

Psalm 116

Outline (skeleton outline from Anderson, Out of the Depths, p. 108f.)

- I. [Introduction] (1-2)
 - A. [Proclamation of praise] (1a)
 - I love [the LORD] (1a)
 - B. [Summary of reason] (1b-2)
 - 1. Because Yahweh heard my voice; (1b)
 - 2. [He heard] my supplication for mercy. (1c)
 - 3. Because He inclined His ear to me, (2a)
 - 4. And I will call out [to Him] in all my days. (2b)
- II. [Retrospect] (3-9)
 - A. [Past experience] (3-4)
 - 1. [Report of need] (3)
 - a) Cords of death encompass me, (3a)
 - b) the distresses of Sheol found me; (3b)
 - c) I found trouble and distress/sorrow. (3c)
 - 2. [Report of petition] (4)
 - a) And I will call on the Name of Yahweh¹ (4a)
 - b) “O Yahweh, save/deliver my soul!” (4b)
 - B. [Trust in God] (5-7)
 - 1. [Testimony] (5-6a)
 - a) Yahweh is gracious and righteous; (5a)
 - b) And our God is compassionate. (5b)
 - c) Yahweh is guarding the simple-minded; (6a)
 - 2. [Report of rescue] (6b-c)
 - a) I was low (6b)
 - b) And He saved me (6c)
 - 3. [Testimony] (7)
 - a) Return, O my soul, to your resting place (7a)
 - b) Because Yahweh has dealt bountifully with you. (7b)
 - C. [Divine answer] (8-9)
 - 1. [Summary of reason] (8)
 - a) Because You rescued my soul from death, (8a)
 - b) [You rescued] my eyes from tears, (8b)
 - c) [You rescued] my feet from stumbling, (8c)
 - 2. [Response] (9)
 - a) I will walk before Yahweh in the land of the living. (9)

¹ cf. v. 13b, 17b

- III. [Conclusion- vow to praise] (10-19)
- A. [Report of need] (10-11)
1. I believed, therefore I was saying, (10a)
 2. “I am very bowed down/afflicted²,” (10b)
 3. In my dismay/alarm³ I myself⁴ said, (11a)
 4. “All men are liars/lying.” (11b)
- B. [Vow to praise] (12-14)
1. [Question] (12)
 - a) How can I bring back/return/repay to Yahweh (12a)
 - b) [for] all His goodness/benefits to me? (12b)
 2. [Answer] (13-14)
 - a) I will lift up the cup of salvation (13a)
 - b) and I will cry out in/to the Name of Yahweh⁵ (13b)
 - c) I will fulfill my vows to Yahweh (14a)
 - d) in the presence of all His people⁶. (14b)
- C. [Testimony] (15-16a)
1. Precious in the eyes of Yahweh is the death of His pious ones. (15)
 2. O Yahweh, for I am Your servant; (16a)
- D. [Expression of thanks and praise] (16b-d)
1. I am Your servant, (16b)
 2. the son of Your maidservant; (16c)
 3. You have freed me from my bonds (16d)
- E. [Vow to praise] (17-19b)
1. I will sacrifice a sacrifice of thanksgiving (17a)
 2. and cry out in/to the Name of Yahweh⁷. (17b)
 3. I will fulfill my vows to Yahweh (18a)
 4. in the presence of all His people⁸, (18b)
 5. in the courts of the house of Yahweh (19a)
 6. in Your midst, O Jerusalem. (19b)
- IV. Praise Yahweh. (19c)

² K-B suggests reading as Pual ‘I was afflicted’.

³ Temporal ‘when I was alarmed’.

⁴ The “I” is emphatic, “I myself”

⁵ cf. v. 4a, 17b

⁶ cf. v. 18b

⁷ cf. v. 4a, 13b

⁸ cf. v. 14b