

# The Structure and Coherence of Psalms 89-106

by

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	vi
CHAPTER I	
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Overview of the studies related to the contextual analysis of Psalms 90-106	4
1.3 Scope of the present study	10
1.4 Methodology	14
CHAPTER II	
2.1 Psalm 90	18
2.2 Psalm 91	31
2.3 Psalm 92	39
2.4 Psalm 93	48
2.5 Psalm 94	57
2.6 Psalm 95	66
2.7 Psalm 96	75
2.8 Psalm 97	83
2.9 Psalm 98	93
2.10 Psalm 99	100
2.11 Psalm 100	107
2.12 Psalm 101	111
2.13 Psalm 102	118
2.14 Psalm 103	131
2.15 Psalm 104	143
2.16 Psalm 105	156
2.17 Psalm 106	169
CHAPTER III	
A. Introduction	182



B. Methodology	184
Part I	
3.1.1 Psalms 89 and 90	187
3.1.2 Psalms 89 and 91	198
3.1.3 Psalms 89 and 92	201
3.1.4 Psalms 89 and 93	206
3.1.5 Psalms 89 and 94	210
3.1.6 Psalms 89 and 95-100	218
3.1.6.1 Psalms 89 and 95	218
3.1.6.2 Psalms 89 and 96	220
3.1.6.3 Psalms 89 and 97	224
3.1.6.4 Psalms 89 and 98	227
3.1.6.5 Psalms 89 and 99	230
3.1.6.6 Psalms 89 and 100	232
3.1.7 Psalms 89 and 101	232
3.1.8 Psalms 89 and 102	234
3.1.9 Psalms 89 and 103	237
Part II	
3.2.1 Psalms 91 and 90	242
3.2.2.1 Psalms 92 and 90	247
3.2.2.2 Psalms 92 and 91	249
3.2.3 Psalms 93 and 92	252
3.2.4.1 Psalms 94 and 92	255
3.2.4.2 Psalms 94 and 93	258
3.2.5 Psalms 95 and 94	262
3.2.6 Psalms 95 - 100	263
3.2.6.1 Psalms 95:1-5 and 96-97	266
3.2.6.2 Psalms 95:6-11 and 98-99	271
3.2.6.3 Psalms 96-97 and 98-99	277
3.2.6.3.1 Psalms 96 and 97	281
3.2.6.3.2 Psalms 98 and 99	282
3.2.6.4 Psalms 100 and 95-99	285
3.2.7 Psalms 101 and 100	287
3.2.8 Psalms 102 and 101	289

3.2.9 Psalms 103 and 102	290
3.2.10 Psalms 104 and 103	295
3.2.11 Psalms 105 and 104	301
3.2.12 Psalms 106 and 105	305
 Part III	
3.3.1 Psalms 90-91 and 102-103	311
3.3.1.1 Psalms 90 and 102	311
3.3.1.2 Psalms 90 and 103	315
3.3.1.3 Psalms 91 and 103	318
3.3.2 Psalms 92-93 and 104	324
3.3.2.1 Psalms 92 and 104	324
3.3.2.2 Psalms 93 and 104	328
3.3.3 Psalms 94 and 101	331
3.3.4 Psalms 95-100 and 105-106	335
3.3.4.1 Psalms 95 and 105	336
3.3.4.2 Psalms 95 and 106	339
3.3.4.3 Psalms 96 and 105	342
3.3.4.4 Psalms 96 and 106	345
3.3.4.5 Psalms 97 and 105	348
3.3.4.6 Psalms 97 and 106	352
3.3.4.7 Psalms 98 and 105	356
3.3.4.8 Psalms 98 and 106	359
3.3.4.9 Psalms 99 and 105	364
3.3.4.10 Psalms 99 and 106	367
 Chapter IV	
A. Introduction	371
 Part I	
4.1 Psalms 89 and 90-103	371
4.1.1 Psalms 89 and 90	372
4.1.2 Psalms 89 and 91	373
4.1.3 Psalms 89 and 92	374
4.1.4 Psalms 89 and 93	375



4.1.5 Psalms 89 and 94	376
4.1.6 Psalms 89 and 95	376
4.1.7 Psalms 89 and 96	377
4.1.8 Psalms 89 and 97	377
4.1.9 Psalms 89 and 98	378
4.1.10 Psalms 89 and 99	378
4.1.11 Psalms 89 and 100	379
4.1.12 Psalms 89 and 95-100	379
4.1.13 Psalms 89 and 101	379
4.1.14 Psalms 89 and 102	380
4.1.15 Psalms 89 and 103	381

## Part II

4.2 Psalms 90-106	381
4.2.1 Psalms 91 and 90	382
4.2.2.1 Psalms 92 and 90	383
4.2.2.2 Psalms 92 and 91	383
4.2.3 Psalms 93 and 92	385
4.2.4.1 Psalms 94 and 92	386
4.2.4.2 Psalms 94 and 93	386
4.2.5 Psalms 95 and 94	387
4.2.6 Psalms 95-100	392
4.2.7 Psalms 101 and 100	392
4.2.8 Psalms 102 and 101	392
4.2.9 Psalms 103 and 102	393
4.2.10 Psalms 104 and 103	394
4.2.11 Psalms 105 and 104	395
4.2.12 Psalms 106 and 105	395

## Part III

4.3 Cross-structural units	396
4.3.1 Psalms 90-91 and 102-103	396
4.3.1.1 Psalms 90 and 102	396
4.3.1.2 Psalms 90 and 103	397
4.3.1.3 Psalms 91 and 103	397
4.3.2 Psalms 92-93 and 104	398



4.3.2.1 Psalms 92 and 104	398
4.3.2.2 Psalms 93 and 104	399
4.3.3 Psalms 94 and 101	400
4.3.4 Psalms 95-99 and 105-106	401
4.3.4.1 Psalms 95:1-5 and 105	401
4.3.4.2 Psalms 95:7c-11 and 106	402
4.3.4.3 Psalms 96 and 105	402
4.3.4.4 Psalms 97 and 105	402
4.3.4.5 Psalms 98 and 106	403
4.3.4.6 Psalms 99 and 106	404
4.3.4.7 Yahweh-kingship psalms and Psalms 105-106	404
4.3.5 Conclusion	408
Summary	418
Bibliography	422

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## Summary

### The Structure and Coherence of Psalms 89-106

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The aim of the present study is to investigate the structure and coherence of the psalms in Book IV of the Psalter in order to better our understanding of the present shape of the book.

Chapter I deals with general overviews necessary in any dissertation, and Chapter II is devoted to the analysis of the texts in Book IV of the psalms by means of the text-immanent method of exegesis. Chapter III provides lexical, thematic and structural analyses of psalms with a view to discovering connections between Psalm 89 and each of Psalms 90-103 and between adjacent psalms in Book IV (90-106); as well as to discover cross-structural units within Psalms 90-106. The evidence points to links between Psalm 89 and Psalms 90-103 which make it possible to read the latter psalms as part of the same thought process as that reflected in Psalm 89. The investigation aimed at establishing connections between adjacent psalms in Book IV indicates that there are close connections between them, which suggest that the whole of Book IV forms a coherent structure

which can be divided into two large sections (90-100 and 102-106). Special attention is paid to the group of Psalms 95-100. It is argued that Psalm 95:1-5 serve as an introduction to Psalms 96-97, while Psalm 95:6-11 function as an introduction to Psalms 98-99. Psalms 95-99 can be classified into two different perspectives: Yahweh as the king of nations and Yahweh as the king of Israel.

Concerning the analyses of the cross-structural units, there are three small units within the two large sections: 90-91 and 102-103; 92-93 and 104; 95-100 and 105-106, while the unit formed by Psalms 94 and 101 is regarded as unusual.

The relationship between Psalms 95-99 and 105-106 is explored in considerable detail by means of close analyses. The evidence is: Psalms 95:1-5 and 96-97 have much stronger connections with Psalm 105 than does Psalm 106, while Psalms 95:7c-11 and 98-99 have more affinities with Psalm 106 than does Psalm 105. In conclusion, it was found that Book IV can be read as one coherent text which reflects the situations of the exilic or post-exilic period.

## Opsomming

Die struktuur en samehang van Psalms 89-106

deur

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Die doel van hierdie studie was om die struktuur en samehang van die psalms in Boek IV van die Psalms te ondersoek ten einde die verstaan van die huidige vorm van die boek te bevorder.

Hoofstuk I bevat algemene oorsigte soos benodig in enige proefskrif. Hoofstuk II word gewy aan die analise van die tekste in Boek IV van die Psalms deur middel van die teks-immanente metode van eksegeese. Hoofstuk III bevat leksikale, tematiese en strukturele analises van psalms wat gedoen is om verbande tussen Psalm 89 en elkeen van die psalms in die groep Psalms 90-103 bloot te lê, asook tussen naasliggende psalms in Boek IV (90-106) en om kruis-strukturele eenhede in Psalms 90-106 uit te wys. Die getuienis dui op verbande tussen Psalm 89 en Psalms 90-103 wat dit moontlik maak om laasgenoemde groep psalms as deel van dieselfde gedagtegang te lees wat in Psalm 89 gereflekteer word. Die ondersoek wat gemik was daarop om verbande tussen naasliggende psalms in Boek IV vas te stel, dui

daarop dat daar hegte verbintenisse tussen hulle is. Dit dui daarop dat die hele Boek IV'n samehangende geheel vorm wat in twee groot dele verdeel kan word (90-100 en 102-106). Spesiale aandag word geskenk aan die groep psalms 95-100. Dit word aangevoer dat Psalm 95:1-5 as inleiding tot Psalms 96-97 dien, terwyl Psalm 95:6-11 as inleiding dien tot Psalms 98-99. Psalms 95-99 kan volgens perspektief in twee groepe gedeel word: Jahwe as die koning van alle volke en Jahwe as die koning van Israel.

Betreffende die analyses van die kruis-strukturele eenhede, is drie kleiner eenhede binne die twee groot eenhede gevind: 90-91 en 102-103; 92-93 en 104; 95-100 en 105-106, terwyl die eenheid wat deur Psalms 94 en 101 gevorm word, buitengewoon is.

Die verband tussen Psalms 95-99 en 105 word in groot besonderhede nagevors deur middel van detailanalises. Die getuienis toon dat Psalms 95:1-5 en 96-97 baie sterker bande met Psalm 105 het as met Psalm 106, terwyl Psalms 95:7c-11 en 98-99 nouer bande met Psalm 106 het as met Psalm 105. Ten slotte: Dit is bevind dat Boek IV as een groot samehangende teks gelees kan word wat die situasies van die eksiliese of post-eksiliese periode reflekteer.