

PSALMS 42-43

To the Chief Musician (1 word – לְמַנְצֵחַ)

A Maskil (1 word – מִשְׁכִּיל)

Of the sons of Korah (2 words – לְבָנֵי - קֹרַח)

This is the first Psalm that we know was not written by David.

v. 1 – **As a doe is panting over channels of water,** (5 words – כְּאַיִל תַּעֲרַג עַל - אַפְיָקִי - מַיִם)
in the same way, my soul is panting toward You, O God. (5 words – בְּזוֹ נַפְשִׁי תַעֲרַג אֵלֶיךָ אֱלֹהִים)
God / Elohim stands out at the end of the verse.

This psalm begins the Elohim section of the Psalter – Psalms 42-83.

v. 2 – **My soul thirsted for God - for the living God.** (5 words – צָמְאַה נַפְשִׁי לְאֱלֹהִים לְחַיִּי)
When shall I come and (when) shall I appear before God?

(מָתִי אָבוֹא וְאֶרְאָה פָּנָי אֱלֹהִים)

The first and third “God” are Elohim, the second is El.

There are five א – aleph in the second line; eight overall.

v. 3 – **My tears were for me bread by day and night,** (6 words – הֵיטָה - לִי דַמְעָתִי לֶחֶם יוֹמָם וְלַיְלָה)
while saying to me every day, “Where is your God?”

(בְּאָמַר אֵלַי כָּל - הַיּוֹם אַיֵּה אֱלֹהֶיךָ)

There are seven occurrences of ל – lamed, an “L”. There are nine occurrences of י – yod, a “y”.

v. 4 – **These things,** (1 word – אֵלֶּה)

let me remember, (1 word – אֶזְכְּרָה)

and let me pour out upon me my soul; (3 words – וְאֶשְׁפָּכָה עָלַי נַפְשִׁי)

for (1 word – כִּי)

I was passing by with the multitude, (2 words – אֶעֱבֹר בְּסֶדֶךְ)

I was walking with them unto the house of God; (4 words – אֶדְדָּם עַד - בַּיִת אֱלֹהִים)

with a voice of joy and thanksgiving, (3 words – בְּקוֹל - רִנָּה וְתוֹדָה)

a crowd was keeping a feast. (2 words – הַמּוֹן חוֹגֵג)

Lines 2 & 3 both have the marker on the verbs indicating a cohortative.

Synthetic Parallelism in lines 5 & 6

The first three words begin with an א and an “e” vowel.

Four of the last five words contain ו – holem waw, an “o”.

v. 5 – **Why are you melting away, O my soul,** (3 words – מַה - תִּשְׁתַּחֲחִי נַפְשִׁי)
and (why) are you restless in regard to me? (2 words – תַּהְמִי עָלַי)

(You) Wait for God! (2 words – הוֹחִלִי לְאֱלֹהִים)

For again I will praise Him; (3 words – כִּי - עוֹד אוֹדְנֶנּוּ)

salvation of His face. (2 words – יְשׁוּעוֹת פָּנָיו)

Synthetic Parallelism in first two lines

The middle line of the refrain is the key point.

There are seven occurrences of י – hireq yod, an “ee”. The verse contains “o” six times.

v. 6 – *My God*, (1 word – אֱלֹהֵי)
 upon me my soul is melting away; (3 words – עָלַי נַפְשִׁי תִשְׁתַּחֲחַח)
 therefore, (2 words – עַל - כֵּן)
 I am remembering You, (1 word – אֲזַכְרֶךָ)
 from the land of the Jordan and Hermons from Mount Mizar.
 (5 words – מֵאֶרֶץ יַרְדֵּן וְחֶרְמוֹנִים מֵהַר מִצְעָר)

v. 7 – Deep unto deep is calling according to the voice of Your waterfalls,
 (6 words – תְּהוֹם - אֶל - תְּהוֹם קוֹרֵא לְקוֹל צְנוּרֵיךָ)
 all of Your breakers and Your waves upon me have passed over.
 (5 words – כָּל - מְשַׁבְּרֵיךָ וְגַלְיָיךָ עָלַי עָבְרוּ)

Synthetic Parallelism

v. 8 – By day Yahweh is commanding His covenant love, (4 words – יוֹמָם יְצַוֵּה יְהוָה חֶסֶדּוֹ)
 and by night His song (is) with me, (3 words – וּבַלַּיְלָה (שִׁירָה) [שִׁירֹו] עִמִּי)
 a prayer to the God of my life. (3 words – תְּפִלָּה לְאֵל חַיִּי)
 There are seven occurrences of י – yod, “y”; eight overall.
 In the second line, the word in parentheses is called Kethib – what is written. The word in brackets is called Qere – what is spoken. There is no difference in meaning.

v. 9 – Let me say to God my Rock, (3 words – אֹמְרָה לְאֵל סִלְעִי)
 “Why have You forgotten me? (2 words – לָמָּה שָׁכַחְתָּנִי)
 Why, while dressed in mourning clothes, am I going because of the oppression of the
 enemy?” (5 words – לָמָּה - קִדְר אֵלֶיךָ בְּלַחַץ אוֹיֵב)
 Synthetic Parallelism in the last two lines.
 There are seven occurrences of ל – lamed, an “L”.

v. 10 – With a shattering in my bones, (2 words – בְּרֵצַח בְּעַצְמוֹתַי)
 those hostile toward me reproached me, (2 words – חֲרָפוּנִי צוֹרְרֵי)
 while they are saying to me every day, (4 words – כָּל - הַיּוֹם - בְּאָמְרָם אֵלַי)
 “Where (is) Your God?” (2 words – אַיֵּה אֱלֹהֶיךָ)

v. 11 – Why are you melting away, O my soul, (3 words – מַה - תִּשְׁתַּחֲחַחַי נַפְשִׁי)
 and why are you restless in regard to me? (3 words – וּמַה - תִּהְיֶמָּה עָלַי)
 (You) Wait for God! (2 words – הוֹחֲלִי לְאֱלֹהִים)
 For again I will praise Him, (3 words – כִּי - עוֹד אֹדְנֶנּוּ)
 (the) salvation of my face and my God. (3 words – יִשׁוּעַת פָּנָי וְאֱלֹהָי)
 Compare to verse 5; there are three differences.
 “Why” is included in the second line.
 “His presence” becomes “my presence” in the last line.
 Addition of “and my God” in the last line.

43:1 – (You) decide for me, O God, (2 words – שְׁפֹטֵנִי אֱלֹהִים)
 and (You) defend my case against a nation without covenant love,
 (וְרִיבָה רִיבֵי מְגוּי לֹא - חֲסִיד (5 words –
 from a man of deceit and unrighteousness (You) deliver me.
 (מְאִישׁ - מְרָמָה וְעוֹלָה תִּפְלֹטֵנִי – (4 words –

Synthetic Parallelism in the first two lines.

Synthetic Parallelism with Chiasm in the last two lines. Note the overlap.

The imperfect verb in the last line can be translated as an imperative because of the parallelism.

There are eight occurrences of ם – hireq yod, an “ee”.

v. 2 – For You are the God of my strong fortress, (4 words – כִּי - אַתָּה אֱלֹהֵי מְעוֹזִי)
 “Why did You reject me? (2 words – לָמָּה זָנַחְתָּנִי)
 Why, while dressed in mourning clothes, am I going about because of the oppression of
 the enemy?” (לָמָּה - קָדַר אֶתְהַלֵּךְ בְּלַחַץ אֹיֵב (5 words –
 Synthetic Parallelism in the last two lines.
 There are seven occurrences of ל – lamed, an “L”.
 Compare 42:9 – The first line is different; the second line has a different verb; the third line is
 the same except “going” vs. “going about”.

v. 3 – (You) send Your light and Your truth, (3 words – שְׁלַח - אֹרֶךְ וְאִמְתָּךְ)
 let them, them lead me, (2 words – הִמָּה יְנַחוּנִי)
 let them bring me to the mountain of Your holiness and to Your tabernacles.
 (יְבִיאוּנִי אֶל - הַר - קִדְשֶׁךָ וְאֶל - מִשְׁכְּנֹתֶיךָ (6 words –
 Synthetic Parallelism in the last two lines.
 Both imperfects in lines two and three are treated as jussives due to the imperative in line one.

v. 4 – And let me go to the altar of God, (4 words – וְאָבֹאָה אֶל - מִזְבֵּחַ אֱלֹהִים)
 to God, joy of my rejoicing, (4 words – אֶל - אֵל שִׂמְחַת גִּילִי)
 And let me praise You with the lyre, (2 words – וְאוֹדֶךָ בְּכִנּוֹר)
 O God, my God. (2 words – אֱלֹהִים אֱלֹהֵי)
 Eight words begin with an א – aleph; nine overall.
 There are seven occurrences of ל – lamed, an “L”.
 Elohim is used three times, plus El once, and the preposition “el” two times.
 The first verb is clearly a cohortative; thus, the second verb is treated as one too.

v. 5 – Why are you melting away, O my soul, (3 words – מָה - תִּשְׁתַּחֲחִי נַפְשִׁי)
 and why are you restless in regard to me? (3 words – וּמָה - תִּהְיֶה עָלַי)
 (You) Wait for God! (2 words – הוֹחֲלִי לְאֱלֹהִים)
 For again I will praise Him, (3 words – כִּי - עוֹד אוֹדְנֶנּוּ)
 (the) salvation of my face and my God. (3 words – יְשׁוּעַת פְּנֵי וְאֱלֹהֵי)
 Compare to 42:11; they are identical, though there are three differences with 42:5.

Broader Structure:

Title

42:1-5 – Yearning & Regret / The Drought

42:6-11 – Dejection & Hope / The Depths

43:1-5 – Confidence in God / The Release

Title

42:1-4 – Lament

42:5 – Hope

42:6-7 – Lament

42:8 – Hope

42:9-10 – Lament

42:11 – Hope

43:1-4 – Lament

43:5 – Hope

God – Elohim – 17x – 10 in Psalm 42; 7 in Psalm 43

God – El – 4x – 3 in Psalm 42; 1 in Psalm 43

Yahweh – 1x

1st Person (I, me, my) – 53x – 36 in Psalm 42; 17 in Psalm 43

My soul – 7x – 6 in Psalm 42; 1 in Psalm 43

2nd Person (You) – when referring to God – 17x – 6 in Psalm 42; 11 in Psalm 43

2nd Person (You) – when referring to the psalmist – 11x – 8 in Psalm 42; 3 in Psalm 43

3rd Person (He, Him, His) – when referring to God – 6x – 5 in Psalm 42; 1 in Psalm 43

3rd Person (they, them) – there are no singular uses for anything other than God
– 5x – 2 in Psalm 42; 3 in Psalm 43