

Structural Techniques

- Prologue (Pss. 1-2)

Prologue (cf. §1.3.3)	Way of the righteous	Righteous flourishes in paradisiacal garden	Outcome of the righteous and wicked
	1:1–2	1:3	1:4–6
	Ways of the wicked	Messianic king reigns in Zion	Outcome of the righteous and wicked
	2:1–3	2:4–9	2:10–12



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41
T	K	Laments					Laments					E	Ind. Laments										Thanks-giving				Sup						Sup							
R	G	D	N	D	N	D	N		D	D	N	D	N	D	C	F	L	C	F	L	P	J	W	W	W	W	P	J	H	Sap	Sap	Sap	TK							
		E P E P E H D H D H					N		D	C I C I C L L L L L					Cosmic and Torah Praise										YHWH Enthroned Temple Hymn				A Memorial											
		Supplication					H	TK	Supplication					TR										YHWH Enthroned Temple Hymn				A Memorial												
		To Zion					YHWH enthroned		Away from Zion					Cosmic and Torah Praise										YHWH Enthroned Temple Hymn				A Memorial												
		Group 1 12x Psalms					Group 2 10x Psalms										Group 3 10x Psalms										Group 4 7x Psalms													
		Lament										Torah										YHWH-Kingship, Zion										Lament								
T	K	Reign of man										Reign of Messianic king										Reign of YHWH										The Servant of YHWH								
R	G	Reign of man										Reign of Messianic king										Reign of YHWH										The Servant of YHWH								

Figure 12: Gianni Barbiero's Structure of Book I (with my modifications in Pss 35–41)

*my referring to Dr. Peter C. W. Ho

Elohistic Psalter (42 Psalms approx. 200x “Elohim,” 44x “YHWH”)

	Book II																								Book III																										
Psalms	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89			
Super-script		UT	Korah						Asf	h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h	Ps	Sg	h	h	UT	Sol	Asaph																Korah	Dav	Korah	Ethan
Shape of Collection and Group	IL		Msk		CL	Sho	DR	PoK	IL	Asf	Bath	2x		2x		PT		Lament		Msk		PT/Trust	Confidence		Thanksgiving	PoD	Lament	UT	PT	Sol	Didac	PoA	CL	Al-ta	Msk	Jed	IL	Didac	El-Sho	CL	Gitt	IL	PoK	CL	DR	Sg	Msk	IL	IL	IL	
	Msk		CL	Sho	DR	PoK	PoA	PT	PoD	Lament	Msk	PT/Trust	Mikhtam	Confidence	Thanksgiving	PoD	Lament	UT	PT	Sol	Didac	PoA	CL	Al-ta	Msk	Jed	IL	Didac	El-Sho	CL	Gitt	IL	PoK	CL	DR	Sg	Msk	IL	IL	IL											
	Love Sg		PoK		Sg		PoD		Lament		Msk		PT/Trust		Confidence		Thanksgiving		Lament		UT		PT		Sg		Me m		Sg		Pyr		Sg		Msk		Sg		Msk												
	Group 5 (Korah = 7, UT = 1)								Group 6 (Asaph = 1; David = 18; UT = 1; Sol = 1; Others = 2, Total = 23)																Group 7 (Asaph = 11)								Group 8 (Korah = 5; Dav = 1)																		

Shape of Section	Lament (Exile)																								YHWH rejects the Davidic kingship because of sin																YHWH rejects the Temple because of sin								Laments (Kingship, Covenant)							
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*The Design of the Psalter:
A Macrostructural Analysis
by Dr. Peter C. W. Ho*

Psalm	Book IV																	
	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	
Superscript	Mo	UT	Ps	mlk		UT		mlk	Ps	mlk	Thk	Dav	Aff	Dav	brk	HD	HLL	
Occurrences of certain words or formulaic phrases							BRK	HD		Mo	BRK				Mo	HLL	HLL	HD
Shape of Collections	Sup	Tr-ust	Thk									P	Sup	Thk	brk	HD	HL	L
		Sg	YHWH Malak								PoD	PoD	POD	HLL				

Book V																							
107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119											
HD	Dav			HLL			UT			HLL	HD	Ash											
						HLL		HLL	HLL	HLL	HD												
HD	Plea		DR	Torah	HLL						Tor-ah												
	Sg	L	PoD	Theocentric			Universal																
		Dir, PoD																					

Shape of Groups	Group 9													Group 10																
	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119
Mosaic. Moses sings (Deut 32). The ideal "righteous one." Brink of entry									Davidic. David sings. The ideal afflicted Davidic king in Zion					Canonical Hist: Creation to Exile. Brink of entry					Praise of YHWH. Creation to Exile. Enter gates of Zion at Ps 118, End with Torah Praise. Acrostic											
Take refuge in YHWH's house	YHWH's kingship in Zion								Live righteously in YHWH's house										YHWH establishes afflicted, Davidic King in Zion											

Shape of Section (Books IV–V); Central motif	YHWH's cosmic kingship; judgment from Zion																											
	The "righteous" walking right in the Torah (90–92) > YHWH's Kingship (93–100) > A Davidic king that walks right (100–103) > Time of Blessings begins (101)																A Victorious Messianic king; Torah glorified											
																	Alphabetical Psalm (103) > Canonical history (104–107) > Victorious David (108–110) > Acrostic (111–112) > Hallelujah (113–117) > "Righteous" enter earthly Zion (118) > Acrostic; Perfect Praise of Torah (119). Righteous David at the Zion-Temple											

Psalm	Book V																																							
	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150									
Superscript	Songs of Ascents															HLL	HD	UT	Dav				h	Dav			HLL	HLL	HLL	HLL	HLL									
Occurrences of certain words or formulaic phrases	D		D		Sol			D		D		BRK		HLL	HD																HLL	HLL	HLL	HLL	HLL					
													HLL	HD																HLL	HLL	HLL	HLL	HLL						
													HLL	HD																HLL	HLL	HLL	HLL	HLL						
													BRK																HLL	HLL	HLL	HLL	HLL							
													BRK																HLL	HLL	HLL	HLL	HLL							
													BRK																HLL	HLL	HLL	HLL	HLL							
													BRK																HLL	HLL	HLL	HLL	HLL							
Shape of Collections	L		Z		P						L		Z		P	Great Hallel			Jns	KG							KG	I	W			W	Uni							
						W		Z		W																		Med	Ind. Lament			P				Isr			Chas	
																			PoD	Dir	Dir	PoD	Msk	PoD	PoD	P													Cos + Chas	

Shape of Groups	Group 11														Group 12																
	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150
	Lament-Zion-Praise. Center: Arriving at Zion										Lament-Zion-Praise. Center: The eschatological Zion					Canonical Hist: Creation to Exile									Praise YHWH, Creation to Restored Zion. People in Zion in Ps 149. End with the Praise of YHWH. Alphabetic						
					YHWH establishes Zion. Center: Not a house/city built by man										Praise in house of God			Supplication						Praise in house of God							

Shape of Section (Books IV–V). Central motif																		Supplication of afflicted David										
	A Zion-City-Temple built by YHWH														Praise in God's house and back into exile (135–137) > Alphabetic (138) > Davidic (138–145) > Acrostic (145) > Praise; creation to Zion; Righteous Israel in Zion (148–150) > Perfect Praise of YHWH; Alphabetic (150)													
	Earthly Zion (120–124) > An ideal Zion built only by YHWH (125–129) > Ideal Zion built (130–134)																											

3.1.4 SUMMARY OF GROUP CENTRAL MOTIFS IN THE MT PSALTER

The GCMs of the three Sections of the MT Psalter are summarized in Figure 46.

		Book I			
		3-14	15-24	25-34	35-41
Section 1	Pss 1-2				
	Prologue	YHWH's cosmic kingship; judgment from Zion	Victorious Messianic king; Torah glorified	Dedication Historical Zion-Temple; YHWH's kingship	Supplication of afflicted David
		Group 1	2	3	4

Section 2

Book II		Book III	
42–49	50–72	73–83	84–89
Messianic king and his bride	Fall of Davidic kingship (and YHWH's response)	Fall of Zion-Temple (and YHWH's Judgment)	Supplication of afflicted David
Group 5	6	7	8

Section 3

Book IV		Book V	
90–103	104–119	120–134	135–150
YHWH's cosmic kingship; judgment from Zion	Victorious Messianic king; Torah glorified	Restoration; Eschatological Zion-Temple; divine-messianic kingship	Supplication of afflicted David
Group 9	10	11	12

Book I					
Section 1	Pss 1–2	3–14	15–24	25–34	35–41
	Prologue	YHWH's cosmic kingship; judgment from Zion	Victorious Messianic king; Torah glorified	Dedication Historical Zion-Temple; YHWH's kingship	Supplication of afflicted David
		Group 1	2	3	4
Section 2					
Book II					
Book III					
	42–49	50–72	73–83	84–89	
	Messianic king and his bride	Fall of Davidic kingship (and YHWH's response)	Fall of Zion-Temple (and YHWH's Judgment)	Supplication of afflicted David	
	Group 5	6	7	8	
Section 3					
Book IV					
Book V					
	90–103	104–119	120–134	135–150	
	YHWH's cosmic kingship; judgment from Zion	Victorious Messianic king; Torah glorified	Restoration; Eschatological Zion-Temple; divine-messianic kingship	Supplication of afflicted David	
	Group 9	10	11	12	

	Left frame	Center		Right frame	
Front frame	YHWH's kingship	David established ↓	Zion established ↓	Davidic Supplication	Section 1
Center	YHWH's kingship	David falls ↓	Zion falls ↓	Davidic Supplication	Section 2
End frame	YHWH's kingship	Ideal David established	Ideal Zion established	Davidic Supplication	Section 3
	1 st Group	2 nd Group	3 rd Group	4 th Group	

Figure 47: Concentric and Linear Structures of the Group Central Motifs

Structural Message



- **Book I:** Traces the establishments of both the Davidic kingship and Zion
- **Book II-III:** Depict their fall and brokenness
- **Book IV-V:** Re-establishment of ideal kingship and Zion

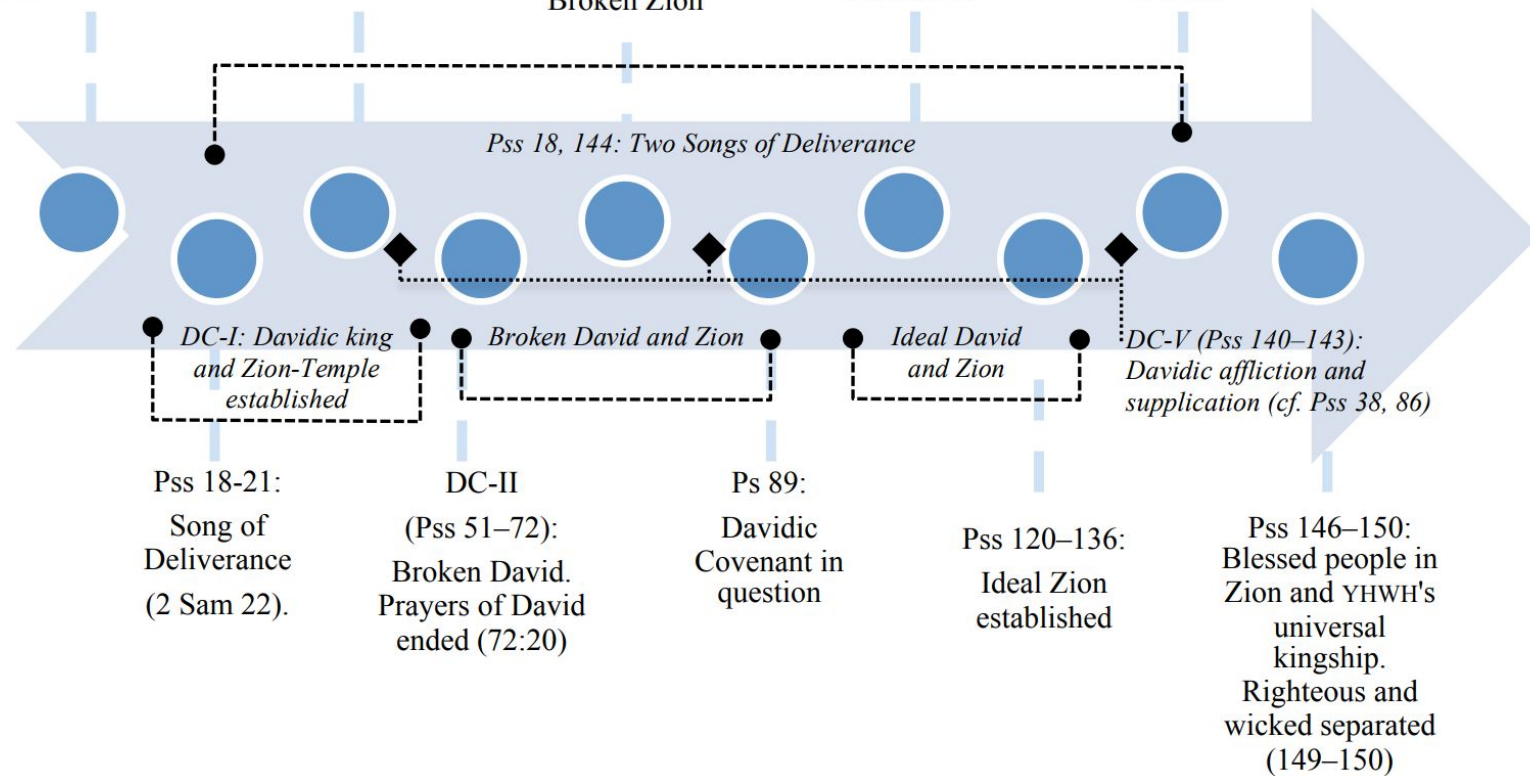
Pss 1–2
(Prologue):
Blessed man in
garden;
Messianic King
rules from Zion

Pss 28–29:
Earthy Zion-
Temple
established

Pss 74–76, 79–82:
Broken Zion

DC-III–IV (Pss
101–103, 108–
110):
Ideal, afflicted
and victorious
Davidic King
established

Pss 144–145:
Song of
Deliverance;
Ideal social
reality begins.
Davidic Kingship
recedes



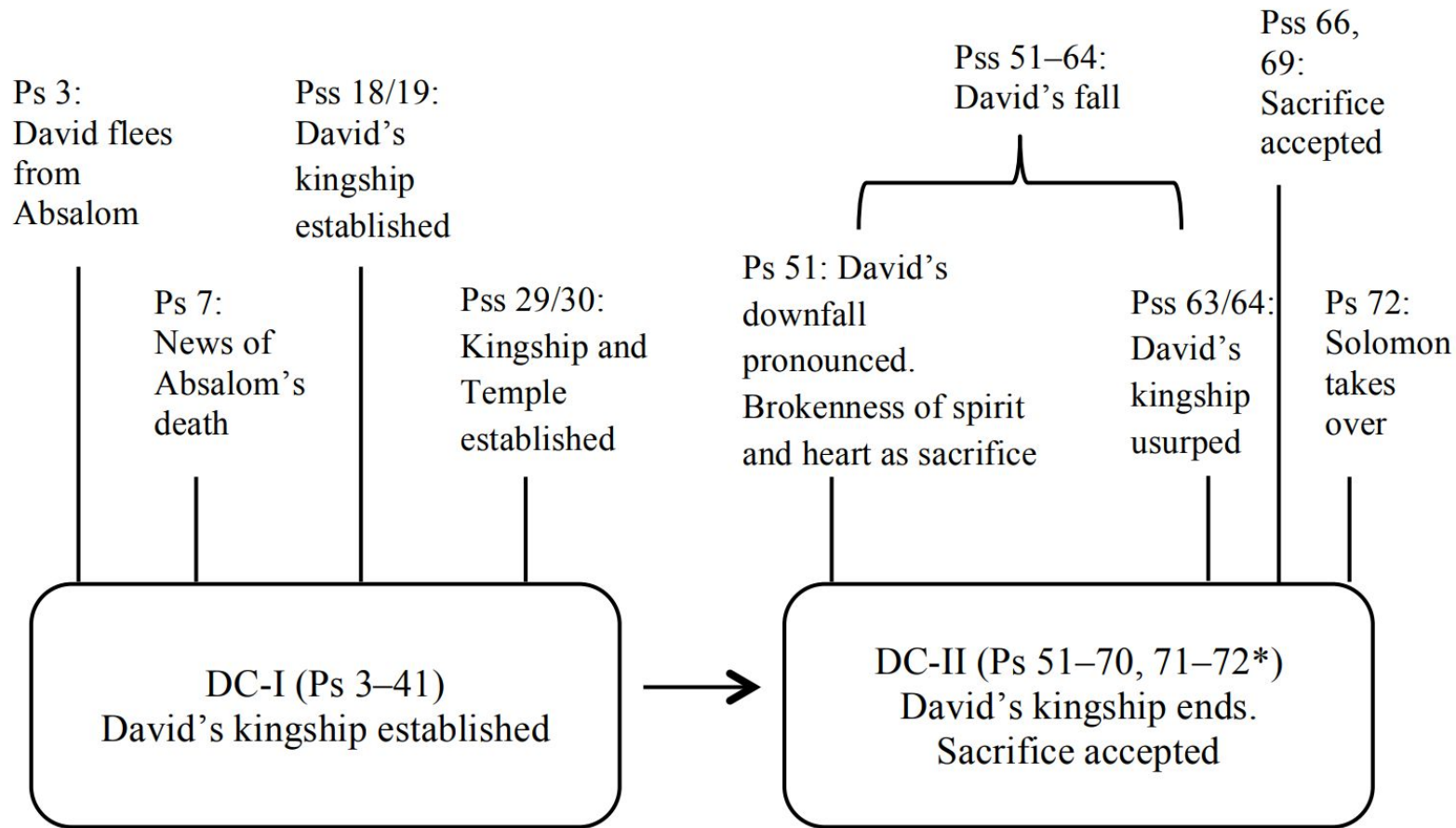
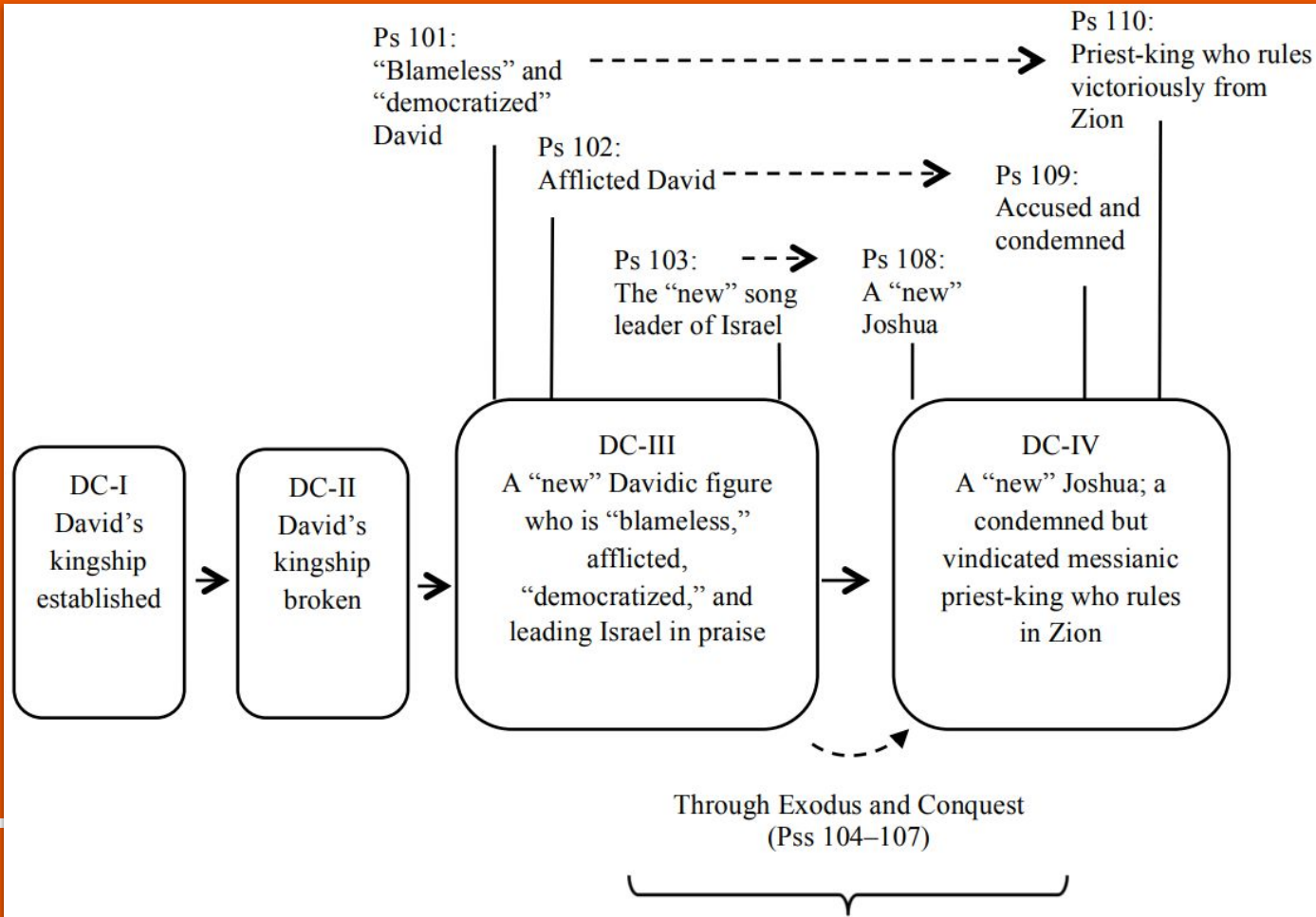


Figure 59: Highlights of Davidic Collections I and II



The two triptychs DC-III and IV parallel each other

Introductory Diagram: Overall Structure of the Psalter

PSALM	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40		45	50	55	60	65	70		75	80	85	
Book	Book I: Psalms 1–41									Book II: Psalms 42–72							Book III: Psalms 73–89			
Theme	CONFRONTATION									COMMUNICATION							DEVASTATION			

PSALM		95	100	105		110	115	120	125	130	135	140	145	150
Book	Book IV: Psalms 90–106					Book V: Psalms 107–150								
Theme	MATURATION					CONSUMMATION								