

Psalm 102:1–29

Translation, Logoprosodic Analysis, and Observations

Lament and Hymn: Through Tears to Praise

Psalm 102:1–29

A. *Hear My Prayer, O YHWH, and Hide Not Your Face from Me* (102:1–3) [7.6]

102:1 Prayer^a of an afflicted one when he is overwhelmed // 15 1 4 4 0
and before YHWH / he pours out his complaint // 15 2_ 4 0 4
101:7–102:1 31 17 14

102:2 O YHWH / hear my prayer // 13 2_ 3 3 0
101:7–102:2a 34 20 14

And my cry / unto you let it come // 15 2_ 3 0 3
101:7–102:2 37 20 17

102:3 Hide not your face / from me / in a day when I am in trouble // 19 3 7 7 0
incline your ear to me // 9 1 3 3 0
when I call / answer me speedily // 14 2_ 4 0 4
102: 1–3 28 17 11

B. *My Days Vanish Like Smoke and My Bones Burn Like a Furnace* (102:4) [2.2]

102:4 For they vanish like smoke /^a my days // 15 2_ 4 4 0
102:2–4a 24 17 7

And my bones / like a furnace they burn // 15 2_ 4 0 4
101: 8–102:4 47 26 21

C. *My Heart Is Withered and I am Like a Screech Owl among Ruins* (102:5–7) [5.6]

102:5 It is smitten like grass / and my heart is withered // 15 2 4 4 0
so that I forget / to eat my bread // 15 2_ 4 0 4
102:6–5 77 46 31

102:6 At the sound of my constant groaning // 8 1_ 2 2 0
102:3–6a 32 20 12

My bones cleave / to my flesh // 13 2_ 3 0 3
102:2–6 41 23 18

102:7 I have become / like a pelican in the wilderness // 11 2 3 3 0
I am like / a screech owl among ruins // 14 2_ 3 0 3
102:3–7 41 23 18

D. I Remain Awake and I Feel Like a Bird Alone on a Roof (102:8) [2.2]

102:8	I stay awake / ^a and I am feeling //	<u> 9 2 </u>	<u> 2 2 0 </u>
		102:1-8a	57 32 25
	Like a bird / alone on a roof //	<u> 11 2 </u>	<u> 4 0 4 </u>
		102:6-8	17 7 10

E. My Enemies Revile Me for I am Thrown Down In Your Wrath (102:9-11) [6.6]

102:9	Every day / my enemies revile me //	<u> 16 2 </u>	<u> 4 4 0 </u>
		102:3-9a	51 29 22
	Those who are mad at me / curse my name //	<u> 13 2 </u>	<u> 3 0 3 </u>
		102:5-9	32 15 17
102:10	For dust / like bread I eat //	<u> 14 2 </u>	<u> 4 4 0 </u>
		102:8-10a	17 10 7
	And my drink / with tears I mingle //	<u> 15 2 </u>	<u> 3 0 3 </u>
		102:7-10	26 13 13
102:11	Because of your indignation / ^a and your wrath //	<u> 11 2 </u>	<u> 3 3 0 </u>
		102:9-11a	17 11 6
	Indeed you have picked me up / and thrown me down //	<u> 16 2 </u>	<u> 3 0 3 </u>
		102:8-11	26 13 13

F. I Wither Away Like the Grass but You are Enthroned Forever (102:12-13) [4.4]

102:12	My days / are like the shadow in twilight //	<u> 12 2 </u>	<u> 3 3 0 </u>
	and as for me / like grass I wither away //	<u> 13 2 </u>	<u> 3 0 3 </u>
		102:9-12	26 14 12
102:13	But you, O YHWH / are enthroned forever //	<u> 16 2 </u>	<u> 4 4 0 </u>
	and your remembrance / is for all generations //	<u> 11 2 </u>	<u> 3 0 3 </u>
		102:10-13	26 14 12

G. Take Pity on Zion for the Nations Fear Your Name (102:14-16) [4.4.4]

102:14	You will surely arise / and you will take pity on Zion //	<u> 17 2 </u>	<u> 4 4 0 </u>
	for this is the time to favor her / yea, the set time has come //	<u> 17 2 </u>	<u> 6 0 6 </u>
		102:13-14	17 8 9
102:15	For your servants value / its stones //	<u> 19 2 </u>	<u> 5 5 0 </u>
	and on its dust / ^a they take pity //	<u> 14 2 </u>	<u> 3 0 3 </u>
		102:6-15	68 34 34

102:16	And the nations fear / the name of YHWH //	16	2	5	5	0	
	and all the kings of the earth / (fear) your glory //	16	2	5	0	5	
		<hr/>			35	18	17
		102:13-16					

H. YHWH Will Not Despise the Prayer of the Destitute (102:17-18) [4.4]

102:17	For YHWH will build up / ^a Zion //	14	2	4	4	0	
	he will appear / in his glory //	8	2	2	0	2	
		<hr/>			34	18	16
		102:14-17					

102:18	^a He will look (back) ^a /	4	1	1	1	0	
		<hr/>			17	10	7
		102:16-18a					

	At the prayer of the destitute //	9	1	3	3	0	
	yea, he will not despise / their prayer //	14	2	4	0	4	
		<hr/>			49	26	23
		102:13-18					

I. YHWH Looks Down to Hear the Groaning and Set Captives Free (102:19-21) [6.6]

102:19	Let this be written down / for a generation to come //	13	2	4	4	0	
		<hr/>			28	17	11
		102:16-19a					

	And a people yet unborn / will praise YH(WH) //	10	2	4	0	4	
		<hr/>			32	17	15
		102:16-19					

102:20	For he will look down / from his holy place //	12	2	4	4	0	
		<hr/>			26	16	10
		102:17-20a					

	YHWH / from heaven ^a at the earth he looks //	15	2	5	0	5	
		<hr/>			17	8	9
		102:19-20					
		102:15-20					

102:21	To hear / the groaning of prisoners //	10	2	3	3	0	
		<hr/>			34	19	15
		102:17-21a					

	To set free / those who are doomed to die //	13	2	3	0	3	
		<hr/>			23	11	12
		102:19-21					

J. The Name of YHWH and His Praise Will be Declared in Zion (102:22) [2.2]

102:22	The name of YHWH / will be declared in Zion //	15	2	4	4	0	
		<hr/>			41	23	18

	And his praise / in Jerusalem //	17	2	2	0	2	
		<hr/>			43	23	20
		102:17-22					

K. I Said, "Take Me Not Away in the Midst of My Days" (102:23–25) [6.5]

102:23 When peoples will be gathered /^a together // 12 2 3 3 0
 and kingdoms / worship YHWH // 16 2 4 0 4
 102:17–23 50 **26** 24

102:24 He has broken in midcourse / my^a strength // 9 2 3 3 0
 102:20–24a 31 **17** 14

He shortened my days // 8 1 2 0 2
 102:20–24 33 **17** 16

102:25 I said / "O my God / take me not away in the midst of my days // 22 3 6 6 0
 to all generations shall your years endure // 13 1 3 0 3
 102:20–25 42 **23** 19

L. You Made the Heavens and Laid the Foundations of the Earth (102:26) [2.2]

102:26 Of old / you laid the foundations of the earth // 15 2 3 3 0
 102:24–26a 17 12 5

And the work of your hands /^a is the heavens // 16 2 3 0 3
 102:20–26 48 **26** 22

M. All Will Perish but You are the Same: Your Years Have No End (102:27–29) [6.7]

102:27 They will perish / but you will stand // 17 2 4 4 0
 and all of them / like clothing they wear out // 10 2 3 3 0
 as a garment you discard them /^a and they disappear // 17 2 3 0 3
 102:22–27 43 **26** 17

102:28 But you are the same // 6 1 2 2 0
 102:22–28a 45 28 **17**

And your years / shall have no end // 15 2 3 0 3
 102:21–28 54 31 **23**

102:29 Children of your servants /^a will still be living // 14 2 3 3 0
 and their posterity / in your presence they will be secure // 13 2 3 0 3
 102:24–29 41 24 **17**
 102:1–29 213 114 99

Scansion in Accentual Stress Units:

$$(7.6).(2.2).(5.6) . (2.2).(6.6).(4.4) . (4.4.4) . (4.4).(6.6).(2.2) . (6.5).(2.2).(6.7)$$

$$(13 + 4 + 11) + (4 + 12 + 8) + 12 + (8 + 12 + 4) + (11 + 4 + 13)$$

$$= (28 + 24) + 12 + (24 + 28) = 52 + 12 + 52 = 116$$

or: **64 // 64** {**52 = 26 x 2; 64 = 32 x 2 and 116 = 58 x 2 [58 = 26 + 32]}**}

Concentric Compositional Formula: 212 = 106 + 0 + 106 [word count—with heading]

Notes:

- 102:1^a Reading *dehi* in BHS as conjunctive.
 102:4^a Reading the sequence of *ga'ya* (= *meteg*) followed by two occurrences of *munaḥ* in BHS as disjunctive.
 102:8^a Reading *merka* followed immediately by *ga'ya* (= *meteg*) in BHS as disjunctive.
 102:11^a Reading *merka* preceded immediately by two occurrences of *ga'ya* (= *meteg*) in BHS as disjunctive.
 102:15^a Reading *merka* preceded immediately by *ga'ya* (= *meteg*) in BHS as disjunctive.
 102:17^a Reading the sequence of *ga'ya* (= *meteg*) followed by two occurrences of *munaḥ* in BHS as disjunctive.
 102:18^{a-a} An example of janus-parallelism with the word פנה carrying different meanings in a pivot position. When read with verse 17, it means “(YHWH) looks,” in the sense of he takes note of the situation. In relation to what follows, it means “he regards (i.e., he hears) their prayer .”
 102:20^a Reading *dehi* in BHS as conjunctive.
 102:23^a Reading the sequence of two occurrences of *munaḥ* in BHS as disjunctive.
 102:24^a Following the *qere*' reading כהי (“my strength”) rather than MT כהו.
 102:26^a Reading the sequence of *tarḥā* preceded by *ga'ya* (= *meteg*) and followed by *munaḥ* in BHS as disjunctive.
 102:27^a Reading the sequence of *tarḥā* and *munaḥ* followed by *ga'ya* (= *meteg*) in BHS as disjunctive.
 102:29^a Reading *merka* followed immediately by *ga'ya* (= *meteg*) in BHS as disjunctive.

Summary of the Logoprosodic Analysis

1. Psalm 102 has 13 strophes: 102:1–3, 4–7, 8–11, 12–13, 14–16, 17–18, 19–22, 23–26 and 27–29.

A	102:1–3	2 balanced triads + pivot:	[15 + 15 + 13] + 15 + [19 + 9 + 14]	=	43 + 15 + 42	morae
B	102:4	balanced dyad:	[15 + 15]	=	15 + 15	morae
C	102:5–7	2 balanced triads:	[15 + 15 + 8] + [13 + 11 + 14]	=	38 + 38	morae
D	102:8	balanced dyad:	[9 + 11]	=	9 + 11	morae
E	102:9–11	3 balanced dyads:	[16 + 13] + [14 + 15] + [11 + 16]	=	29 + 29 + 27	morae
F	102:12–13	2 balanced dyads:	[12 + 13] + [16 + 11]	=	25 + 27	morae
X	102:14–16	3 balanced dyads:	[17 + 17] + [19 + 14] + [16 + 16]	=	34 + 33 + 32	morae
F'	102:17–18	2 balanced dyads + pivot:	[14 + 8] + 4 + [9 + 14]	=	22 + 4 + 23	morae
E'	102:19–21	2 balanced triads:	[13 + 10 + 12] + [15 + 10 + 13]	=	35 + 38	morae
D'	102:22	balanced dyad:	[15 + 17]	=	15 + 17	morae
C'	102:23–25	2 balanced triads + pivot:	[12 + 16 + 10] + 8 + [14 + 8 + 13]	=	38 + 8 + 35	morae
B'	102:26	balanced dyad:	[15 + 16]	=	15 + 16	morae
A'	102:27–29	2 balanced triads + pivot:	[17 + 10 + 17] + 6 + [15 + 14 + 13]	=	44 + 6 + 42	morae

2. The first strophe (102:1–3) is a single part arranged in four subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 101:1, 2a, 2b and 3.
 - 101:7–102:1 **17** words before *atnach*
 - 101:7–102:2 **17** words after *atnach*
 - 102:1–3 **17** words before *atnach*

3. The second strophe (102:4) is a single part arranged in two subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 102:4a and 4b.
 - 102:2–4 **17** words before *atnach*
 - 101:8–102:4 **26** words before *atnach*

4. The third strophe (102:5–7) is a single part arranged in four subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 102:5, 6a, 6b and 7.
 - 102:6–5 **46** (= **23** x 2) words before *atnach*
 - 102:2–6 **23** before *atnach* words
 - 102:3–7 **23** before *atnach* words

5. The fourth strophe (102:8) is a single part arranged in two subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 102:8a and 8b).
 - 102:6–8 **17** words
 - 102:1–8 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words before *atnach*

6. The fifth strophe (102:9–11) has two parts arranged in six subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 102:8, 9, 10 and 11).
 - 102:5–9 **32** words and **17** words after *atnach*
 - 102:2–9 **32** words before *atnach*
 - 102:7–10 **26** words
 - 102:4–10 **23** words before *atnach*
 - 102:8–11 **26** words
 - 102:7–11 **32** words
 - 102:5–11 **23** words after *atnach*

7. The sixth strophe (102:12–13) is a single part arranged in two subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 102:12 and 13.
 - 102:9–12 **26**
 - 102:8–12 **32** words
 - 102:10–13 **26** words
 - 102:7–13 **23** words before *atnach*

8. The seventh strophe (102:14–16) is a single part arranged in three subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 102:14, 15 and 16.
 - 102:13–14 **17** words
 - 102:12–14 **23** words
 - 102:10–15 **23** words after *atnach*
 - 102:7–15 **32** (= 2⁵) words before *atnach*
 - 102:6–15 **68** = **34** + **34** [compositional formula]
 - 102:3–15 **98** = **52** + **46** [compositional formula]

- 102:6–15 **104 = 55 + 49** [compositional formula]
 - 102:11–16 **23** words after *atnach*
 - 102:10–16 **26** words after *atnach*
 - 102:9–16 **32** (= 2⁵) words before *atnach*
 - 102:6–16 **78 = 39 + 39** [compositional formula]
9. The eighth strophe (102:17–18) is a single part arranged in three subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 102:17, 18a and 18bc.
- 102:14–17 **34** (= 17 x 2) words
 - 102:10–17 **32** (= 2⁵) words before *atnach*
 - 102:15–18 **32** (= 2⁵) words
 - 102:13–18 **49 = 26 + 23 words** [compositional formula]
 - 102:12–18 **26** words after *atnach*
 - 102:11–18 **32** (= 2⁵) words before *atnach*
10. The ninth strophe (102:19–21) has two parts arranged in six subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 102:19a, 19b, 20a, 20b, 21a and 21b.
- 102:16–19 **32** (= 2⁵) words and **17** words before *atnach*
 - 102:14–19 **26** words before *atnach*
 - 102:19–20 **17** words
 - 102:15–20 **49 = 26 + 23 words** [compositional formula]
 - 102:13–20 **34** (= 17 x 2) words before and **32** words after *atnach*
 - 102:19–21 **23** words
 - 102:16–21 **23** words after *atnach*
 - 102:15–21 **26** words after *atnach*
11. The tenth strophe (102:22) is a single part arranged in two subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 102:22a and 22b.
- 102:17–22 **23** words before *atnach*
12. The eleventh strophe (102:23–25) is a single part arranged in four subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 102:23, 24a, 24b and 25.
- 102:17–23 **26** words before *atnach*
 - 102:20–24 **17** words before *atnach*
 - 102:17–24 **26** words after *atnach*
 - 102:20–25 **23** words before *atnach*
 - 102:19–25 **23** words after *atnach*
 - 102:14–25 **92 = 49 + 43 words** [compositional formula]
13. The twelfth strophe (102:26) is a single part arranged in two subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 102:26a and 26b.
- 102:17–23 **26** words before *atnach*
 - 102:20–24 **17** words before *atnach*
 - 102:17–24 **26** words after *atnach*
 - 102:20–25 **23** words before *atnach*
 - 102:19–25 **23** words after *atnach*

- 102:20–26 **26** words before *atnach*
- 102:19–26 **26** words after *atnach*
- 102:17–26 **32** words after *atnach*
- 102:14–26 **98 = 52 + 46** words [compositional formula]

14. The thirteenth strophe (102:27–29) is a single part arranged in four subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 102:27, 28a, 28b and 29.

- 102:22–27 **43 = 26 + 17** words [compositional formula]
- 102:15–27 **98 = 55 + 43** words [compositional formula]
- 102:21–28 **23** words after *atnach*
- 102:24–29 **17** words after *atnach*
- 102:22–29 **23** words after *atnach*
- 102:21–29 **34** (= 17 x 2) words before and **26** words after *atnach*
- 102:18–29 **85 = 46 + 39** words [compositional formula]
- 102:14–29 **119 = 64 + 5** words [compositional formula]

Observations

1. The 13 strophes in Psalm 102 may be outlined in a nested menorah pattern, as follows:

1st Level Menorah: Lament and Hymn: Through Tears to Praise (Ps 102:1–29)

A	Hear my prayer, O YHWH, and hide not your face from me	[7.6]	102:1–3
B	My days vanish like smoke and my bones burn like a furnace	[2.2]	102:4
C	My heart is withered and I am like a screech owl among ruins	[5.6]	102:5–7
X	Take pity so that your name is praised in Zion	—	102:8–22
C'	I said, “Take me not away in the midst of my days!”	[6.5]	102:23–25
B'	You made the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth	[2.2]	102:26
A'	All will perish, but you remain the same: “Your years have no end!”	[6.7]	102:27–29

2nd Level Menorah: Take Pity So That Your Name Is Praised in Zion (Ps 102:8–22)

A	I remain awake and I feel like a bird alone on a roof	[2.2]	102:8
B	My enemies revile me—in your wrath you have thrown me down	[6.6]	102:9–11
C	I wither away like the grass but you are enthroned forever	[4.4]	102:12–13
X	Take pity on Zion for the nations fear your name	[4.4.4]	102:14–16
C'	YHWH will not despise the prayer of the destitute	[4.4]	102:17–18
B'	YHWH looks down to hear the groaning and to set prisoners free	[6.6]	102:19–21
A'	The name of YHWH and his praise will be declared in Zion	[2.2]	102:22

2. Labuschagne omits the word (“my God”) in v. 25a as “an obvious case of dittography of the very next word, אֱלֹהִים.” He reads: “I say: ‘Do not take me away ...’” and cites the Revised English Bible, “Do not carry me off ...”, which also disregards the word in question. 4QPs^b, LXX, and Syriac take the verb אָמַר with v. 24, though LXX and Syriac regard this verb as imperative and attach אֱלֹהִים (“my God”) to it as אֵלַי, “to me.” Reading the verb as qal perfect

אָמַר, “he said,” was first proposed by J. Len (1877) and is followed by L. Allen (WBC 21 [2002], p. 16, n. 24.b. Terrien reads the MT as it stands: “I said, O my God!” There is no sufficient reason to remove the word with Labuschagne, nor to relocate the first two words of v. 25 to the end of v. 24 with Allen (and others).

3. In terms of the 213 words (including the 8-word heading) in Psalm 102, the **arithmological center** falls on the word עֲבָדֶיךָ (“your servants”) 102:15a. The initial **concentric compositional formula** is:

$$213 = 106 + 1 + 106 \quad \text{[word count—with heading]}$$

$$\text{or: } 107 // 107 \quad \text{[word count—with “pivot” included in each half]}$$

A **meaningful center** is found by adding two words on either side of the **arithmological center**, as follows:

את אבניה עֲבָדֶיךָ כי רצו For your servants value its stones

When these words are read as part of each half of Psalm 102, the **concentric compositional formula** becomes:

$$213 = 104 + 5 + 104 \quad \text{[word count—with heading]}$$

$$\text{or: } 109 // 109 \quad \text{[word count—with “pivot” included in each half]}$$

$$\{104 = 26 \times 4\}$$

The **meaningful center** may be expanded by including 21 words on either side of the **arithmological center**, as follows:

	כעשב איבש	Like grass I wither away;
13	ואתה יהוה לעולם תשב וזכרך לדר ודר	But you, O YHWH, are enthroned forever; And your remembrance is for all generations.
14	אתה תקום תרחם ציון כי עת לחננה כי בא מועד	You will surely arise (and) you will take pity on Zion; For this is the time to favor her; For the set time has come.
15	את אבניה עֲבָדֶיךָ כי רצו ואת עפרה יחננו	For your servants value its stones; And on the dust thereof they take pity.
16	וייראו גוים את שם יהוה וכל מלכי הארצ את כבודך	And the nations fear the name of YHWH; And all the kingdoms of the earth (fear) your glory.
17	כי בנה יהוה ציון נראה בכבודו	For YHWH will build up Zion; He will appear in his glory.

In this reading, the **concentric compositional formula** becomes:

$$213 = 85 + 43 + 85 \quad \text{[word count—with heading]}$$

$$\text{or: } 128 // 128 \quad \text{[word count—with “pivot” included in each half]}$$

$$\{128 = 32 \times 4 = 2^7; 85 = 17 \times 5 \text{ and } 43 = 17 + 26\}$$

4. The 11-word “nested framework” (with the 6-word framework underlined) reads as follows:

- 1 מִזְמוֹר לְתוֹרָה Prayer of an afflicted one when he is overwhelmed
 הֲרִיעוּ לִיהוָה כָּל־הָאָרֶץ And before YHWH he pours out his complaint.
 2 עֲבְרוּ אֶת־יְהוָה בְּשִׂמְחָה O YHWH, hear my prayer.
- 28 וְאַתָּה־הוּא But you are the same;
 וּשְׁנוֹתֶיךָ לֹא יִתְמוּ And your years shall have no end.
- 29 בְּנֵי־עַבְדֶּיךָ יִשְׁכּוֹנוּ Children of your servants will still be living;
 וְזֶרְעָם לְפָנֶיךָ יִכּוֹן And their posterity in your presence they will be secure.

5. Preliminary data on the matter of letter-count in Psalm 102 by David Crookes (private communication) reveals the following:

Total letter count: 833 = 17 x 7 x 7

The middle (417th letter is the 2nd letter in the 5th word of v. 15 -- אֲבִנֶיהָ (“its stones”)

Gematric center: אֶת־אֲבִנֶיהָ = 401 + 68 = 469 = “upon Shiggaion” (cf. Hab 3:1)

Gematric compositional formula: 833 = 413 + 7 + 413; or 420 // 420

420 [= 2x2x3x3x3x5]

David Crookes suggests the possibility that the bass-line of the Shiggaion involves five words scattered throughout Psalm 102, like the stones of Zion:

- the 1st word beginning with שׁ is word 8 -- שִׁיחוּ (“his complaint”), the last word in v. 1.
- the 1st word after that beginning with גּ is word 61 – גַּג (“roof”), the last word in v. 8.
- the 1st word after that beginning with י is word 82 – יָמַי (“my days”), 1st word in v. 12.
- the 1st word after that beginning with ו is word 85 – וְאֲנִי (“and I”), 4th word in v. 12
- the 1st word after that beginning with נ is word 127 – נִרְאֶה (“he will appear”), in v. 17

The sum of the numerical placing of these five words in Psalm 102 is:

8 + 61 + 82 + 85 + 127 = 363 [= 3x11x11].

6. Summary of the concentric compositional formulae:

213 = 104 + 5 + 104 or: 109 // 109

213 = 85 + 43 + 85 or: 128 // 128

{with others in between}

213 = 11 + 191 + 11 or: 202 // 202

213 = 6 + 201 + 6 or: 207 // 207

61 = 27 + 7 + 27 or: **34 // 34** syntactic accentual-stress units
{34 = 17 x 2}

116 = **52** + 12 + **52** or: **64 // 64** *briques* (primary accentual-stress units)
{64 = 32 x 2; 52 = 26 x 2 and 58 = 26 + 32}

7. In the prosodic structure of Psalm 102, the basic building blocks (*briques*) in each poetic *verset* are the *primary SAS (syntactic accentual stress) 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 102 has 61 *briques* (primary SAS units), 59 of which are marked by: *soph pasuq* (29 times, at the end of each verse), *atnach* (28 times, in each verse except v. 24), and *ole weyored* (2 times, in vv. 3 and 27). The remaining two boundaries are marked by *revia* (v. 24) and *revia mugrash* (v. 14).

8. The prosodic structure of Psalm 102 as a whole, in terms of its primary syntactic accentual stress units (*briques*), may be displayed as follows [^ represents *atnach*; : represents *soph pasuq*; † represents *ole weyored*, and † represents all other accent markers]:

I A ¹ *təpīllāh ləʿānî kî yaʿātōp* ^ *wəlipnē yhw̄h yišpōk šîhō* :
² *yhw̄h šimʿāh təpīllātî* ^ *wəšawʿātî ʿēlēka tābōʿ* :
³ *ʿal tastēr pānēka mimmennî bəyôm šar lî* † *haṭēh ʿēlay ʿozneka* ^
bəyôm ʿeqrāʿ mahēr ʿānēnî :

B ⁴ *kî kālû bəʿāšān yāmāy* ^ *wəʿašmōtay kəmə qēd niḥārū* :

- C ⁵ *hûkāh kâ‘éseḅ wayyibaš libbî* ^ *kî šakāhtî mē‘ākōl laḥmî :*
⁶ *miqqōl ‘anḥātî* ^ *dāḅəqāh ašmî libšārî :*
⁷ *dāmîṭṭî liq‘aṭ midbār* ^ *hāyîṭṭî kəḵōs ḥārāḅōṭ :*
- II D ⁸ *šāqadṭî wā‘ehyeh* ^ *kəšippōr bōdēd ‘al gaḡ :*
- E ⁹ *kol hayyôm ḥērəpūnî ôyəḅāy’* ^ *məhōlālay bî nišbā‘û :*
¹⁰ *kî ‘ēper kalleḥem ‘ākālātî* ^ *wəšiqqūway bibkî māsākəṭfî :*
¹¹ *mippənē za‘amḵa wəqišpeḵa* ^ *kî nisā‘ṭanî wattašlīkēnî :*
- F ¹² *yāmay kəšēl nāṭāyû* ^ *wa‘ānî kâ‘éseḅ ‘îḅāš :*
¹³ *wə‘attāh yḥwh lə‘ōlām tēšēḅ* ^ *wəziḵrəḵa ləḍōr wāḍōr :*

III X ¹⁴ <i>‘attāh tāqûm tərəḥēm šîyôn</i> ^ <i>kî ‘ēṭ ləḥennāh</i> † <i>kî ḅā’ mō‘ēd :</i>
¹⁵ <i>kî rāšû</i> ‘āḅādēḵa <i>‘eṭ ‘āḅānēḥa</i> ^ <i>wə‘eṭ ‘āpārāḥ yəḥōnēnû :</i>
¹⁶ <i>wəyîrə‘û ḡōyim ‘eṭ šēm yḥwh</i> ^ <i>wəḵol malkē ḥā‘āreš ‘eṭ kəḅōdeḵa :</i>

- IV F’ ¹⁷ *kî ḅānāḥ yḥwh šîyôn* ^ *nir‘āḥ bikḅōḍō :*
¹⁸ *pānāḥ ‘el təḅillaṭ ḥā‘ar‘ār* ^ *wəlō’ ḅāzāḥ ‘eṭ təḅillaṭām :*
- E’ ¹⁹ *tikkāteḅ zō’ṭ ləḍōr ‘aḥārôn* ^ *šə‘am niḅrā’ yəhallel yāḥ :*
²⁰ *kî hišqîḅ mimmərôm qodšō* ^ *yḥwh miššāmayim ‘el ‘eresḥ hibbîṭ :*
²¹ *lišmōa’ ‘enqaṭ ‘āsîr* ^ *ləḅattēaḥ ḅənē təmûṭā :*
- D’ ²² *ləsappēr bəšîyôn šēm yḥwh* ^ *ûṭəhillātô bîrûšālāim :*
- V C’ ²³ *bəhiqqāḅēš ‘ammîm yaḥdāw* ^ *ûmamlākōṭ la‘āḅōḍ ‘eṭ yḥwh :*
²⁴ *ḥ‘innāḥ ḅadereḵ kōḥō* † *qīšsar yāmāy :*
²⁵ *‘ēmōr ‘ēlî ‘al ta‘ālēnî baḥāššî yāmāy* ^ *bəḍōr dōrîm šənôṭēḵa :*
- B’ ²⁶ *ləḅānîm ḥā‘āreš yāsadtā* ^ *ûma‘šēḥ yādēḵa šāmāyim :*
- A’ ²⁷ *hēm māḥ yō‘ḅēḍû wə‘attāḥ ta‘āmōḍ* † *wəḵullām kallām kabēḡeḍ yiblû* ^
kalləḅûš taḥālîḅēm wəyaḥālōḅû :
- ²⁸ *wə‘attāḥ ḥû’* ^ *ûšənôṭēḵa lō’ yittāmmû :*
²⁹ *ḅənē ‘āḅādēḵa yiškônû* ^ *wəzar‘ām ləḅānēḵa yikkôn :*

9. The 61 **briques** (primary SAS units) are distributed in five **cantos** in Psalm 102 as follows: $58 = (7 + 2 + 6) + (2 + 6 + 4) + 7 + (4 + 6 + 2) + (6 + 2 + 7) = (15 + 12) + 7 + (12 + 15) = 27 + 7 + 27 = 61$; or **34 // 34** with central pivot included in each half.

The **arithmological center** of Psalm 102 falls on the word *ʿābādēka* (“your servants”) 102:5a, with 106 words on either side. Psalm 102 has 116 SAS units, 61 **briques** (primary SAS units), 29 **versets**, 13 **strophes**, and 5 **cantos**. The **arithmological center** is in the middle **canto**, the middle **strophe**, the middle **verset**, the middle **brique**, and the middle four SAS units. There are 403 morae before the word *ʿābādēka* (“your servants”) 102:5a and 412 morae after it. The total mora-count for Psalm 102 is 821.

10. Terrien finds ten strophes arranged in three larger Parts (vv. 1–12, 13–24, 25–29) in Psalm 102 (*The Psalms: Strophic Structure and Theological Commentary* (Eerdmans, 2003), p. 694–96. Van der Lugt also finds 10 strophes; but Fokkelman and Labuschagne have 11 strophes. The analysis presented here, which is based on the balance in mora-count and the concentric pattern in the distribution of syntactic accentual stress units, indicates that there are 13 strophes arranged in five cantos (vv. 1–7, 8–13, 14–16, 17–22 and 23–29), which may be outlined in a 2-level nested menorah pattern (see Observation 1).

Christensen	Terrien	Van der Lugt	Fokkelman & CJL
I A 102:1–3	I 1 102:1–3	I 1 102:1–3	1 102:1–3
B 102:4	2 102:4–6	2 102:4–6	2 102:4–6
C 102:5–7			
II D 102:8	3 102:7–9	3 102:7–9	3 102:7–9
E 102:9–11	4 102:10–12	4 102:10–12	4 102:10–12
F 102:12–13	II 5 102:13–15	II 5 102:13–15	5 102:13–15
III X 102:14–16	6 102:16–18	6 102:16–18	6 102:16–18
IV F' 102:17–18			
E' 102:19–21	7 102:19–21	7 102:19–21	7 102:19–21
D' 102:22	8 102:22–24	8 102:22–23	8 102:22–23
V C' 102:23–25	III 9 102:25–27	III 9 102:24–26	9 102:24–26
B' 102:26			
A' 102:27–29	10 102:28–29	10 102:27–29	10 102:27
			11 102:28–29

11. Evidence from the logoprosodic analysis supports the inclusion of the eight-word heading as an integral part of Psalm 102 at the point of the numerical composition of this text, as shown in the following list of significant compositional numbers at the boundaries of the verses counting from the beginning.

102:1–3	17	words before <i>atnach</i>
102:1–6	49	[= 17 + 32 = 23 + 26] words
102:1–7	55	[= 23 + 32] words
102:1–8	32	words before <i>atnach</i>
102:1–9	68	(= 17 x 4) words and 32 words after <i>atnach</i>
102:1–10	40	[= 17 + 23] words before <i>atnach</i>
102:1–11	43	[= 17 + 26] words before <i>atnach</i>
102:1–12	46	(= 23 x 2) words before <i>atnach</i>

102:1–14	104	(= 26 x 4) words
102:1–16	64	(= 32 x 2) words before and 58 [= 26 + 32] words after <i>atnach</i>
102:1–17	128	(= 32 x 4 = 2 ⁷) words and 68 (= 17 x 4) words before <i>atnach</i>
102:1–18	136	(= 17 x 8) words and 64 (= 32 x 2) words after <i>atnach</i>
102:1–19	68	(= 17 x 4) words after <i>atnach</i>
102:1–20	153	(= 17 x 9) words and 80 words before <i>atnach</i>
102:1–22	78	(= 26 x 3) words after <i>atnach</i>
102:1–26	192	(= 32 x 6) words and 102 (= 17 x 6) words before <i>atnach</i>
102:1–28	96	(= 32 x 3) words after <i>atnach</i>

It is not possible to utilize any of the four compositional numbers (**17**, **23**, **26** and **32**) until the end of verse 3, which leaves 26 possible boundaries to work with. In 13 out of 26 of these boundaries (or 50% of the time) a multiple of one of these four compositional numbers is present. If the numbers **40**, **43** and **49** are included the percentage increases to more than 61%. This evidence suggests the possibility of deliberate design at the point of the numerical composition of Psalm 102, for all of these numbers disappear if these words are not considered to be an integral part of the psalm as we now have it.

12. Determining the details of the musical and literary structures of Psalm 102 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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