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A VOW TO PUBLICIZE GOD'S NAME IN HEBREW & AKKADIAN PSALMS

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To Lynda, Gabriel, and Abigail, who have been my most important teachers. They have taught me how to love. They have taught me that academic and career achievements mean little without a loving family to share them with. My greatest achievement in life is, and shall always be, that I met Lynda, loved her, and became partners with her in the creation of our family. I dedicate this thesis to what is most precious to me--my family.

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INTRODUCTION

The Book of Psalms is often called "the prayerbook of the Bible." For hundreds of years people of various faiths have looked to this collection of ancient Israelite hymns for guidance in approaching God. In many instances, they simply incorporated the recitation of the original psalms, either in the Hebrew or in translation, into their liturgical practices. Others, however, to this day, have looked to the Hebrew Psalms for inspiration and guidance in composing their own unique and meaningful liturgies. This latter group is faced with the challenge of analyzing the forms and theological concepts inherent in the Hebrew Psalms in order to compose contemporary prayer forms based upon, or at least influenced by the Biblical model.

A serious question confronting a person engaged in the analytic enterprise is whether the Psalms were composed as spontaneous outpourings of the heart, or rather were structured in conformity with predetermined, prescribed formulaic patterns.

The goal of this thesis is to demonstrate that in the cases of petitionary and thanksgiving Psalms, the ancient Israelite psalmists consistently employed the same structural and poetic elements. Specifically, the author will attempt to demonstrate the existence of, and analyze one

structural element in particular, namely, "the vow to publicize God's name."

Such a vow appears in many of the petitionary Psalms found in the Psalmster and it is also contented in this thesis that many of the thanksgiving Psalms are the fulfillments of those vows to publicly acclaim the Deity.

Chapters I and II contain various petitionary and thanksgiving psalms analyzed into their unique structural elements. In the case of the Petitionary Psalms, listed in Chapter I, the following structural elements are present:

- a) invocation
- b) complaint
- c) supplication for God to heed the psalmist's cry for help
- d) praise
- e) a vow of publicity.

The supplication and the vow are considered to be two parts of the same formula. Both are indispensable elements to the overall vow formula which is understood to have the following meaning, "Hear my prayer, O Lord (supplication)

And I will bless Your name" (vow).

The second element (the vow) is contingent upon the Deity's response to the first. If God does not heed the cry for help, the supplicant will not be able to carry out his vow.

This vow is highly stylized and its occurrences have

been analyzed and grouped accordingly in part II of Chapter I. In the vast majority of examples of vows cited, there is an imperfect verb of publicity accompanying the Divine name or Divine quality.

In Chapter II, the structural elements demonstrated in the thanksgiving psalms are:

- a) Description of complaint and redemption
- included in this description are the words "I cried out to God."
- b) Praise of God.

c) Acknowledgement on the part of the psalmist that the praise which he will soon give God is due God because God responded to his call for help.

The descriptive element "I cried out" and the acknowledgement are analyzed and grouped in part II of Chapter II. The call for help in the thanksgiving psalms is almost identical with its counterpart in the petitionary psalms, except the former is in the perfect tense. The acknowledgement is frequently identical to the vow found in the petitionary psalms even with regard to tense.

A second goal of this thesis is to analyze similar Akkadian psalms and compare their structural and poetical elements with the Israelite psalms cited and analyzed in Chapters I and II.

The original intent of this thesis was to compare petitionary Akkadian with Israelite psalms and Akkadian

thanksgiving psalms with Israelite thanksgiving psalms. However, an exhaustive search through major collections of Akkadian poetry produced only sufficient examples of similar petitionary psalms.

The Akkadian petitionary Psalms in form and structure, are strikingly similar to the Israelite Psalms. Except for the theological dissimilarities, the Akkadian and Israelite petitionary Psalms could, at a cursory glance, appear to have grown out of the same cultural milieu.

Thus, the absence of examples of Akkadian thanksgiving Psalms to parallel Israelite thanksgiving Psalms was puzzling. The thanksgiving Psalm in the Hebrew serves the important function of the fulfilling of the vow. The Hebrew psalmist frequently gives a graphic description of the distressful situation from which the Deity rescued him. He then goes on to praise God, explaining that if God had not rescued him, he would not have been able to praise Him.

The Akkadian Psalms, to be sure, are replete with praise for the various deities. However, the author could not find sufficiently clear actual parallels to the Hebrew thanksgiving Psalms in the major collections of Akkadian Psalms. Conspicuously absent from the Akkadian songs of praise were references to distressful situations from which a deity had rescued the psalmist. It would be unlikely that a Babylonian would be any less grateful to his deity for an

act of redemption than his Israelite cousin. Since the structural and poetic forms of the psalmodies are so strikingly similar, the absence of Akkadian thanksgiving Psalms must be due to either of two explanations: either the accident of discovery or a theological principle in Akkadian religion that would not allow the development of a thanksgiving Psalm similar to the Israelite genre.

The first explanation, the accident of discovery, would argue in favor of the existence of Akkadian thanksgiving Psalms similar to the Israelite model. The probability of their existence is strengthened by the existence of the Akkadian petitionary Psalm which closely parallels the Israelite forms. Their absence from our extant collections can be attributed to only two reasons: they did in fact exist at one time and have since been destroyed, or they simply have not yet been discovered.

The second explanation points to a theological reason for the absence of this genre of Psalm in Akkadian poetry. The Babylonians may have had a stronger belief in the efficacy of incantations than the Israelites. While aspects of human manipulation of divine beings is present in both religions, it may have been sufficiently strong in Mesopotamia to deter a Babylonian psalmist from totally recalling a woeful tale for fear of causing a reoccurrence of that event.

CHAPTER 1
PETITIONARY PSALMS

Structural Elements

Petitionary psalms containing a vow to publicize God's name usually contain the following structural elements:

- A. Invocation of the Deity.
 - B. Petition and sometimes a complaint describing the nature of the petitioner's plight.
 - C. Supplication for the Deity to heed the petitioner's plea for help.
 - D. Vow to publicize the Deity's name, His qualities, or the faithfulness He shows to His servants.
 - E. Praise expressing of confidence in the Deity's responsiveness to the call of His faithful ones.
- The psalmist thanks God in advance for having rescued him, as if to demonstrate how he will fulfill his vow of publicity when he is no longer in danger.

Not all petitionary psalms contain all structural elements. Only psalms 13, 28, 31, 54, 61, 66, 71, 142 and 143 contain a supplication. Only those psalms containing a supplication have been totally translated. Only the vow element of each of the remaining psalms (7, 9, 22, 26, 35, 43, 51, 56, 57, 59, 76, 90, 106) has been translated.

All psalms have been broken down into their structural elements. There is no standard order of appearance of the structural elements. For example, Psalms 28, 31 and 61 begin with a supplication in contrast to Psalm 13 which begins with

a complaint and Psalm 59, which begins with a petition.

There are instances of the same element appearing more than once in a psalm (i.e., Psalm 25 Petition vs 3-5, vs 9.) Critical notes follow each translation.

PS. 13.

Complaint

vs. 1 How long, O Lord? Will You forget me for ever? How
long will You hide Your face from me?

vs. 2 How long shall I take counsel with my soul?
Having sorrow in my heart all day

How long will my enemies be exalted over me?

Supplication

vs. 3 Behold and answer me. O Lord, my God,
Lighten my eyes lest I sleep in death.

vs. 4 Lest my enemy says, "I have prevailed";
Lest my adversaries rejoice when I am shaken.

Vow

vs. 5 But I have trusted in Your steadfast love
My heart shall rejoice in Your deliverance

vs. 6 I shall sing to the Lord
Because He has been bountiful to me.

PS. 13.

Critical Notes

vs. 2 'עצב לִי צֶדֶק לֵב - I take counsel in my soul.

Ex7:23. אֶלֶף פֶּה לִבִּי לֵב

'esoth' is used here follows from the parallel phrase yagon: cf. I Chron. 12:19 -

where "beresa" means "being wary."

Adana Ashith is to be construed also with yagon bilbabi, as is shown by the fact that the next sentence again begins with ana.

This being the case, it is obvious that yoman cannot be an original reading but was added later by someone who failed to recognize the sentence structure.

vs. 4 יִכְלִי - I have prevailed over him

Gn32:26-18. וִירָא כִּי אֵל יִכְלִי

כִּי אֵל - I am shaken

Ps. 60:4 רַב־שֹׁבֵר כִּי אֵל

vs. 6 אֵלִי - He has been bountiful to me.

Ps103:10, אֵלִי אֵלִי אֵלִי

Ps116:7 כִּי " אֵלִי אֵלִי

vs. 2 probably אֵלִי also.

PS. 13

Observations

The opening section of this psalm (vss. 2-3) which along with vss. 40-5 constitute a complaint form, contain a number of rhetorical questions. Through questions, the psalmist describes his misfortunate situation. In vs. 4, he asks God to hear his prayer. The vav in 'JkI seems to be an expression of what the psalmist is vowing to do if indeed God does hear his plea for help. The word **qon** indicates that he has complete faith that God will fulfill His "legal obligation" to rescue the petitioner from distress. And when God does this, "I will sing unto the Lord." The word 'D which follows, seems to be a conditional perhaps, even a legal term such as: **qon**. The psalmist explains that he will sing unto God, presumably in public. "Because He rescued me." Just as God will uphold His side of the agreement, so too will the psalmist uphold his by publicizing God's name.

PS. 28

Supplication

- vs. 1 To you, O Lord, I call,
My rock do not be deaf to me
Lest, if You be silent to me
Then I shall be like them who
descend into the pit.
- vs. 2 Hear the sound of my supplication, my
cry to You.
As I lift up my hands to Your holy
sanctuary.

Petition

- vs. 3 Do not remove me along with the wicked,
with those who are workers of evil,
Who speak peaceably with their neighbours
While harboring evil in their hearts.
- vs. 4 Requite them according to deeds
and according to the evil of their
endeavors
Render them the evil of their deeds.
- vs. 5 Because they do not heed the works
of the Lord,
Nor the works of His hands.
He will break them down and not
build them up again.

Praise

- vs. 6 Blessed is the Lord
Who heard the sound of my supplications
- vs. 7 The Lord is my strength and my shield.

vs. 7
cont'd

In Him my heart has trusted
and I have been helped,
and my heart exults.

Vow

And with my song I will give thanks
to Him.

Praise Continued

vs. 8

The Lord is the strength of His
people,
He is the strength of deliverance for
His anointed one.

Part II

Petition Continued

vs. 9

Save Your people
And bless Your inheritance
Shepherd and carry them forever.

PS. 28

Critical Notes

- vs. 1 דען א | א - if you be silent
 Is. 62:1. דענק קס |'3 | תנל
- vs. 4 פ ד'ס ט נ - endeavors
 Lam. 1:22. 'ד אסס | ט

PS. 28

Observations

The petition/complaint section of this psalm includes within it the psalmist's plea for God to hear him. In vs. 5, the psalmist claims moral superiority on the basis that the wicked, in contrast to him, do not acknowledge God's greatness. He, on the other hand, praises God. In vss. 6-7, and then again in vss. 8-9, he demonstrates the type of praise he gives to God. In vs. 7c, he demonstrates confidence that God will heed his plea (vs. 2) by vowing, "...with my song I will praise Him." The vav in *וְאִם* should be understood in the conditional sense; i.e. if God does "x", I will do "y".

PS. 31

Invocation

vs. 1 In You, O Lord, I have taken refuge,

Let me never be put to shame,

In Your righteousness, deliver me:

vs. 2 Supplication
Incline Your ear to me

Rescue me speedily!

Be a rock of refuge for me,

A strong fortress to save me!

Yea, You are my rock and my fortress;

For Your name's sake lead and guide me.

Petition

vs. 4 Pluck me out of the net which they

have hidden for me,

for You are my stronghold.

vs. 5 Into Your hands I put my life;

Rescue me, O Lord, steadfast God.

vs. 6 I hate those who worship worthless idols,

But I put my trust in the Lord.

Vowvs. 7 I will be glad and rejoice in Your steadfast
love,Praise

Because You have seen my affliction,

You have taken heed of my adversaries,

vs. 8 And You have not delivered me into the
hand of the enemy

You have set my foot on a broad place.

PS. 31

Complaint

- vs. 9 Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in
distress.
My eye is wasted from grief.
Also my throat and my belly:
- vs. 10 My life is spent in sorrow
and my years with sighing;
My strength fails because of my misery,
and my bones waste away.
- vs. 11 I am the scorn of all my adversaries,
a horror to my neighbours,
an object of dread to my acquaintances;
those who see me in the street
flee from me.
- vs. 12 I have been forgotten as one who is dead.
I am like a broken vessel.
- vs. 13 For I have heard the whispering of many--
terror on every side!--
While they conspire against me
As they plot to take my life.

Petition

- vs. 14 But I trust in You, O Lord;
I say "you are my God."
- vs. 15 My times are in Your hand;
Deliver me from the hand of my enemies
and my pursuers:
- vs. 16 Let Your face shine on Your servant,
save me in Your steadfast love!

PS 31

- vs. 17 O Lord, let me not be ashamed,
for I have called on You.
Let the wicked go dumbfounded to sheol
- vs. 18 Let the lying lips be dumb,
Which speak arrogantly against the righteous
With pride and contempt.

Praise

- vs. 19 O how plentiful is Your goodness, that
You have stored up for them that
fear You,
Which You have done for those who
take refuge in You, in the sight of
men (humanity).
- vs. 20 You will hide them in the cover of
Your presence from the plots of men;
You shelter them from contentious speech.
- vs. 21 Blessed be the Lord
Who has wondrously shown His steadfast love
for me when I was in a besieged city.
- vs. 22 I had said in haste
"I am cut off from Your sight."
Nevertheless, You heard the sound of my
supplications when I cried to You.
- vs. 23 Love the Lord all you faithful ones
The Lord preserves the steadfast.
And more than requites those who act haughtily.
- vs. 24 Be strong, and let your hearts take courage.
All you who wait for the Lord.

PS. 31

Critical Notes

- vs. 6 **הבז' שא** - worthless idols
 Is. 30:7. **ומצרים הבז ורין יצורו**
- vs. 7 **בחסדך** - steadfast love - covenant
 אשר - conditional word
- vs. 9 **לשׁ** - wasted - Ps. 6:8
 לפס - throat
 בטני - belly
- vs. 13 **דבב רבים** - whispering of many
 Jer. 20:10 **כי שמעתי דבב רבים**
- vs. 20 **בסגור פניך** - in the cover of Your
 presence. Perhaps **בסגור כפך**
 i.e. Ps. 61:5 **אחסה בסגור כנפיק**

PS. 31

Observations

In the vow of publicity in vs. 8 is the conditional phrase 'לך רָא which is translated thusly, "because You have seen." However, this phrase along with the conditional phrase found in the sample praise " 'לך רָא /כך " "Nevertheless You heard," should be rendered in the future perfect, "because You will have seen," and "nevertheless You will have heard."

PS. 54

Invocation

vs. 1 O God, save me by Your name,
and vindicate me by Your might.

Supplication

vs. 2 Hear my prayer, O God;
Hearken to the words of my mouth.

Complaint

vs. 3 For strangers have risen up against me,
and violent men seek my life;
they do not set God before them.

Selah

Petition

vs. 4 Behold, God is my help;
the Lord is the upholder of my life.
vs. 5 He will requite the evil of those who lie in
wait for me.

In Your steadfastness You will annihilate them.

Vow

vs. 6 I will sacrifice a free-will offering to You;
I will give thanks to Your name, O Lord, for it is good.

Praise

vs. 7 For You have delivered me out of all trouble,
And my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

PS. 54

Critical Notes

vs. 1

גמג - with Your name

This expression indicates the psalmist's belief in the power of the divine name.

vs. 3

פ'ר' - strangers

Another reading is insolent. A case for this reading can be made as this word is found in parallel with the word פ'ר'3

פ'ר'3 - violent, evil.

Is. 29:20 נ'אם ע'ר' וכ'ס'ל'

Ps. 37:35 ר'א' ר'ש' ע'ר'

vs. 5

ר'ר' - those who lie in wait. Those who look to do me harm.

Ps. 92:12 ר'ר' ד'נ' ג'ר'1

Ps. 59:11 א'כ'ס' י'ר'א' ג'ר'1

These verses show irony. The psalmist watches the demise of those who watched out to do him harm.

vs. 6

ב'א'נ' - in Your steadfastness.

Jos. 2:12 א'נ' א'נ' א'נ' ח'ס' ו'ג'ג'ק'1

Is. 10:20 א'נ' א'נ' א'נ' ח'ס' ו'ג'ג'ק'1

These verses link א'נ' with ח'ס' and therefore would favor a meaning indicating a covenantal sense rather than the common rendering of "truth."

פ'ר'3 - annihilate.

Ps. 73:27 פ'ר'3 כ'ל' ח'ס' ח'ס'

Ps. 69:5 פ'ר'3 ח'ס' ח'ס' ח'ס'

PS. 61

Invocation - Supplication

vs. 1 Hear my cry, O God;

Listen to my prayer.

vs. 2 From the edge of the earth I call out to You
with a faint heart

Lead me to a rock that is higher than I;

Praise

vs. 3 For You have been a refuge for me,

A tower of strength in the face of the enemy.

vs. 4 I will dwell in Your tent forever

I will take refuge in the cover

of Your wings Selah

vs. 5 For You, O God, have heard my vows;

You have given a heritage to those that
fear Your name.Petition

vs. 6 Prolong the life of the king

May his years endure for generations.

vs. 7 May he be enthroned forever before God,

May he be preserved in steadfastness and
surety.Vow

vs. 8 So I will sing praises about Your name forever

As I fulfill my vows day after day.

PS. 61

Critical Notes

- vs. 2 בעל לב - with a faint heart
 Je 57:16. כי רוח מעבני יעל
- vs. 5 שמע אנדרי - You have heard my vows
- vs. 8 /כ - conditional word
- ועלמי אנדרי - and fulfill my vows

PS. 69

Invocation

vs. 1 Save me, O God;

Complaint

vs. 1a For the waters have come up to my rocks.

vs. 2 I sink in the deep mire,
 where there is no foothold;
 I have come into deep waters,
 And the flood sweeps over me.

vs. 3 I am weary with my crying;
 my throat is parched.
 My eyes fail while I wait for my God.

vs. 4 They that hate me without cause are more
 numerous than the hairs on my head.
 Mightv are those who would destroy me,
 My deceitful enemies.
 That which I did not steal, must I then restore?

vs. 5 O God, You know my about my sins
 My wrongdoings are not hidden from you.

Petition

vs. 6 Let not them that hope in You be
 ashamed through me, O Lord, God of hosts.
 Let not those that seek You be disgraced
 on my account, O God of Israel.

vs. 7 Because on Your behalf I have borne reproach.
 Shame has covered my face.

vs. 8 I have become a stranger to my brothers
 And an alien to my mother's sons.

PS. 69

vs. 9 For zeal for Your house has consumed me.
The insults of those who insult You have
befallen me.

vs. 10 I made myself mourn with fasting
And that became a reproach to me

vs. 11 When I made sackcloth my garment
They made a parable about me.

vs. 12 They who sit at the gate talk about
and drunkards make songs about me.

Petition

vs. 13 As for me, my prayer is to You, O Lord,
At an acceptable time, O God.
In the abundance of Your steadfast love:
Answer me in the surety of Your deliverance.

vs. 14 Rescue me from sinking in the mire
let me be delivered from my enemies
and from the deep waters.

vs. 15 Do not let the flood sweep over me,
or the deep swallow me up,
or the pit close its mouth over me.

Supplication

vs. 16 Answer me, O Lord, according to Your great
steadfastness,
according to Your mercy turn to me.

vs. 17 Do not hide Your face from Your
servant, for I am in distress,
answer me quickly.

PS. 69

- vs. 18 Come near to me and redeem me;
 free from my enemies.
- vs. 19 You know my reproach,
 and my shame and my dishonor
 You know all my tormentors.
- vs. 20 Humiliation has broken my heart
 and I am in despair,
 I look for consolation, but there was
 none;
 for comforters, but I found none.
- vs. 21 They put alkali in my food, and
 for my thirst they gave me vinegar.
- vs. 22 Let their table become a snare before them,
 their sacrificial offerings be a trap.
- vs. 23 Let their eyes become dim, so that
 they cannot see;
 and their loins falter continually.
- vs. 24 Pour out Your wrath on them;
 may Your blazing anger overtake them.
- vs. 25 May their camp be a desolation
 May no one dwell in their tents.
- vs. 26 For they persecute him that You have smitten.
 And they talk about the pain of the one You
 have felled.
- vs. 27 Add to their guilt and let them
 have no share in Your beneficence.

PS. 69

vs. 28 Let them be blotted out of the
book of life
May they not be inscribed among the
righteous.

vs. 29 But by Your saving power, O God, lift me
high above my pain and my distress.

Vow

vs. 30 I will praise the name of God
with a song;
I will praise the name of God with
thanksgiving.

vs. 31 This will please the Lord than
an ox
or a bullock with horns and hooves.

Praise

vs. 32 Let the oppressed see it and be glad
You who seek God, let your hearts
revive.

vs. 33 For the Lord hears the needy,
and does not despise His own
that are in bonds.

vs. 34 Let heaven and earth praise Him,
the sea and everything that moves therein.

vs. 35 For God will save Zion
and build the cities of Judah.
And they shall dwell there and possess it

vs. 36 And the children of His servant
shall inherit it

PS. 69

vs. 36
cont'd

and those who love His name shall dwell in it.

PS. 69

Critical Notes

- vs. 2 טבא' - I sink
 Jer. 38:22 טבא' גבא' ראק
 ביון | מבוט - in deep mire
 Ps. 40:3 מבור שאן מטי' היין
 Jon. 2:4 וגש'כני מבוט בלבב
 ימי' ^{ימי'}
- vs. 2b 'ושבג' שפגני - the flood sweeps over me.
 Jer. 47:2 והיו נחש' שוטף
- vs. 3 'נחר' פרוני' - my throat is parched
 Ps. 102:4 ועצמוני כחוקץ נחרו
- vs. 4 'מחני' - those who would destroy me.
 Ps. 54:7 'שוב הרע לשוני' באמק' המחני'
- vs. 5 'לא נכחו' - are not hidden
 Hos. 5:3 'וישראל לא נכחו ממני'
- vs. 21 'ויגני' בגרוני' - they put gall in my food
 Mal.3:2 'וכבריי' מכביסי' - alkaline soap.
- vs. 22 'ושלמים' פוקס' - their sacrificial offerings
 be a trap.
- vs. 25 'גפי' טירק' נשח' - May their camp be a desolation.
 Nu. 31:10 'ואג' כ' טירק' שפרו באש'
- vs. 31 word play
 'song'(shir) - 'ox'(shar)

PS. 71

Invocation - Supplication

- vs. 1 In You, O Lord, I have taken refuge;
Let me never be ashamed!
- vs. 2 In Your fidelity deliver me and rescue
me;
Incline Your ear to me, and save me!:
- vs. 3 Be to me a rock of refuge,
You declared that You would come at any
time in order to save me,
For You are my rock and fortress.

Petition

- vs. 4 My God, rescue me from the hand of the
wicked
From the grasp of the unrighteous and
ruthless men,
- vs. 5 For You are my hope
O Lord, God, my trust since my youth.
- vs. 6 From birth I have leaned on You.
You are the one who took me out of
my mother's womb.
My praises of You are continual.
- vs. 7 I have been as a sign to many
but You are my refuge of strength.
- vs. 8 My mouth is filled with Your praises,
and with Your glory all day.
- vs. 9 Do not cast me out in the time of my old age
When my strength fails, do not forsake me.

PS. 71

- vs. 10 Because my enemies speak concerning me,
 And those who want my life conspire together
- vs. 11 Saying, "God has forsaken him,
 Pursue and seize him, for there is no rescuer."
- vs. 12 O God, be not far from me,
 O my God, make haste to help me.
- vs. 13 May they who seek my life be ashamed
 and consumed,
 May they who seek my demise be clothed in reproach
 and disgrace.

Vow - Praise

- vs. 14 But as for me I will always hope
 And add to all my praises of You.
- vs. 15 My mouth will recall Your fidelity
 And of Your deed of deliverance all
 day long
 For their number is past my knowledge
- vs. 16. I will come with tales of Your mighty acts,
 O Lord God,
 I will mention Your fidelity--which is
 Yours alone.
- vs. 17 O God, from my youth You have
 taught me,
 and I shall proclaim Your
 wondrous deeds.
- vs. 18 Even in old age and grey hair
 O God, do not forsake me.

PS. 71

vs. 18
cont'd

Until I have proclaimed Your strength
to the next generation
Your might to all who are to come.

Praise

vs. 19

Your fidelity, O God, reaches into the
heavens.

You who has done great things,
O God, who is like unto You?

vs. 20

You have made me see great tribulations
and wrong, will revive me.
And will bring me up from the
depths of the earth.

vs. 21

You will increase my greatness
You will turn and comfort me.

Vow

vs. 22

I will also give thanks unto
You with a lyre about Your fealty
I will sing praises to You on a
lyre, O Holy One of Israel.

vs. 23

My lips shall rejoice when I
sing praises to You
My whole being which You have rescued.

vs. 24

Also my tongue shall tell of
Your faithfulness all day long;
For they who seek my destruction
have been shamed.

PS. 71

Critical Notes

- vs. 4 **חַסֵּד נִשְׁחָל** - unrighteous Lev. 5:21. **נֶפֶשׁ כִּי תִחַל וְנִשְׁחָל בִּי**
 רִחֵם - ruthless Isa. 1:17. **דְּרִשׁוּ מִלִּפְנֵי אֱלֹהֵי חַסְדֵּי**
- vs. 7 **כִּי אֶפְתָּה** - I have been as a sign
- vs. 11 **וְהִשְׁתָּחִי** - "seize him!"
 Hab. 2:19 **מִי הוּא אֱלֹהֵי נֶבֶךְ / כִּסֵּף**
- vs. 13 **שֶׁלֹּא יִפְשְׁ** - they who seek my life
 Is. 29:4 **וְלֹא יִפְשְׁ עַל נַפְשׁוֹ בְּמַחֲמָה**
- vs. 14 **וְאֵלַי** - But as for me

PS. 86

Supplication

vs. 1 Incline Your ear, O Lord and
answer me;
for I am poor and needy.

Petition

vs. 2 Preserve my life for I am faithful;
Save Your servant who trusts in You.

vs. 3 You are my God; be gracious to me, O Lord.
For I cry out to You all day long.

vs. 4 Gladden the life of Your servant
for I lift up my soul to You.

vs. 5 Because You, my Lord, are good and forgiving
and abounding in steadfastness to all those
who call upon You.

Supplication

vs. 6 Heed, O Lord, my prayer
hearken to the sound of my supplication.

Praise of Confidence

vs. 7 In the day of my trouble I call on You
For You will answer me.

vs. 8 There is none like You among the gods,
my Lord, nor are there any work like Yours

vs. 9 All the nations which You have made
Will come and prostrate themselves before
You, my Lord, and honor to Your name.

vs. 10 For You are great and perform wonderful acts
You alone are God.

PS. 86

vs. 11 Teach me, O Lord, Your way, and I
shall walk in Your steadfastness,
Unite my heart to fear Your name.

Vow

vs. 12 I will give thanks, O Lord, my God,
with all my heart
and I will give honor to Your name
forever:

vs. 13 For great is Your faithfulness to me
And You have delivered my life from
the depths of sheol.

Complaint - Petition

vs. 14 God, insolent ones have risen up against me.
A band of violent men seek my life;
And have not set You before them:

vs. 15 But You, my Lord, are a merciful and
gracious God, slow to anger and abound
in steadfastness, love and faithfulness.

vs. 16 Turn to me and be gracious to me.
Give Your strength to Your servant,
And save the Your covenanted one.

vs. 17 Make a sign of Your favor and my behalf
that my enemies will see and be disgraced
Because You, O Lord, has helped me and
comforted me.

PS. 86

Critical Notes

vs. 5 וְגַם אֵלֶיךָ - the psalmist reminds God of His
 קראיך special responsibility to His servant.

vs. 11 יִחַד לִבִּי - unite my heart -i.e. "heal my
 broken heart"

vs. 13 כִּי אֶתְּנֶה - conditional - covenantal

vs. 16 אֶתְּנֶה לְךָ - "Your covenanted one."

Reminder to God that the psalmist
has a special relationship with Him.

א here does not mean 'son'. Instead it
indicates the status of an individual.

Jb. 38:7 גַּם אֵלֶיךָ

PS. 142

Invocation

- vs. 1 I cry out with my voice to the Lord,
With my voice I make supplication to the Lord.
- vs. 2 I pour out before Him my complaint
Before Him declare my trouble;
- vs. 3 My spirit within me is faint
But You know my path
I the path I walk
They have hidden a snare for me.

Petition

- vs. 4 Look to my right hand and see
I have no friend.
No refuge remains for me.
There is no one who cares about me.
- vs. 5 I have cried to You O Lord
I have said You are my refuge
My portion in the land of the living.

Supplication

- vs. 6 Heed my cry
for I am very low;
Rescue me from my pursuers
For they are stronger than I.
- vs. 7 Bring me out of prison,

Vow

- 7a So that I may give thanks to
Your name.

PS. 142

Praise

7b

The righteous will surround me
for You will deal bountifully
with me.

PS. 142

Critical Notes

vs. 3 נַגְיָה' - my path

Ps. 119:35 - הַדְרִיכֵנִי בַנְגִיב מִצְוֹתֶיךָ

vs. 4 מְנוּחָה - refuge

Jer. 25:35 - וְאֵגֵד מְנוּחָה לְהַשְׁכִּיחַ

vs. 4 אֵין אֶחָד שֶׁלֵּוֹט לִי - no one cares about me.

I.Ch.10:14 - וְאֵל דָּוִד בֶּן יִמְיָה

vs. 6 כִּי דָלוּגִי מְאֹד - for I am very low.

Ps. 116:6 - דָּלוּגִי וְלֹא יָמוּשׁ

vs. 7b בִּי יִכְבְּרוּ צַדִּיקִים - The righteous will surround me.

Jb. 36:2 - כִּי אֵין לִי זַעֲרִיר וְאֵחָיוֹן

PS. 143

Supplication vss. 1-2

Complaint vss. 3-4

Praise vss. 5-6

Petition vss. 7-12

O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear to my supplication.

PS. 109

Complaint vss. 1-5

Petition vss. 6-29

Praise vs. 13

Vow

I will give great thanks to the Lord with my mouth;

I will praise Him among the multitude.

PS. 90

Praise vss. 1-6

Complaint vss. 6-12

Petition vss. 13-17

Vow vs. 14a

vs. 14 That we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

PS. 43

Petition vss. 1-3

Vow vs. 4

vs. 4 Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy;
and I will praise You with the lyre,
O God, my God.

PS. 51

Petition vss. 1-16

Praise vss. 17-21

Vow vs. 17a

Then my tongue shall rejoice in Your faithfulness.

PS. 56

Complaint vss. 1-2, 5-7

Praise vss. 3-4, 8-11, 13

Vow vs. 12

Your vows are upon me, O God;

I will render thank-offerings to You.

PS. 57

Petition vss. 1-4

Complaint vss. 5-9

Praise vss. 11-12

Vow vs. 10

I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the peoples;

I will sing, yea I will sing praises to You among the nations.

PS. 59

Petition vss. 2-3, 11-17

Complaint vss. 4-8

Praise vss.9-10, 17b, 17c, 18a

Vow vss.17, 17a, 18

But as for me, I will sing of Your strength;
Yea, I will sing aloud of Your mercy
in the morning.

(18

O my Strength, to You I shall sing praises.

PS. 79

Complaint vss. 1-4

Petition vss. 5-12

Vow vss. 13a, 13b

(13a

We will give thanks to You for ever;

We will tell of Your praise to all generations.

PS. 26

Complaint vss. 1-3

Petition vss. 8-12

Vow vs. 12a

In the great congregation I will bless the Lord.

PS. 7

Invocation	vs. 1
Petition	vs. 1a-11
Praise	vs. 12-16
Vow	vs. 17

I will give thanks to the Lord
according to His faithfulness;
And will sing praise to the name of
the Lord most High.

PS. 9

Praise	vs. 3-12
Petition	vs. 13-14
Praise	vs. 15-16
Vow	vss. 1-2

I will give thanks to the Lord with my
heart;

I will tell of all Your wonderful deeds.

I will be glad and exult in You,

I will sing praise to Your name, O,

Most High.

PS. 22

Complaint vss. 1-18

Petition vss. 19-21

Vow vs. 22

I will tell of Your name to my brothers

In the midst of the congregation

I will praise You.

PS. 35

This psalm is a double formula. All elements appear twice.

Petition vss. 1-8

Praise vs. 10

Complaint vss. 11-17

Vow vs. 18

Then I will thank You in the great congregation

In the mighty throng I will praise You.

Petition vss. 19-26

Praise vs. 27

Vow vs. 28

Then my tongue shall tell of Your righteousness,
and of Your praise all day long.

PS. 20

Vow

vs. 5

That we may sing over Your victory
And in the name of our God set
up our banners.

Poetic Elements of Petitionary Psalms
Relevant to a Vow Formula

Element A - The call for help

Element B - The Vow

Poetic Elements

Supplication Formula

Nearly half of the petitionary psalms containing a vow formula also contain a supplication formula imploring the Deity to heed the psalmist's call for help. The supplication formula, in its various forms, consistently contains the following grammatical elements: a Noun & Suffix, referring to the petitioner's call for help or the Deity's "ear," an imperative verb meaning "to hear," a Divine name, i.e. God, Lord, etc., or Divine quality, i.e. "Your steadfastness, His strength," etc.

Poetic Elements of Petitionary Psalms
Indicating a vow to publicize God's
name.

Element A - Call for help

Form 1

Noun & suffix "call for help"	Divine Name	Verb-imperative (frequently co- hortative)"to hear"	Examples
'אבאל	P אב'א	שמע	Ps. 54:4
'אבאל	יהוה	שמע	143:1
'אבאל	יהוה	שמע	102:2
'אבאל	יהוה	שמע	39:13
'אבאל	יהוה	שמע	55:2
'אבאל	יהוה	שמע	86:6
'אבאל	P אב'א	שמע	61:2
'אבאל	יהוה	שמע	6:10
קו'י	יהוה	שמע	27:7
—	יהוה	שמע	13:14
—	יהוה אלהי	שמע	68:17
קו'י	אלהי	שמע	64:2
קו'י אלהי	יהוה	שמע	140:7

Form 2

(Preposition)+Noun+Suffix - "my cry for help"	Verb - imperative (frequently cohortative) - "to hear"	Examples
(ס) קול שווע'	הקשיב	Ps. 142:7
(א) רנני	הקשיב	142:7a
אפלי	הקשיב	61:2
רנני	הקשיב	17:1a
אמרני	שמע	17:6
קול אהנוני	שמע	28:2a

Form 3

Noun + Suffix - "Your ear"	Preposition+Suffix	Verb.imperative - "to incline"	Examples
אזניך	אלי	הטה	Ps. 31:3
אזניך	אלי	הטה	71:2
אזניך	אלי	הטה	102:3
אזניך	אלי	הטה	71:2a
אזניך	לי	הטה	17:6

Vow Formula

The vow formula has nine forms most of which contain these common elements: a preposition & noun, indicating a public gathering, an imperfect verb indicating a verbal action in public, i.e. to sing, to tell a story, to praise, etc.

Element B - Vow to Publicize God's NameForm 1

Noun + Suffix - Divine Quality	Preposition + Divine Name	Verb-imperfect 1 person "to praise"	Examples
1729	באֵלֵינוּ	אֶהַלֵּל	Ps. 56:5
1723	בְּאֵלֵינוּ	אֶהַלֵּל	56:11
723	בְּאֵלֵינוּ	אֶהַלֵּל	56:11a

Form 2

Noun (+suffix)+Noun	Verb-imperfect "to declare"	Example
עַל (יְהוָה) עֲשֵׂה	אֶזְכָּר	Ps. 7:18
עַל עֲשֵׂה	אֶזְכָּר	9:3
עַל עֲשֵׂה	אֶזְכָּר	92:2
אֶל עֲשֵׂה	אֶזְכָּר	142:3

Form 3

Prepositional pronoun	Verb-imperfect "to rejoice"	Verb-imperfect "to rejoice"	Examples
ךָ	וְשִׂמְחָה	וְשִׂמְחָה	Ps. 9:3
כָּא	וְשִׂמְחָה	וְשִׂמְחָה	40:17

- "to rejoice" i.e. in public

Form 3a

Preposition+noun+ suffix Divine Quality	Verb-imperfect - 1 person	Verb-imperfect - 1 person "to rejoice"	Examples
וְשִׂמְחָה	וְשִׂמְחָה	וְשִׂמְחָה	Ps. 31:8
וְשִׂמְחָה	וְשִׂמְחָה	וְשִׂמְחָה	Isa. 25:3

Form 4

Preposition+noun - "forever"	(Preposition)+ Divine Name	Verb-imperfect 1 person singular "to sing"	Examples
"חַ	שִׁירָה	אֲשִׁירָה	Ps.104:33
בְּחַיִּי	לֵאלֹהֵי	אֲנַחֲדָה	104:33a
"חַ	יְהוָה	אֶהְיֶה	146:2
בְּחַיִּי	לְשֹׁמְרֵי	אֲנַחֲדָה	146:2a
"חַ	—	(אֲבָרֵךְ)	63:5
—	לְיָמֵי	אֲשִׁירָה	13:3a

*"To sing" implies an audience to hear

*"forever" i.e. "as long as I live."

Form 5

Preposition+noun - "forever"	Noun+suffix - Reference to God's name	Verb-imperfect 1 person singular "to declare"	Examples
אֲדַבֵּר	קִנְיָה	אֲנַחֲדָה	Ps.61:9
אֲדַבֵּר	קִנְיָה	וְאֲנַחֲדָה	86:12
אֲדַבֵּר וְאֲדַבֵּר	קִנְיָה	וְאֲבָרֵךְ	145:1
אֲדַבֵּר וְאֲדַבֵּר	קִנְיָה	וְאֶהְיֶה	145:2

Form 6

Preposition +noun "forever"	Noun form+suffix Divine Quality	Verb-imperfect 1 person plural	Examples
לְדוֹר וְלְדוֹר לְדוֹרֵי דוֹר	לְהַלְלֵהוּ —וְ	נִשְׁבַּח נִשְׁבְּחֵהוּ	Ps. 79:13a 79:13

"forever" - the psalmist obligates his descendants to publicly praise God.

Form 7

Noun + suffix - Divine Quality	Verb - imperfect "to declare in public"	Examples
כֹּה נִשְׁבַּח אֱלֹהֵי	אֶסְבַּח	Ps. 9:2
כֹּה לְהַלְלֵהוּ	אֶסְבַּח	9:15
כֹּה נִשְׁבַּח אֱלֹהֵי	נִשְׁבְּחֵהוּ	26:7
כֹּה מְהֵאֲכֹלֵי	נִשְׁבַּח	73:28
בִּישׁוּעַגָּל	נִרְנַנֵּה	20:6

Form 8

Preposition+noun + noun +suffix -part of human anatomy	Divine Name	Verb-imperfect+ suffix 1person singular -"to give thanks"	Examples
*'ב'ל ב'ל	'אל' א'ל	ק'ל'ל	Ps.86:12
'ב'ל ב'ל	'ל'ל	ק'ל'ל	9:2
'ב'ל ב'ל	'ל'ל	ק'ל'ל	109:30

* the word ב'ל should be understood here as "throat"
(as an organ of speech)

Form 9

Preposition+noun + suffix -a divine quality	Noun + suffix Part of human anatomy	Verb-imperfect 3 person singular "to rejoice"	Examples
ק'ל'ל	'ל'ל	ל'ל	Ps.13:6
—	'ל'ל	ל'ל'ל	28:7
ק'ל'ל	'ל'ל	ל'ל'ל	51:17

Form 10

Preposition + noun - "in a public gathering" (Divine name)	Verb-imperfect+suffix 1 person singular "to give thanks"	Examples
בְּ קִדְשׁ	קִדְשׁ	Ps. 35:18
בְּ מִזְבֵּחַ	קִדְשׁ	57:18
בְּ יָמֶיךָ	קִדְשׁ	18:50
בְּ יָמֶיךָ	קִדְשׁ	109:30

Form 11

Preposition + noun - a musical instrument	Verb-imperfect+suffix 1 person singular - "to give thanks"	Examples
בְּ יָמֶיךָ	קִדְשׁ	Ps. 43:4
בְּ יָמֶיךָ	קִדְשׁ	71:22

- "a musical instrument" - indicates an audience.

Form 12

Noun + suffix	Preposition+noun -"in the morning"	Verb-imperfect "rejoice"	Examples
קָרוֹחַ	*לְבֹקֶר	וְאָרַחַ	Ps. 59:17
קָרוֹחַ	לְבֹקֶר	וְנִשְׂבַּח	90:14
קָרוֹחַ	לְבֹקֶר	וְשִׂבַּח	92:3
קָרוֹחַ	לְבֹקֶר	וְהִשְׁבַּח	143:8

*The word קָרוֹחַ has two functions here; poetic and cultic. The psalmist portrays suffering as darkness. When one's suffering is relieved, it is as if dawn has broken. The psalmist vows to praise God in the morning, probably in order to parallel the morning sacrifice where he could readily find an audience.

CHAPTER II

THANKSGIVING PSALMS

Structural Elements

Many thanksgiving psalms seem to be fulfillment of the vow of publicity made in petitionary psalms containing such vows. These psalms consistently contain the following structural elements:

A. Description of complaint and/or eventual deliverance.

This element frequently contains the words, "I cried out," and "the Lord heard my prayer," or various other expressions conveying a similar meaning. These words parallel the words "hear my prayer, O Lord," found in petitional psalms.

B. Praise of God, as a steadfast deity who is faithful to His servants. This element is the actual fulfillment of the "vow of publicity."

C. Acknowledgement of obligation on the part of the psalmist to praise the Deity. The psalmist explains that he is obliged to praise God in public because the Deity responded to his plea for help. In some cases the psalmist is not specific in his reasons for praising God in public. Instead he simply praises God for His steadfast love. In some instances, the psalmist informs the listener that the psalm is the fulfillment of a vow, i.e., Ps. 116. The function of the acknowledgement is to connect the description of God's deliverance with the public praise of God's name.

PS. 18

Praise

- vs. 1 I love You, O Lord, my strength.
vs. 2 The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my
refuge,
My shield, and the horn of my
deliverance, my stronghold.
vs. 3 I call upon the Lord, who is worthy
to be praised,
And I am saved from my enemies.

Description

- vs. 4 The cords of death encompassed me,
the torrents of Belial assailed me.
vs. 5 The cords of sheol entangled me,
the snares of death confronted me.
vs. 6 In my distress I called upon the Lord,
to my God I cried for help.
From His temple He heard my voice,
and my cry to Him reached His ears.
vs. 7 Then the earth reeled and rocked;
the foundations also of the mountains trembled
And quaked because He was angry.
vs. 8 Smoke went up from His nostrils,
and devouring fire from His mouth;
Glowing coals flamed forth from Him.
vs. 9 He bowed the heavens, and came down;
thick darkness was under His feet.

PS. 18

vs. 10 He rode on a cherub, and flew;

He flew upon the wings of the wind.

vs. 11 He made darkness His covering around Him,

His canopy thick clouds dark with water.

vs. 12 Out of the brightness before Him there

broke through His clouds

Hailstones and coals of fire.

vs. 13 The Lord also thundered in the heavens,

and the Most High spoke out,

Hailstones and coals of fire.

vs. 14 And He shot out His arrows, and scattered them;

He flashed forth lightning, and scattered them.

vs. 15 Then the channels of water appeared

and the foundations of the world were laid bare,

At Your rebuke, O Lord,

At the blast of Your nostrils.

vs. 16 He reached down from on high, and snatched me,

He drew me out of the mighty waters.

vs. 17 He delivered me from my strong enemy,

and from those who hated me;

For they were mightier than I.

vs. 18 They came upon me in the day of my calamity;

But the Lord was my support.

vs. 19 He brought me out into an open place;

He delivered me, because he delighted in me.

vs. 20 The Lord rewarded me according to my faithfulness.

PS. 18

vs. 21 For I have kept the ways of the Lord,
and have not wickedly departed
From my God.

vs. 22 For all His ordinances were before me,
And His statutes I did not abandon.

vs. 23 I was innocent before Him,
I kept myself from guilt.

vs. 24 Therefore the Lord has recompensed me
according to my faithfulness,
According to my faithful deeds.

Praise

vs. 25 With one who is loyal, You are loyal,
With a blameless person, You are blameless;

vs. 26 With one who is pure, You are pure;
And with the crooked, You are perverse.

vs. 27 For You deliver an afflicted people,
But humble those with haughty eyes.

vs. 28 For You light my lamp;
The Lord, my God, illumines my darkness.

vs. 29 Indeed, I can crush a troop;
And with my God I can leap over a wall.

vs. 30 This God--His way is perfect;
the promise of the Lord proves true;
He is a shield for all those who take refuge
in Him.

vs. 31 For who is God, but the Lord?
And who is a mountain, except our God?

PS. 18

Description

- vs. 32 The God who girded me with strength,
 and made my way sure.
- vs. 33 He made my feet like hind's feet,
 and set me upon my high places;
- vs. 34 He trains my hands for battle,
 so that my hands can bend a bow of bronze.
- vs. 35 You have given me Your saving shield,
 and Your right hand supported me,
And Your providence has made me great.
- vs. 36 You gave me a wide place for my steps,
And so my feet did not slip.
- vs. 37 I pursued my foes and overtook them,
I did not turn back until they were annihilated.
- vs. 38 I thrust them through, so that they were not
 able to rise;
They fell under my feet.
- vs. 39 For You girded me with strength for battle;
You made my assailants sink under me.
- vs. 40 You made my enemies turn the backs of their necks
 to me,
And those who hated me, I destroyed.
- vs. 41 They cried for help, but there was none to save,
They cried to the Lord, but He did not answer them.
- vs. 42 I pulverized them as dust before the wind;
I cast them out like mud of the streets.
- vs. 43 You delivered me from strife with the peoples;
You made me the head of the nations;

PS. 18

People whom I had not known serve me.

vs. 44 As soon as they heard of me, they obeyed me;
 Foreigners came cringing to me.

vs. 45 Foreigners lost heart,
 and came trembling out of their strongholds.

Praise

vs. 46 The Lord lives; and blessed be my mountain,
 and exalted-the God of my deliverance.

vs. 47 The God who gave me vengeance
 and subdued peoples under me;

vs. 48 Who delivered me from my enemies;
 indeed, You exalted me above my adversaries,
 You delivered me from men of violence.

Acknowledgement

vs. 49 For this will I extoll You, O Lord,
 among the nations,

And sing praises to Your name.

vs. 50 Great triumphs He gives to His king,
 and shows steadfast love to His annointed,
 To David and His descendants forever.

PS. 18

Critical Notes

- vs. 1 ארחמך - I will love you
Ps. 103:13 כרחק אה עמ בניך
- vs. 4 יבערני - assailed me
1 Chr. 21:30 כי נבער מפני הרב
- vs. 7 ויער - reeled
2 Sam. 22:8 הארץ מוסדו השמים ירעו
ויערשו כי חרב לו
- vs. 10 ויצא - came swiftly
Jer. 49:22 הנה כנשר ידע ויצא
- vs. 14 ויפצו - scattered them
1 Sam. 7:10 ערפו אגפ גאון
- vs. 15 אפיקי מים - channels of the water
Job 6:15 כאפיקי נחלים יעברו
- vs. 18 ביום איזי - in the day of my calamity
Ob. 1:31 אה ארץ ארץ ביום איזי
- vs. 29 ארום - I can crushed
Ps. 74:14 ארם רצצו ראשי עוילין
- vs. 35 וענוהך - Your providence
i.e. "Your willingness to answer," - "Your responsiveness"
- vs. 36 קרסתי - my feet
2 Sam. 22:37 עמדתי קרסתי
- vs. 44 וכן - as soon as they heard me.

PS. 30

Acknowledgement

- vs. 1 I will extoll You, O Lord, for
 You have drawn me up,
 And have not let my foes rejoice over me.
- vs. 2 O Lord, my God, I called out to You
 and You healed me.
- vs. 3 O Lord, You raised me from sheol,
 You restored me to life from among those
 gone down to the pit.

Praise

- vs. 4 Sing praises to the Lord, O you, His loyal servants,
 And give thanks to His holy name.
- vs. 5 For His anger is but for a moment,
 His favor is for a lifetime.
 Weeping may tarry for the night,
 but joy comes with the morning.

Description

- vs. 6 In my security I said,
 "I shall never be moved."
- vs. 7 Through Your favor You established me
 as a strong mountain,
 Then You hid Your face
 and I was dismayed.
- vs. 8 To You, O Lord, I called out,
 and to the Lord I made supplication.
- vs. 9 What profit is there in my death, if I go
 down to the pit?

PS. 30

Will the dust praise You?

Will it tell of Your fidelity?

vs. 10 Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me,

O Lord, be my helper!

Acknowledgement

vs. 11 You have turned my mourning into dancing

You have loosed my sackcloth,

And clothed me with joy.

vs. 12 So that my heart will sing Your praises

and not be silent,

O Lord my God I will thank You for ever.

PS. 30

Critical Notes

vs. 6

'לסו ג

- in my security

Jb. 16:12

'לסו ה"א / ו'פ'ר'ג'ג'

vs. 9

'נצג

- my death. Literally "my blood."

vs. 12

ג'לג

- heart. This could be a form of

the word

"liver", which in biblical times

was considered the seat of human emotion.

PS. 34

Acknowledgement

- vs. 1 I will bless the Lord at all times;
His praise shall be continually in my mouth.
- vs. 2 Through the Lord my life is glorified;
let the afflicted hear and rejoice.
- vs. 3 O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt His name together!

Description

- vs. 4 I sought the Lord, and He answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.
- vs. 5 They looked to Him, and were radiant;
and their faces shall never be ashamed.
- vs. 6 This poor man cried out and the Lord heard him,
And rescued him from all his troubles.

Praise

- vs. 7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those
who fear Him, and delivers them.
- vs. 8 O consider and see that the Lord is good!
Happy is the man who takes refuge in Him!
- vs. 9 O fear the Lord, you His holy ones,
For those who fear him have no want!
- vs. 10 The lions suffer want and hunger;
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.
- vs. 11 Come, children, listen to me,
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
- vs. 12 Which man among you delights in life,
and desire to live a long life, that he

PS. 34

may enjoy what is good?

vs. 13 Keep your tongue from evil,
 and your lips from speaking deceit.

vs. 14 Depart from evil, and do good;
 seek peace and pursue it.

vs. 15 The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous,
 and His ears towards their cry.

vs. 16 The Lord sets His face against evildoers,
 to cut off the remembrance of them from
 the earth.

vs. 17 When they cry for help, the Lord hears,
 and delivers them out of all their troubles.

vs. 18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted,
 and delivers the crushed in spirit.

vs. 19 Many are the troubles of the righteous;
 but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

vs. 20 He protects all his bones;
 not one of them is broken.

vs. 21 Evil shall slay the wicked,
 and those who hate the righteous will be
 condemned.

vs. 22 The Lord delivers the life of His servants;
 None of those who take refuge in Him will be
 condemned.

PS. 34

Critical Notes

- vs. 5 **וְנִפְרָן** - radiant
 Is. 60:5 **אֵלֹהִים וְנִפְרָן**
- vs. 12 **מִי הָאִישׁ** - which man among you.

The psalmist imagines himself speaking to a small group of listeners. He asks a rhetorical question, which all will answer affirmatively.

- vs. 18 **רוּחַ נִכְרָס** - crushed in spirit.
 Is. 57:15 **רוּחַ נִכְרָס וְשֶׁמֶץ**

PS. 40

Description

- vs. 1 I waited patiently for the Lord,
He bent down to me and heard my cry.
- vs. 2 He drew me up from the desolate pit,
out of the mud and mire.
He set my feet upon a rock
making my steps secure.
- vs. 3 He put a new song in my mouth
a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear,
and put their trust in the Lord.

Praise

- vs. 4 Happy is the man who makes the Lord his trust,
Who does not turn to the arrogant, nor to
those who fall away treacherously.
- vs. 5 Many are the things that You have done,
O Lord my God,
Your wondrous deeds, and Your thoughts
towards us,
None can compare with You.
If I were to proclaim and tell of them,
They would be more than can be numbered.
- vs. 6 Sacrifice and meal-offering, You have no
delight in them;
But You have given me an open ear.
Burnt offering and sin offering,
You do not require.

PS. 40

vs. 7 Then I said, "Lo, I have come;
 in the scroll it is written about me,
 vs. 8 I delight to do Your will, O my God,
 Your law is within my belly.
 I delight to do Your will, O my God;
 Your law is written in my heart."

Acknowledgement

vs. 9 I have told the glad news of deliverance
 in the great congregation;
 Lo, I have not restrained my lips,
 as You know, O Lord.
 vs. 10 I have not kept Your faithfulness hidden
 in my heart,
 I have spoken of Your fidelity and Your
 deliverance;
 I have not concealed Your steadfast love
 and Your faithfulness
 From the great congregation.

Petition

vs. 11 You, O Lord, will not withhold Your mercy
 from me,
 Let Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness
 ever preserve me.
 vs. 12 For numberless evils encompass me;
 my iniquities have overtaken me,
 So that I cannot triumph;
 They are more than the hairs on my head;

PS. 40

vs. 12 My heart fails me.

cont'd

vs. 13 Desire, O Lord, to deliver me.

O Lord, hasten to help me.

vs. 14 Let them be put to shame and

confusion, one and all.

Those who seek to sweep away my life;

let them be turned back and

Brought to dishonor,

those who desire my hurt.

vs. 15 Let them be appalled because of their

shame,

Who say to me, "Aha, Aha!"

vs. 16 But may all who seek You

rejoice and be glad in You,

May those who love Your deliverance

continually say, "May the Lord be magnified!"

vs. 17 But as for me, I am poor and needy,

May the Lord take cognisance of me.

You are my help and my refuge,

O my God, do not tarry.

PS. 40

Critical Notes

This thanksgiving psalm also contains a petition. The psalmist thanks God for his previous act of deliverance, and takes the opportunity to ask God for deliverance from his present distressful situation.

vs. 2	נבֹרֶשׁ /או	- desolate
	Is. 66:6 קוֹלֵשׁ /אוֹ מַעֲרִיר	
	מִטִּי בִּי /	- mire
	Ps. 69:3 טַבְעִי בִּי /	
	אֶשְׁרִי	- my steps
	Ps. 17:5 אֶמְקֶאֱבֹר	
vs. 4	רַב־בִּי	- arrogant
	Ps. 90:10 וְרַב־בִּי עָנָה /או	
vs. 8	עִי	- belly
	Jon. 2:2 מִמֶּנִּי הִצַּעַר	
vs. 14	סֹבֵא	- sweep away
	Hos. 8:7 כִּי רוּחַ צָרָה וְסוּרָה	
vs. 15	הֵאָהָה	- Aha, Aha!
	Ez. 25:3 יַעֲזֹב אֶחָד הָאֵל	

PS. 107

Praise

- vs. 1 O give thanks to the Lord,
 for he is good.
 For His steadfast love endures for ever!
- vs. 2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
 Whom He has redeemed from the hand of
 the adversary;
- vs. 3 And gathered in from the lands,
 From the east and from the west,
 From the north and from the south.

Description

- vs. 4 They wandered in the desert wastes,
 finding no way to city to live in;
- vs. 5 Hungry and thirsty,
 their life ebbed within them.
- vs. 6 Then they cried to the Lord in
 their distress,
 And He delivered them from their troubles;
- vs. 7 He led them in a straight way,
 Till they reached a city to dwell in.

Acknowledgement

- vs. 8 Let them give thanks to the Lord for His
 steadfast love,
 And for His wondrous works on behalf of mankind.
- vs. 9 For He satisfies he whose throat is parched
 And the hungry he fills with good things.

PS. 107

Description

- vs. 10 Some sat in darkness and in gloom,
 prisoners in affliction and in irons,
- vs. 11 For they had rebelled against the words of God,
 And spurned the counsel of the Most High.
- vs. 12 Therefore He humbled their heart with hard labor;
 They stumble, and there was none to help.
- vs. 13 Then they cried to the Lord in their distress,
 And he delivered them from their trouble.
- vs. 14 He brought them out of darkness and gloom,
 And broke their bonds asunder.

Acknowledgement

- vs. 15 Let them give thanks to the Lord for His
 steadfast love,
 And for His wondrous works on behalf of mankind.

Description

- vs. 16 For He has broken the gates of brass,
 And cut in two the bars of iron.
- vs. 17 Some were fools through their sinful ways,
 And because of their iniquities suffered affliction.
- vs. 18 All food their throats found loathsome,
 And they drew near to the gates of death.
- vs. 19 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
 And He delivered them from their distress.
- vs. 20 He sent forth His word and healed them,
 And delivered them from destruction.

PS. 107

Acknowledgement

- vs. 21 Let them give thanks to the Lord for
 His steadfast love,
 For His wondrous works on behalf of mankind.
- vs. 22 And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving,
 And tell of His deeds in songs of joy!

Description

- vs. 23 They that went down to the sea in ships,
 working in the mighty waters;
- vs. 24 They saw the deeds of the Lord,
 His wondrous works in the deep.
- vs. 25 For He commanded and raised the stormy wind,
 which lifted up the waves of the sea.
- vs. 26 They crested to heaven, they fell to the depths;
 their courage melted away in their evil plight.
- vs. 27 They reeled and staggered like drunken men,
 and all their skill was swallowed up.
- vs. 28 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
 and He delivered them from their distress.
- vs. 29 He made the storm be still,
 and the waves of the sea were hushed.
- vs. 30 They were glad when all was calm,
 and He brought them to their desired haven.

Acknowledgement

- vs. 31 Let them give thanks to the Lord for His steadfast
 love,
 For His wondrous works on behalf of mankind!

PS. 107

- vs. 32 Let them extol Him in the congregation of the
 people,
 And praise Him in the assembly of the elders.
 Praise
- vs. 33 He turns rivers into a desert,
 springs of water into thirsty ground.
- vs. 34 A fruitful land into a salty waste,
 because of the wickedness of its inhabitants.
- vs. 35 He turns a desert into pools of water,
 a parched land into springs of water.
- vs. 36 And there He lets the hungry dwell,
 and they establish a city to live in.
- vs. 37 They sow fields, and plant vineyards,
 and get a fruitful yield.
- vs. 38 By His blessing they multiply greatly;
 and He does not let their cattle decrease.
- vs. 39 When they are diminished and brought low
 through oppression, trouble, and sorrow,
- vs. 40 He pours contempt upon princes
 and makes them wander in trackless wastes.
- vs. 41 But he raises up the needy out of affliction,
 and makes their families like flocks.
- vs. 42 The upright see it and are glad,
 and all wickedness shall be silenced.
- vs. 43 Whoever is wise, let him preserve these things,
 Let them consider the steadfast love of the Lord.

PS. 107

Critical Notes

- vs. 4 **לע** - wandered
 Is. 16:8 **לע מלך**
- לע** - in wastes
 Is. 43:19 **לע מלך**
- vs. 10 **לע** - gloom
 From the root **לע** "to grow dark."
 Is. 9:1 **לע מלך**
- vs. 11 **לע** - rebelled
 Hos. 14:1 **לע מלך**
- לע** - spurned
 Prv. 1:30 **לע מלך**
- vs. 12 **לע** - humbled
 Jud. 8:28 **לע מלך**
- vs. 16 **לע** - cut in two
 Is. 45:2 **לע מלך**

PS. 116

Acknowledgement

vs. 1 I love the Lord, because He has heard
my voice and my supplications.

vs. 2 Because He has inclined His ear to me,
I will call on Him all my days.

Description

vs. 3 The cords of death encompassed me;
the anguish of sheol held me fast;
I suffered distress and anguish.

vs. 4 Then I called on the name of the Lord:
"O Lord, I beg You, save my life!"

vs. 5 Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;
Our God is merciful.

vs. 6 The Lord watches over the innocent;
I was drawn up, and He saved me.

vs. 7 Be at rest once more, my heart,
For the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

vs. 8 For You have saved my life from death,
my eyes from tears,
My feet from stumbling.

vs. 9 I will walk before the Lord
In the lands of the living.

vs. 10 I kept my faith, even when I said,
"I am greatly afflicted";

vs. 11 In panic, I said,
"All people are liars!"

PS. 116

Acknowledgement

- vs. 12 How can I repay the Lord
 for all His bounty to me?
- vs. 13 I will lift up the cup of victory
 and call out the name of the Lord,
- vs. 14 I will pay my vows to the Lord
 in the presence of all His people.

Praise

- vs. 15 Precious in the sight of the Lord
 is the death of His faithful ones.
- vs. 16 O Lord, I am Your servant,
 son of Your handmaid,
 You have undone my fetters.

Acknowledgement

- vs. 17 I will offer to You a sacrifice of thanksgiving
 And call out the name of the Lord.
- vs. 18 I will pay my vows to the Lord
 in the presence of all His people,
- vs. 19 In the courts of the house of the Lord,
 In your midst, O Jerusalem.
 Praise the Lord!

PS. 116

Critical Notes

- vs. 3 $\delta i k e ' r 3 n i$ - the anguish of sheol
 Ps. 118:5 $\delta i k e ' r 3 n i$ / n
- vs. 6 $p i k a n$ - innocent
 $' a \delta 3$ - drawn up
 Ex. 2:19 $/ e 3 n a k a i e k n$
- vs. 7 $' a \delta 3 \delta n e$ - has dealt bountifully with you
- vs. 8 $' n 3 n$ - from stumbling
 Ps. 118:13 $\delta e 3 \delta a i e k n$
- vs. 12 $a i e k$ - repay. Can also mean "reply."
- vs. 13 $a i e k ' o i d$ - cup of victory
- vs. 16 $p a n k / a$ - son of Your handmaid,
 Perhaps translated as "beneficiary of
 Your surety."

PS. 118

Praise

- vs. 1 O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
His steadfast love endures for ever!
- vs. 2 Let Israel say,
"His steadfast love endures for ever."
- vs. 3 Let the House of Aaron say,
"His steadfast love endures for ever."
- vs. 4 Let those who fear the Lord say,
"His steadfast love endures for ever."

Description

- vs. 5 From my confinement I called out to the Lord;
the Lord answered me and set me free.
- vs. 6 The Lord is with me; I will not fear;
What can man do to me?
- vs. 7 The Lord is with me as my helper;
I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.
- vs. 8 It is better to take refuge in the Lord
Than to put confidence in man.
- vs. 9 It is better to take refuge in the Lord
Than to put confidence in princes.
- vs. 10 All the nations surrounded me;
In the name of the Lord I cut them off!
- vs. 11 They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side;
In the name of the Lord I cut them off!

PS. 118

vs. 12 They surrounded me like bees,
They blazed like a bramble fire;
In the name of the Lord I cut them off!

vs. 13 You pushed me hard, that I might fall,
but the Lord helped me.

vs. 14 The Lord is my might and my song;
He has become my deliverance.

Praise

vs. 15 The sound of rejoicing and deliverance is in
the tents of the righteous;

"The right hand of the Lord does valiantly.

vs. 16 The right hand of the Lord is exalted;
The right hand of the Lord does valiantly!"

vs. 17 I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the Lord.

vs. 18 Though the Lord chastened me sorely,
He did not hand me over to death.

vs. 19 Open to me the gates of the loyal ones,
That I may enter through them
And give thanks to the Lord.

vs. 20 This is the gate of the Lord;
The loyal shall enter through it.

Acknowledgement

vs. 21 I will give thanks to You, for You have answered me
And have become my deliverance.

PS. 118

Praise

- vs. 22 The stone which the builders rejected
 has become the chief cornerstone.
- vs. 23 This is the Lord's doing;
 It is marvelous in our eyes.
- vs. 24 This is the day which the Lord has made;
 Let us rejoice and be glad on it.
- vs. 25 Save us, we beseech You, O Lord!
 O Lord, we beseech You, send us prosperity.
- vs. 26 Blessed be he who enters in the name of the Lord!
 We bless you from the House of the Lord.
- vs. 27 The Lord is God,
 And He has given us light.
 Bind the fest procession with branches
 Up to the horns of the altar!
- vs. 28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to You;
 You are my God, I will extoll You.
- vs. 29 O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
 For His steadfast love endures for ever!

PS. 118

Critical Notes

- vs. 9 בנצבי'פ - in princes
 I Sam. 2:8 י'ני'פ אביו' / ע'ש'יב ע'פ נצבי'פ
- vs. 10 פ'נ'כ'א - I will cut them off.
 Ps. 58:8 י'צ'ק ח'ל כ'ח י'ג'נ'ע'פ
- vs. 12 י'ע'ז - blaze
 Is. 43:17 י'ע'ז כ'ע'ש'ל'ק
- vs. 18 י'ס' - chastened
 Prv. 29:17 י'ס'ר ג'נ'ק וי'נ'י'ח'ק
- vs. 22 י'ס'כ'נ - rejected
 I Sam. 15:23 י'ס'כ'נ א'ל ג'ג'ר י'ס'כ'נ
- vs. 27 ב'ע'ג'ב'פ - with branches
 Lev. 23:40 ו'ע'נ'ף ע'ף ע'ג'ב'ר

PS. 138

Acknowledgement

- vs. 1 I give thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart
Before God, I will sing Your praise.
- vs. 2 I bow down toward Your holy temple
And give thanks to Your name for
Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness;
For You have exalted Your word above Your name.

Description

- vs. 3 On the day I called, You answered me,
The strength of my life You increased.

Praise

- vs. 4 All the kings of the earth shall praise You,
O Lord,
For they have heard the words of Your mouth,
- vs. 5 And they shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
For great is the glory of the Lord.
- vs. 6 Even though the Lord is exalted, He cares for
the lowly;
But the arrogant He knows from afar.
- vs. 7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
You preserve my life;
You stretch forth Your hand against the wrath
of my enemies
And save me with Your right hand.
- vs. 8 The Lord will fulfill this purpose for me;
Your steadfast love, O Lord, endures for ever
Do not forsake the work of Your hands.

PS. 138

Critical Notes

vs. 1

'ל

- my heart. This word frequently

refers to a verbal act; i.e. Ps. 12:3

לְפָנֶיךָ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֲשֶׁר

פ'ל'ל'ל'ל'ל' - before God, I will sing Your
praises. This abrupt shift from the third to
second person may indicate a corrupted text.

Another possible translation "before the gods."

vs. 3

'ל'ל'ל' P'ל' - The psalmist is vague in his
description of his distress and deliverance.

vs. 7

ל'ל'ל'ל' - "You stretch forth Your hand."

This has been translated occasionally as "You
stretch forth Your left hand," in order to
complement "Your right" in the following phrase.

PS. 65

Acknowledgement

vs. 1 Praise is due to You,
O God, in Zion;
And to You shall vows be fulfilled
O one who hears prayers.

vs. 2 To You all flesh shall come
on account of sins.

Praise

vs. 3 When our sins overcome us,
You forgive them.

vs. 4 Happy is he whom You choose
and bring near,
To dwell in Your courts.
We shall be satisfied with the goodness
Of Your house, Your holy temple.

vs. 5 Through awesome deeds of faithfulness
You answer us with deliverance,
O God of our deliverance.
Who is the security of all the
Ends of the earth,
And of the farthest seas;

vs. 6 Who establishes mountains through His strength,
Being girded with might;

vs. 7 Who stills the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
And the tumult of the peoples.

PS. 65

vs. 8 Those who live at edges of the earth,
 Are afraid of Your signs;
 The outgoings of the morning
 And the evening to rejoice.

Description

vs. 9 You watch over the earth and water it,
 You greatly enrich it;
 The river of God is full of water;
 You provide their grain
 For You have prepared it.

vs. 10 You water its furrows abundantly,
 settling in its ridges,
 With soft rains You bless its growth.

vs. 11 You crown the year with Your bounty;
 The tracks of Your chariot drip with fatness.

vs. 12 The pastures of the wilderness drip,
 the hills don themselves with joy,

vs. 13 The meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
 The valleys deck themselves with grain,
 They shout and sing together for joy.

Part II

Chapter II

Poetic Elements of Thanksgiving Psalms
Relevant to a Vow Formula

Element A - The call for help

Element B - Divine Response

Element C - The Acknowledgement

Poetic Elements of Thanksgiving Psalms
Indicating a Vow to Publicize God's Name

Description of God's Deliverance

Element A - The Call for Help

Divine Name	Verb-perfect 1 person singular (to call out)	Examples
יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ	אָקרא (ג'ר'ז')	Ps. 18:6
אֱלֹהֵינוּ	אָקרא	30:2
אֱלֹהֵינוּ	אָקרא	34:4
אֱלֹהֵינוּ (א'ד)	אָקרא	107:6
אֱלֹהֵינוּ (א'ד)	אָקרא	116:4
יְהוָה	אָקרא (ג'ר'ז')	118:5

Element B - Divine ResponseForm 1

Noun + Suffix i.e.- "my prayer"	Verb - perfect singular masculine (to hear)	Examples
'קוּד	(וְהִשְׁמָע) שָׁמַע'	Ps.18:6
'שָׁמַע	שָׁמַע'	40:1
'קוּד אֱלֹהִים	שָׁמַע'	116:2

Form 2 This one-word form is always found at the end of the statement "I called out to the Lord."

Verb, perfect; masculine singular, i.e. "to respond"	Examples
'שָׁמַע	Ps.30:2
'שָׁמַע	34:4
'שָׁמַע	118:5
'שָׁמַע	118:13

Element C

Acknowledgement by the Psalmist that he is about to publicize God's name in fulfillment of his vow.

Form 1

Preposition + noun	Divine Name Verb of Publicity	Examples
ב א' ק	(יְהוָה) א' ק (ע' כ' נ')	Ps. 18:49
בְּקִרְבִּי רַב	בְּקִרְבִּי אֱלֹהִים	40:9
כִּנְעַם עֲבָדֶיךָ	כִּנְעַם אֱלֹהִים (נ' ד' ר')	116:8

Form 2

Adverb (forever)	Divine Name Verb of Publicity	Examples
עוֹלָם עוֹלָם	יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים א' ק	Ps. 30:12
אֲנִי עוֹלָם	אֱלֹהִים א' ק	34:1
אֲנִי עוֹלָם	— א' ק	116:2

Chapter III

Akkadian Parallels

#1 Prayer to NinibInvocation

- ln. 11 O mighty son, first-born of Bil!
- ln. 12 Powerful, perfect, offspring of Isara,
- ln. 13 Who art clothed with terror, who art full of fury!
- ln. 14 O Utgallu (?), whose onslaught is unopposed!
- ln. 15 Mighty is (thy) place among the great gods!
- ln. 16 In Ikur, the house of decisions, exalted are thy heads,
- ln. 17 And Bil thy father has granted thee
- ln. 18 That the law of all the gods thy hand should hold!
- ln. 19 Thou judgest the judgement of mankind!
- ln. 20 Thou ledest him that is without a leader, the man
that is in need!
- ln. 21 Thou holdest the hand of the weak, thou exaltest him
that is not strong!
- ln. 22 The body of the man that to the Lower World has been
brought down thou dost restore!
- ln. 23 From him who sin possesses, the sin thou dost remove!
- ln. 24 Thou art quick to favour the man with whom his god
is angry!
- ln. 25 O Ninib, prince of the gods, a hero art thou!
- ln. 26 I (so and so) (son of so and so), whose god is (so and so),
whose goddess is (so and so),
- ln. 27 Have bound for thee a cord,....have I offered thee;
- ln. 28 I have offered thee tarrinnu, a pleasant odour;
- ln. 29 I have poured out for thee mead, a drink from corn.
- ln. 30 With thee may there stand the gods of Bil!
- ln. 31 With thee may there stand the gods of Ikur!

#1 Prayer to Ninib - continued

Supplication

- ln. 32 Truly pity me and hearken to my cries!
ln. 33 My sighing remove and accept my supplication!
ln. 34 Let my cry find acceptance before thee!

Petition

- ln. 35 Deal favourably with me who fear thee!
ln. 36 Thy face have I beheld, let me have prosperity!
ln. 37 Thou art pitiful! Truly pity me!
ln. 38 Take away my sin, my iniquity remove!
ln. 39 Tear away my disgrace and my offence do thou loosen!
ln. 40 May my god and my goddess command me and may they
ordain good fortune!

Vow

- ln. 41 May I praise thy heart, may I bow in humility before
thee!

#1

vs. 32 Supplication "hearken to my cries!"

transliteration simi qaba

Hebrew cognate

Grammatical Elements imperative verb, noun & suffix

Psalm Parallels Pss. 142:7, 142:7a, 61:2, 171:1a, 17:6, 28:2a

vs. 41 Vow "May I praise thy heart."

transliteration ludlul libbaka

Hebrew cognate

Grammatical Elements imperfect 1 person verb of publicity,
noun and suffix

Psalm Parallels Pss. 9:2, 9:15, 26:7, 73:28, 20:6

#2 A Psalm for Recovery from an Illness

- #2 A Psalm for Recovery from an Illness - continued
- ln. 14 The wrath of god and goddess have pressed upon me.
- ln. 15 Now, I burn their images in front of your great
 divinity.

Vow

- ln. 16 Dissolve ye the curse, and I will verily sing your
 praises.

#2 Poetic Elementsvs. 8 Supplication "Accept my supplication"

transliteration ligi unniniga putur i'iltiya

Hebrew cognate לִּי אֲנִינִיגָא פֻּתוּר יִ'אִלְתִּיָּא

Grammatical Elements imperative verb, noun + suffix

Psalm Parallels Pss. 142:7, 142:7a, 61:2, 17:1a, 17:6, 28:2a.

vs. 16 Vow "I shall praise Your praises"

transliteration dalilikuna ludlul

Hebrew cognate דָּלִילִיקוּנָא לֻדְלֻל

Grammatical Elements* imperfect 1 person verb of publicity,
noun + suffix

Psalm Parallels Pss. 9:2, 9:15, 26:7, 73:28, 20:6.

*This cognate accusative form is not found in the Hebrew Psalms.

#3 Prayer to MardukComplaint

- ln. 1 Instead of food, I eat bitter tears,
 ln. 2 Instead of date-wine, I drink the waters of misery.
 ln. 3 For my drink I have bitter waters,
 ln. 4 Instead of clothes, I am enveloped in sin,

Supplication

- ln. 5 O my god who art angry with me, accept my prayer,
 ln. 6 O my goddess who art wroth with me, accept my appeal,
 ln. 7 Accept my appeal, may thy liver be at rest!
 ln. 8 My lord in mercy and compassion [look upon me?]
 ln. 9 Who guides the span of life against the encroachments(?)
 of death, accept my prayer!
 ln. 10 O my goddess, look upon me, accept my appeal;

Petition

- ln. 11 May my sins be forgiven, my transgressions wiped out.
 ln. 12 May the ban be loosened, the chain broken,
 ln. 13 May the seven winds carry off my sighs,
 ln. 14 Let me tear away my iniquity, let the birds carry it
 to heaven,
 ln. 15 Let the fish take off my misfortune, the stream carry
 it off.
 ln. 16 May the beasts of the field take it away from me,
 ln. 17 The flowing waters of the stream wash me clean.
 ln. 18 Let me be pure like the sheen of gold.
 ln. 19 As a ring (?) of precious stone, may I be precious
 before thee.
 ln. 20 Remove my iniquity, save my soul.

#3 Prayer to Marduk - continued

- ln. 21 Thy [temple] court I will watch, thy image(?) I will
set up.
- ln. 22 Grant to me that I may see a favorable dream,
ln. 23 The dream that I see, let it be favorable,
ln. 24 The dream that I see, let it be unfailing,
ln. 25 The dream that I see, turn it to a favorable [issue].
ln. 26 The god Makhir(?), the god of dreams stand at my head.
ln. 27 Let me enter into E-sagila, the temple of the gods,
the house of life.
- ln. 28 Commend me to Marduk, the merciful one, for favor,
Vow
- ln. 29 I will be subservient to thy greatness, I will exalt
thy divinity.

#3

vs. 5 Supplication "hear my supplication"

transliteration simi unniniya

Hebrew cognate 'A J A A A N C

Grammatical Elements imperative verb (i.e. "to hear"),

noun + suffix

Psalm Parallel Pss. 142:7, 142:7a, 61:2, 17:1a, 17:6,

28:2a

vs. 29 Vow "I shall praise Your praises"

transliteration dalilika ludlul

Hebrew cognate A A A A A A A A A A

Grammatical Elements imperfect 1 person verb of publicity,

noun + suffix

Psalm Parallel Pss. 9:2, 9:15, 26:7, 73:28, 20:6.

#4 Prayer to MardukInvocation

- ln. 17 O Marduk, lord of lands, the mighty.....
- ln. 18 Powerful, unique, perfect.....
- ln. 19 The exalted hero, who suffers no change.....
- ln. 20 The strong one, the king who.....
- ln. 21 O Marduk the illustrious, the great one who.....
- ln. 22 The mighty.....the illustrations!
- ln. 23 The storm of the weapon, the battle.....
- ln. 24 O.....! the perfect.....!
- ln. 25the great.....!
- ln. 26Marduk, the lord.....
- ln. 27 O Marduk, the lord.....
- ln. 28 Lord of the heavens, of mountains and of oceans,
who.....the hills!
- ln. 29 Lord of.....and fortresses, who guideth the rivers!
- ln. 30 Who bestoweth corn and grain (?), who createth
wheat and barley, who reneweth the green herb!
- ln. 31 Who createth the handiwork of god and goddess; in
the midst of their.....art thou!
- ln. 32 The ruler of the Anunnaki, the director of the Igigi!
- ln. 33 The wise, the first-born of Ia, the creator of the
whole of mankind!
- ln. 34 Thou art lord, and like my father and my mother among
the.....art thou!
- ln. 35 Thou art like the Sun-god also; their darkness thou
dost lighten!

#4 Prayer to Marduk - continued

- ln. 36 A cry and a shout of joy.....
- ln. 37 Thou guidest him that is in need.....
- ln. 38 Their wisdom.....
- ln. 39 Lands and distant peoples.....
- ln. 40 Thou art compassionate.....
- ln. 41I am weak.....
- ln. 42
- lines 43 - 58:
- ln. 43 Thou holdest his hand.....
- ln. 44

At l. 45 the suppliant makes a formal statement of his own name along with that of his father, after which the tablet continues broken for several lines, only disconnected words having been preserved. When the lines once more become connected, we find the suppliant imploring that the life of his body may be restored, the disease from which he is suffering being put down to the influence of magic. He concludes a description of his symptoms with the words: "My powers and my soul are bewitched and there is no righteous decision!" He therefore makes a direct appeal to the god in the following words:-

Supplication

- ln. 59 O lord, at this time stand beside me and hearken to
my cries, give my judgment, make my decision!

Petition

- ln. 60 The sickness.....do thou destroy, and take thou away
the disease of my body!
- ln. 61 O my god (and) goddess, judge ye mankind, and possess me!
- ln. 62 By the command of thy mouth may there never approach
anything evil, the magic of the sorcerer and
of the sorceress!
- ln. 63 May there never approach me the poisons of the evil.....
of men!

#4 Prayer to Marduk - continued

- ln. 64 May there never approach the evils of dreams, of
powers (and) portents of heaven and of earth!
- ln. 65 Never may the evil of the portent of city and land
overtake me!
- ln. 66 In spite of the evil mouth, the evil tongue of men
in thy sight let me be perfect!
- ln. 67 Let nothing evil ever restrain the plant of the god
of joy that is placed upon my neck!
- ln. 68 The evil curse, the mouth that is unfavourable let
it cast aside!
- ln. 69 Like alabaster let my light shine, let me never
have affliction!
- ln. 70 Like lapis-lazuli may my life be precious in thy
sight, let it establish mercy!
- ln. 71 Like gold, O my god and my goddess, may prosperity
be with me!
- ln. 72 In the mouth of the peoples may I be blessed!
- ln. 73 Like a seal may my sins be torn away!
- ln. 74 May the evil curse, that is unfavourable, never
draw nigh, may it never be oppressive!
- ln. 75 Before thee may my name and posterity prosper!
- ln. 76 May the plants and.....that are set before thee
loosen my sin!
- ln. 77 Never may there approach me the wrath or anger of
the god,
- ln. 78 With misery, disgrace (and) sin; from the curse

#4 Prayer to Marduk - continued

- ln. 79 May the raising of my hand, the invocation of the
great gods, give release!
- ln. 80 At thy mighty command let me approach! Command thou life!
- ln. 81 Like heaven may I shine among the enchantments that
possess me!
- ln. 82 Like the earth may I be bright in the midst of spells
that are not good!
- ln. 83 Like the heart of heaven may I be bright; may the power
of my sins be destroyed!
- ln. 84 May the binu-wood purify me, may the.....plant deliver
me, may the ukuru-wood remove my sin!
- ln. 85 May Marduk's vessel of purification bestow favour!
- ln. 86 May the flaming censer(?) of the god.....make me bright!
- ln. 87 At the command of Ia, king of the Abyss, father of the
gods, the Lord of wisdom,
- ln. 88 At the raising of my hand may thy heart have rest, O
Marduk, the priest of the great gods, the arbiter
of the Igigi!
- ln. 89 The word of Ia let me glorify, and, O queen Damkina,
let me have dominion!
- ln. 90 May I thy servant so and so, the son of so and so,
live, let me be perfect,
- ln. 91 Let me revere thy dignity, and let me bow in humility
before thee!

Vow

- ln. 92 O my god, let me revere thy power!

#4 Prayer to Marduk - continued

ln. 93 O my goddess, let me tell of thy greatness!

ln. 94 And may I the priest, thy servant, bow in humility
before thee!

#4

vs. 59 Supplication "hear my supplication"

transliteration simi qaba

Hebrew cognate ' ַלִּי שָׁמַע

Grammatical Elements imperative verb (i.e. "to hear"), noun +
suffixPsalm Parallels Pss. 142:7, 142:7a, 61:2, 17:1a, 17:6,
28:2a.vs. 91 Vow "I shall praise Your holiness"

transliteration lustam mar ilutka

Hebrew cognate לִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לְךָ

Grammatical Elements imperfect 1 person verb of publicity,
noun + suffix

Psalm Parallels Pss. 9:2, 9:15, 26:7, 73:28, 20:6.

#5 A Prayer to SibzianaInvocation

- ln. 1 O Sibziana.....
- ln. 2 Thou that changest the.....
- ln. 3 In the heavens.....
- ln. 4 They bow down before thee.....
- ln. 5 The great gods beseech thee and.....
- ln. 6 Without thee Anu.....
- ln. 7 Bil the arbiter.....
- ln. 8 Ramman the prince of heaven and earth.....
- ln. 9 At thy command mankind was named!
- ln. 10 Give thou the word and with thee let the great
 gods stand!

Complaint

- ln. 11 Give thou my judgement, make my decision!
- ln. 12 I, thy servant, Assurbanipal, the son of his god,
- ln. 13 Whose god is Assur, whose goddess is Assuritu,
- ln. 14 In the evil of the eclipse of the moon which in the
 month (space) on the day (space) has taken place,
- ln. 15 In the evil of the powers, of the portents, evil and
 not good,
- ln. 16 Which are in my palace and my land,
- ln. 17 Because of the evil magic, the disease that is not
 good, the iniquity,
- ln. 18 The transgression, the sin that is in my body.....,
- ln. 19 [Because of] the evil spectre that is bound to me and.....,
- ln. 20 Have petitioned thee, I have glorified thee!

#5 A Prayer to Sibziana - continued

Supplication

ln. 21 The raising of my hand accept! Hearken to my prayer!

Petition

ln. 22 Free me from my bewitchment! Loosen my sin!

ln. 23 Let there be torn away whatsoever evil may come to
cut off my life!

ln. 24 May the favourable sidu be ever at my head!

ln. 25 May the god, the goddess of mankind grant me favour!

ln. 26 At thy command let me live!

Vow

ln. 27 Let me bow down and extol thy greatness!

#5

vs. 21 Supplication "hear my prayer"

transliteration simi tasliti

Hebrew cognate 'לִשְׁמָע תְּנָע

Grammatical Elements imperative verb i.e. "to hear"

noun i.e. "my prayer" + suffix

Psalm Parallels Pss. 142:7, 142:7a, 61:2, 17:1a, 17:6, 28:2a

vs. 27 Vow "I shall recall Your greatness"

transliteration Narbika lusapi

Hebrew cognate נָרְבִּיקָא לִשְׁמָע

Grammatical Element imperfect 1 person verb of publicity

noun (Divine Quality) + suffix

Psalm Parallels Pss. 9:2, 9:13, 26:7, 73:28, 20:6.

#6 Prayer to NabuInvocation

- ln. 1 O hero, prince, first-born of Marduk!
- ln. 2 O prudent ruler, offspring of Zarpanitu!
- ln. 3 O Nabu, Bearer of the tablet of the destiny of the
 gods, Director of Isagila!
- ln. 4 Lord of Izida, Shadow of Borsippa!
- ln. 5 Darling of Ia, Giver of life!
- ln. 6 Prince of Babylon, Protector of the living!
- ln. 7 God of the hill of dwelling, the fortress of the
 nations, the Lord of temples!
- ln. 8 Thy name is.....in the mouth of the peoples, O sidu!
- ln. 9 O son of the mighty prince Marduk, in thy mouth is
 justice!
- ln. 10 In thy illustrious name, at the command of thy
 mighty godhead,

Petition

- ln. 11 I (so and so), the son (of so and so), who am smitten
 with disease, thy servant,
- ln. 12 Whom the hand of the demon and the breath of the.....
- ln. 13 May I live, may I be perfect.....
- ln. 14 Set justice in my mouth!
- ln. 15mercy in my heart!
- ln. 16 Return and be established! May they command mercy!
- ln. 17 May my god stand at my right hand!
- ln. 18 May my goddess stand at my left hand!
- ln. 19 May the favourable sidu, the favourable lamassu.....
 with me!

#6 Prayer to Nabu - continued

(lines 20-55 are badly damaged)....

On the conclusion of the prayer there follows a section of four lines containing directions for making of certain offerings, and the commencement of an incantation, both of which are much broken. On the Reverse of the tablet is inscribed the conclusion of a prayer, which may possibly be the continuation of that which commences at the end of the Obverse. The sick man, after making a formal statement in l.51 of his own name and of that of his father, concludes the prayer with the following petitions:

- ln. 56 At this time.....
 ln. 57 I stand before thee.....!
 ln. 58 Good is thy shadow.....!
 ln. 59 May my way be propitious.....!
 ln. 60 Set a pleasant path for my feet!
 ln. 61 O lord, my god, deal graciously with me!
 ln. 62 O lord Nabu, my god, deal graciously with me!
 ln. 63 In the night season may my dreams be propitious!
 ln. 64 Mercy, compassion, (and) life, O sidu,

Supplication

- ln. 65 Command, grant my petition and establish me!
 ln. 66 At the command of thy mighty godhead let me live,
 let me have knowledge!

Vow

- ln. 67 In the sight of (?) wide-spread peoples may I
 bow in humility before thee!

#6

vs. 65 Supplication "hear my supplication"

transliteration qaba sima

Hebrew cognate 'וּשְׁמָע

Grammatical Elements imperative verb (i.e. "to hear"),
noun + suffix

Psalm Parallels Pss. 142:7, 142:7a, 61:2, 17:1a, 17:6,
28:2a.

vs. 67 Vow "I shall praise You in a great
congregation."

transliteration dalililka ana nisi ludlul

Hebrew cognate אֲנִי שִׁבְחָךְ בְּעֵדוּת

Grammatical Elements imperfect 1 person verb of publicity,
preposition + noun (public gathering)

Psalm Parallels Pss. 35:18, 57:18, 18:50, 109:30.

#7 Prayer to IstarInvocation

- ln. 1 Valiant Istar, darling of the goddesses
- ln. 2 Torch of heaven and earth, splendor of the regions
- ln. 3 Innini, daughter of Sin, child of Ningal
- ln. 4 Twin of bearded shining Samas the hero
- ln. 5 Istar, You are Anu for You rule the heavens
- ln. 6 With Enlil the counselor You direct the inhabited
lands
- ln. 7 Primal (Ea are you), creator of divine rites and
lustrations
- ln. 8 In the deep You hold the bonds, the instructions
of Ea
- ln. 9 Wherever damp courses have been built, a foundation
brick placed
- ln. 10 You care for all humanity (lit.: all endowed with
speech) as does Samas
- ln. 11 Who is Your rival among the gods of heaven?
- ln. 12 Who is your equal among the underworld divinities?
- ln. 13 You alone end poverty and establish prosperity in
the farmsteads of the people
- ln. 14 You bring about a change in fortune so that the
wretched thrives
- ln. 15 I searched among the gods: To You are prayers offered.
I sought among the goddesses: Only You are to be
supplicated.
- ln. 16 Before You stands a genie, behind you a guardian spirit.

#7 Prayer to Istar - continued

ln. 17 At Your right is Justice, at Your left Good Fortune.

ln. 18 Serving You are Compliance and Favor.

ln. 19 Encircling You about are Life and Well-being.

ln. 20 How sweet are prayers to You! How nigh Your
attentiveness!

ln. 21 Your glance is favourable hearing, Your word, light.

Supplication

ln. 22 Pity me Istar! Ordain my prosperity.

ln. 23 Yea, regard me with favor. Accept my prayers.

Petition

ln. 24 Your path I followed. May my prosperity endure.

ln. 25 I grasped Your poles. May I have contentment.

ln. 26 I have borne Your yoke. Grant peace.

ln. 27 I have anticipated Your wishes. May reconciliation
come straight to me.

ln. 28 I have heeded Your splendor. May there be compliance
and acceptance.

ln. 29 I have looked for Your rays. May my face gleam.

ln. 30 I have sought out Your dominion. May there be life
and wellbeing.

ln. 31 Would that I possess the good genie who stands before
You.

Would that I possessed the guardian-spirit who
follows You.

ln. 33 Speak out so that my word may be heard

ln. 34 May the word I speak be pleasing just as I speak it

ln. 35 In joy and gladness guide me constantly, daily

#7 Prayer to Istar - continued

ln. 36 Prolong my days. Grant life.

Vow

ln. 36a May I live in health to sing Your praises.

ln. 37 May I attain whatever I wish

May the heavens rejoice in You, the deep exult over you

Praise

ln. 38 May all the gods of the pantheon bless you

May the great gods satisfy your desires.

ln. 39 Incantation-prayer to Istar. You set up a censer
with juniper.

ln. 40 You pour out libation-beer, recite this su-il-la
prayer thrice and then you prostrate yourself.

#7

vs. 23

Supplication - "Accept my prayer"

transliteration

lege unniniya

Hebrew cognate

לֵגַע אֲנִינִיָּא

Grammatical Elements imperative verb, noun + suffix

Psalm Parallels

Pss. 142:7, 142:7a, 61:2, 17:1a, 17:6, 28:2a.

vs. 36a

Vow "I shall praise Your holiness."

transliteration

lustammeilutka

Hebrew cognate

לִשְׁתַּמְעִלּוּתָא

Psalm Parallels

Pss. 9:2, 9:15, 26:7, 73:28, 20:6.

#8 Prayer to NirgalInvocation

- ln. 1 O mighty lord, hero, first-born of Nu.Nam.Nir!
 ln. 2 Prince of the Anunnaki, lord of the battle!
 ln. 3 Offspring of Ku.Tu.Sar the mighty queen!
 ln. 4 O Nirgal, strong one of the gods, the darling of
 Nin.Min.Na!
 ln. 5 Thou treadest in the bright heavens, lofty is thy
 place!
 ln. 6 Thou art exalted in the Under-world and art the
 benefactor of its.....
 ln. 7 With Ia among the multitude of the gods inscribe
 thy counsel!
 ln. 8 With Sin in the heavens thou seekest all things!
 ln. 9 And Bil thy father has granted thee that the black-
 headed race, all living creatures,
 ln. 10 The cattle of Nirgal, created things, thy hand
 should rule!

Complaint

- ln. 11 I (so and so), the son (of so and so) am thy servant!
 ln. 12 Theof god and goddess are laid upon me!
 ln. 13 Uprooting and destruction are in my house!
 ln. 14
 ln. 15 Since thou art beneficent, I have turned to thy
 divinity!
 ln. 16 Since thou art compassionate, I have sought for thee!
 ln. 17 Since thou art pitiful, I have beheld.....!

#8 Prayer to Nirgal - continued

ln. 18 Since thou art merciful, I have taken my stand
before thee!

Supplication

ln. 19 Truly pity me and hearken to my cries!

Petition

ln. 20 May thine angry heart have rest!

ln. 21 Loosen my sin, my offence.....

ln. 22

ln. 23 O god and angry goddess.....

Vow

ln. 24 Let me talk of thy greatness, let me bow in humility
before thee!

3

vs. 16 Supplication "hear my supplication"

transliteration simi qaba

Hebrew cognate

Grammatical Elements imperative verb, i.e. "to hear," noun +
suffix

Psalm Parallels Pss. 142:7, 142:7a, 61:2, 17:1a, 17:6,
28:2a.

vs. 24 Vow "I shall recall Your greatness, I
will praise Your praises."

transliteration narbika lusapi

Hebrew cognate 27201c 78819c

Grammatical Elements noun (Divine quality) + suffix, imperfect
1 person verb of publicity.

Psalm Parallels Pss. 9:2, 9:15, 26:7, 73:28, 20:6.

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