

## PSALM 74

A Maskil (1 word – מִשְׁכִּיל)

Of Asaph (1 word – לְאַסָּף)

v. 1 – Why, O God, did You reject forever? (4 words – לָמָּה אֱלֹהִים זָנְחָתָ לְנֶצַח

(Why) is Your anger smoking against the sheep of Your pasture?

(4 words – יַעֲשֵׂן אַפְּךָ בְּצֵאֵן מִרְעִיתֶךָ)

Synthetic Parallelism with possible Ellipsis

It could read, “Your anger is smoking”

There are twelve “a” sounds; all but two words have at least one; four of them have both a long and a short “a” sound.

v. 2 – (You) remember Your congregation, (2 words – עֲדָתְךָ זָכַר

You bought (them) formerly, (2 words – קָנִיתָ קִדְמָה

You redeemed the tribe of Your inheritance, (3 words – גָּאֵלְתָּ שִׁבְטֵי נַחֲלָתְךָ

You dwelt in it - this Mount Zion. (5 words – שָׁכַנְתָּ בּוֹ הַר - צִיּוֹן זֶה

It appears that the opening petition governs the next three phrases.

There are sixteen “a” sounds; four words have both a long and a short “a” sound.

v. 3 – (You) raise up Your feet to the endless ruins, (4 words – הֲרִימָה פְּעָמֶיךָ לְמִשְׁאוֹת נֶצַח

the enemy caused all evil in the sanctuary. (4 words – כָּל - הָרַע אוֹיֵב בְּקִדְשְׁךָ

v. 4 – Those hostile to You roared in the midst of Your meeting place,

(שָׁאֲגוּ צִרְרֵיךָ בְּקִרְבִּי מוֹעֵדְךָ

they set their signs (as) signs. (3 words – שָׂמוּ אוֹתוֹתָם אוֹתוֹת

Synthetic Parallelism with the last line of verse 3 and the first line of verse 4.

v. 5 – He was being known as one who brings in regard to above in a thicket of trees (with) axes.

(יֹדַע כַּמְבִיא לְמַעַלָּה בְּסִבְךָ - עֵץ קִרְדָּמוֹת

v. 6 – and now, its engravings altogether, (3 words – (וַיַּעַח) [וַיַּעַח] תּוֹחִיָּה יָחַד

with an ax and axes they were striking to pieces. (3 words – בְּכַשִּׁיל וְכִילְפַת יְהִלְמוֹן

The word in parentheses is called Kethib – what is written. The word in brackets is called Qere – what is spoken. Both mean “and now”.

There are three different words for ax. The two in this verse are loan words; most likely they are the terms used by the Babylonians.

v. 7 – They sent away with fire Your sanctuary, (3 words – שְׁלַחוּ בְּאֵשׁ מִקְדָּשְׁךָ

to the ground they polluted the dwelling place of Your name.

(לְאַרְץ חֲלָלוּ מִשְׁכַּן - שְׁמֶךָ

Synthetic Parallelism with Chiasm – verb, prep. phrase, object; prep phrase, verb, object

Five of the seven words contain a ש – shin, a “sh”.

- v. 8 – They said in their heart, “let us oppress them altogether,” (4 words – אָמְרוּ בְּלִבָּם נִינָם יַחַד –  
they burned all of the meeting places of God in the land.  
(5 words – שָׂרְפוּ כָּל - מוֹעֲדֵי - אֵל בְּאֶרֶץ –
- v. 9 – Our signs we did not see, (3 words – אוֹתֵינוּ לֹא רָאִינוּ –  
there is yet not a prophet, (3 words – אֵין - עוֹד נְבִיא –  
and not with us one who is knowing how long. (5 words – וְלֹא - אֶתְנוּ יִדְעַ עַד - מָה –  
Synthetic Parallelism with Ellipsis in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> lines
- v. 10 – How long, O God, (3 words – עַד - מָתֵי אֱלֹהִים –  
will an adversary reproach, (2 words – יִתְרַף צָר –  
will an enemy spurn Your name forever? (4 words – יִנְאָץ אוֹיֵב שְׁמֶךָ לְנֶצַח –  
Synthetic Parallelism with Ellipsis
- v. 11 – Why are You withdrawing Your hand, even Your right hand? (4 words – לָמָּה תִּשְׁיֵב יָדְךָ וְיָמִינְךָ –  
From the midst of Your bosom, (You) finish (them) off!  
(מִקְרֵב (חֹקֵךְ) [חִיקֶךָ] כְּלֵה – (3 words –  
The word in parentheses is called Kethib – what is written; it means “Your statute.” The word in brackets is called Qere – what is spoken; it means “Your bosom.”
- v. 12 – But God (is) my King from antiquity, (3 words – וְאוֹלָהִים מִלְּפָי מִקְדָּם –  
Who is accomplishing salvation in the midst of the earth.  
(פֹּעֵל יְשׁוּעוֹת בְּקִרְבַּ הָאָרֶץ – (4 words –
- v. 13 – You, You divided by Your strength (the) sea, (4 words – אַתָּה פִּזְרַרְתָּ בְּעֹזְךָ יָם –  
You shattered the heads of the sea monsters upon the waters.  
(שִׁבַּרְתָּ רִאשֵׁי תַנִּינִים עַל - הַיָּםִים – (5 words –  
Synthetic Parallelism with Chiasm – verb, prep. phrase, object; verb, object, prep. phrase
- v. 14 – You, You smashed in pieces the heads of Leviathan, (4 words – אַתָּה רִצַּצְתָּ רִאשֵׁי לְוִיָּתָן –  
You gave him (for) food to the people, to the desert dwellers.  
(תִּתְּנֶנּוּ מֵאֲכָל לֶעַם לְצִיִּים – (4 words –
- v. 15 – You, You broke open a spring and a wadi, (4 words – אַתָּה בָּקַעְתָּ מַעְיָן וְנַחַל –  
You, You dried up the rivers of Ethan. (4 words – אַתָּה הוֹבִשְׁתָּ נְהָרוֹת אֵיתָן –  
Synthetic Parallelism  
Six of the eight words contain a ת – taw, a “t/th”
- v. 16 – Belonging to You (is the) day, also belonging to You (is the) night,  
(לְךָ יוֹם אֶף - לְךָ לַיְלָה – (5 words –  
You, You established a light and a sun. (4 words – אַתָּה הִכִּינוֹתָ מְאוֹר וְשֶׁמֶשׁ –  
Synthetic Parallelism, likely with Chiasm (if light refers to the moon)

- v. 17 – You, You set up all the borders of the earth, (5 words – אַתָּה הַצַּבֶּתָּ כָּל - גְּבוּלוֹת אֶרֶץ)  
 summer and winter, You, You formed them. (4 words – קִיץ וְחֹרֶף אַתָּה יִצְרָתָם)  
 Chiasm
- v. 18 – (You) remember this, (2 words – זָכֵר - זֹאת)  
 an enemy has reproached, O Yahweh, (3 words – אוֹיֵב חָרַף יְהוָה)  
 and a foolish people has spurned Your name. (4 words – וְעַם נְבִל גָּאֲצוּ שְׁמֶךָ)  
 Synthetic/Synonymous Parallelism
- v. 19 – (You) do not give to a wild animal the soul of Your dove, (5 words – אֵל - תִּתֵּן לְחַיִּית נֶפֶשׁ תּוֹרֵךְ)  
 the life of Your poor, (You) do not forget forever. (5 words – חַיִּית עֲנִיִּיךָ אֵל - תִּשְׁכַּח לְנֶצַח)  
 Synthetic Parallelism with Chiasm  
 The same Hebrew word is used for “wild animal” and “life” – חַיִּית
- v. 20 – (You) look in regard to the covenant, (2 words – הִבַּט לְבְרִית)  
 for the dark places of the earth are full of habitations of violence.  
 (6 words – כִּי מְלֹאוּ מִחַשְׁבֵּי - אֶרֶץ גְּאוֹת חָמָס)
- v. 21 – Do not let the oppressed return while being ashamed, (4 words – אֵל - יֵשֵׁב דָּךְ נִבְלָם)  
 let the poor and needy praise Your name. (4 words – עֲנִי וְאֶבְיוֹן יְהַלְלוּ שְׁמֶךָ)  
 Synthetic Parallelism with Chiasm – verb, subject, participle; subject, verb, object
- v. 22 – (You) arise, O God, (2 words – קוּמָה אֱלֹהִים)  
 (You) conduct Your case, (2 words – רִיבָה רִיבֶךָ)  
 (You) remember Your reproach from the foolish man all the day.  
 (6 words – זָכֵר חֲרָפְתְּךָ מִנִּי - נְבִל כָּל - הַיּוֹם)
- v. 23 – (You) do not forget, (2 words – אֵל - תִּשְׁכַּח)  
 the voice of those who are hostile to You, (2 words – קוֹל צָרְרִיךָ)  
 the roar of those who rise up against You, (2 words – שְׁאוֹן קָמֶיךָ)  
 which is going up continually. (2 words – עֹלָה תָמִיד)  
 Synthetic Parallelism in last line of v. 22 and v. 23.  
 Ellipsis  
 Synonymous Parallelism in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> lines.

Elohim – 4x  
El – 1x (v. 8)  
Yahweh – 1x  
You/Your – 56x  
    You, You – 7 sets in vv. 13-17  
    You with imperatives – 11x  
Total: 62x

1<sup>st</sup> Person – 3x; 2x plural, 1x singular

Broader Structure:

Title  
vv. 1-11- The Appeal  
vv. 12-23 – The Hope

Title  
vv. 1-11 – The Agonizing Why?  
vv. 12-17 – God is Redeemer and Creator  
vv. 18-23 – Plea For Remembrance

Title  
vv. 1-3 – Opening Questions and Petitions  
vv. 4-8 – The Wicked Destroyed the Temple  
vv. 9-11 – More Questions and Petitions  
vv. 12-17 – God is Sovereign  
vv. 18-23 – Ten Final Petitions

Title  
vv. 1-3 – The Cast-Off Heritage  
vv. 4-8 – The Pillaged Temple  
vv. 9-11 – The Impenetrable Silence  
vv. 12-17 – The Ancient Exploits  
vv. 18-23 – The Continuing Ordeal