

Psalm 21 Structural, Rhetorical & Literary Features

Geoffrey R. Kirkland

I. MAJOR INCLUSIO OF THE PSALM:

A **Rejoice** in God's **Strength** (1)

B Positive Example: *God Blesses the Godly* (2-6)

C Affirmation of Trust in God's Covenant-Love (7)

B` Negative Example: *God Curses the Wicked* (8-12)

A` **Rejoice** in God's **Strength** (13)

II. SPEAKERS IN THE PSALM

A The King Speaks *TO God* (1-6)

B The King Speaks *ABOUT God* (7)

A` The King Speaks *TO God* (8-12)

Conclusion: The Congregation Speaks *TO God* (13)

III. VERBAL FORMS IN THE PSALM (STRUCTURE)

A. Imperfect (imperfective aspect) (1)

B. Perfect (perfective aspect) (2-4)

C. Imperfect (imperfective) (5-6)

D. **Participle (durative/continuous)*** (7)

C. Imperfect (imperfective) (8-10, 12)

B` Perfect (perfective aspect) (11)

A` Imperfect (cohortative; imperfective aspect) (13)

IV. TEMPORAL ELEMENTS & FLOW IN THE PSALM

Overview of Joy in God's Strength (1)

Past - God gave deliverance in war (2-6)

Present - The King **is trusting** in Yahweh & in His Covenant-Love (7)

Future - God will find, judge & destroy all His enemies (8-12)

Conclusion of Joy in God's Strength (13)

V. THEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS & PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

1. When God gives deliverance, do NOT forget to thank, praise & worship Him!

2. Every blessing ultimately comes down from the gracious hand of God.

3. After victory, we must affirm our resilient & consistent trust in Yahweh & rely on His loyal love.

4. All God's enemies — that is, those who hate Him — will inevitably, ultimately & eternally be judged by God Himself.

5. God's people must rejoice in *God's* strength — never their own human and feeble powers.

6. God's strength and deliverance must prompt shouts of praise and joyful shouts from the lips of His people.