–29	96	(= 32 x 3) words after <i>atnach</i>

89:1–31	230	(= 32 x 3) words, 128 (= 32 x 4) words before & 102 (= 17 x 6) after <i>atnach</i>
89:1–34	138	(= 23 x 6) words before <i>atnach</i>
89:1–35	255	(= 17 x 15) words
89:1–39	153	(= 17 x 9 = triangular 17) words before <i>atnach</i>
89:1–40	286	= 156 + 130 [compositional formula—all divisible by 26]
89:1–42	136	(= 17 x 8) words after <i>atnach</i>
89:1–44	312	(= 26 x 12) words and 170 (= 17 x 10) words before <i>atnach</i>
89:1–47	153	(= 17 x 9 = triangular 17) words after <i>atnach</i>
89:1–48	184	(= 23 x 8) words before
89:1–53	384	(= 32 x 12) words

There are a total of 12 words in Psalm 89:1–2, and so it is not possible to use even the first of the four primary compositional numbers (**17**, **23**, **26** and **32**) in terms of total word-count until the end of verse 3. This leaves 51 verses to work with (vv. 3–53) and 21 of these have significant numbers in terms of total word count (i.e., more than 41% of the time).

12. Note the following Compositional Formulae:

89:14–20	55	= 32 + 23	
89:17–24	55	= 32 + 23	
89:4–10	58	= 32 + 26	
89:9–15	58	= 32 + 26	
89:21–29	58	= 32 + 26	
89:22–30	58	= 32 + 26	
89:6–12	60	= 34 + 26	
89:7–13	60	= 34 + 26	
89:34–43	64	= 32 + 32	all divisible by 32
89:35–44	64	= 32 + 32	all divisible by 32
89:14–26	92	= 52 + 40	
89:34–47	92	= 46 + 46	all divisible by 23
89:12–25	104	= 58 + 46	
89:12–27	116	= 65 + 55	
89:8–22	119	= 68 + 51	all divisible by 17
89:1–15	120	= 65 + 55	
89:5–19	120	= 65 + 55	
89:14–31	120	= 68 + 52	
89:17–34	120	= 69 + 51	
89:34–52	138	= 68 + 70	
89:3–21	153	= 85 + 68	all divisible by 17
89:5–23	153	= 85 + 68	all divisible by 17
89:10–31	153	= 85 + 68	all divisible by 17
89:2–20	156	= 86 + 70	
89:31–52	156	= 78 + 78	all divisible by 26
89:20–45	170	= 92 + 78	
89:1–23	180	= 100 + 80	
89:7–31	180	= 102 + 78	
89:12–38	187	= 102 + 85	all divisible by 17
89:15–42	187	= 102 + 85	all divisible by 17

89:8–36	208	=	116 + 92	
89:2–32	215	=	119 + 96	
89:10–41	221	=	119 + 102	all divisible by 17
89:13–45	221	=	119 + 102	all divisible by 17
89:1–31	230	=	128 + 102	
89:11–45	238	=	128 + 110	
89:4–38	253	=	138 + 115	all divisible by 23
89:5–39	253	=	138 + 115	all divisible by 23
89:3–37	255	=	140 + 115	
89:6–41	256	=	140 + 116	
89:1–40	286	=	156 + 130	all divisible by 26
89:7–53	340	=	184 + 156	
89:1–48	344	=	184 + 160	

13. Determining the details of the musical and literary structures of Psalm 89 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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