

Psalm 1 Outline

- I. (The two ways)
 - a. Blessed¹ is the man who...
 - i. (what he does)
 - 1. (negatively)
 - a. Does not walk in the plan of the guilty ones
 - b. And does not stand in the conduct of the sinful ones
 - c. And does not sit in the dwelling place of rebellious ones
 - 2. (positively) but rather
 - a. The instruction (Torah)² of Yahweh is a delight³ to him
 - b. And in His instruction he meditates⁴ night and day
 - ii. (the result)
 - 1. He will be like a tree transplanted by canals of water⁵
 - 2. which
 - a. it will give its fruit in its time
 - b. and its leaves will not wither
 - c. and all which he will do will succeed
 - b. Not so the Wicked
 - i. But rather like chaff⁶ which the wind drives it away
 - ii. (their result)⁷
 - 1. the guilty ones will not stand in the judgment
 - 2. and the sinners in the assembly of the righteous
- II. (The end of the two ways)
 - a. (For the righteous) For Yahweh knows⁸ the way of the righteous one
 - b. (For the wicked) But the way of the guilty ones will perish.⁹

¹ Blessed means more than just happy, but rather a deeply rewarding, prosperous life, with a depth and longevity to the prosperity.

² The books of Moses and probably also wider instruction from Scripture and received tradition and immediate communication.

³ He sees it as a delight, contrast a burden that it is often thought to be. It is a liberating thing, teaching him to live a truly fulfilled life.

⁴ He internalizes Torah, so that it can be automatically lived out. It has to be imprinted on the mind and emotions, to become an automatic part of the thinking and willing and doing. Cf. Ps 2:1; 19:14; 38:28; 71:24; 63:6; 77:12; 143:5.

⁵ Symbolic of solidity, firmness, ability to withstand trouble, symbolized by the withering of drought, on the contrary, he is fruitful and prosperous.

⁶ Symbolic of insubstantiality and emptiness. There is nothing in their lives of enough weight to keep them from being blown away in a storm. Picture of the winnowing process where the plant is thrown in the air and the heavier grain falls back to the ground while the lighter stalk blows away in the wind.

⁷ The ironic opposite of verse 1 where the righteous is seen as a minority excluded or tempted by the majority of the wicked. In this case, the wicked is excluded from the assembly of the righteous which is the only assembly that endures.

⁸ An intimate experiential knowledge. God is involved in the way of righteousness.

⁹ The opposite of being acknowledged by God. "These are people who say to God (in the words of Job 21:13) 'Depart from us! We do not desire knowledge of thy ways.' God, correspondingly, pays no attention to their way, but allows them to walk to their destruction." Provan 129.

Psalm 1 (Hebrew is read right to left)

הַאִישׁ 1 א
 msa mpc
 the man blessedness of

רְשָׁעִים בְּעֵצַת הַלֵּךְ אֲשֶׁר לֹא b
 mpa fsc+ב /He walks/ed\ QPf3ms neg rel. part.
 the guilty ones in the plan, advice, counsel of walk, live religious life, conduct oneself not who
 c b a

עֹמֵד לֹא חַטָּאִים וּבְדַרְךְ
 QPf3ms neg mpa msc+ב+ו
 He stands/stood not sinful ones and in manner, custom, conduct of¹⁰
 a' b'

יֹשֵׁב לֹא לִצִּיִּם וּבְמוֹשָׁב
 QPf3ms neg mpa msc+ב+ו
 he sits/sat not rebels, scoffers and in seat, site, dwelling place of
 a" b"

כִּי אִם 2

two particles combine for one meaning
 but rather

חֲפָצוֹ יְהוָה בְּתוֹרַת -b
 msc+3ms D.N. fsc+ב
 delight, pleasure of him (is) Yahweh in law, Torah, instruction of
 b a

וּלְיַלָּה יוֹמָם יִהְיֶה וּבְתוֹרָתוֹ
 fsa+ו msa QIp3ms fsc+3ms+ב+ו
 and night day He (will) meditate/muse and in His Law/Torah
 c b' a

¹⁰ Cf. Psa. 26.

מֵיִם	פְּלִיגֵי	עַל-	כְּעֵץ שֶׁתּוֹל	וְהָיָה
mda	mpc	conj.	QPptcpms msa+כ	VCQIpf3ms
waters	channels, (artificial) canals of	by(proximity)	transplanted like a tree	and he is/will be
			d	c

בְּעֵתוֹ	יִתֵּן	פְּרִיֹו	אֲשֶׁר	e
fsc+3ms+כ	QIpf3ms	msc+3ms	rel.part.	
in his time	he will give	his fruit	which	
	b	a		

וְעֵלְהוּ	לֹא-	יִבּוֹל
QIpf3ms	neg.	mpc+3ms+ו
it will wither	not	and his leaves
-b		a'

וְכֹל	אֲשֶׁר-	יַעֲשֶׂה	יִצְלִיחַ
adj.+ו	rel.part.	QIpf3ms	HiphIpf3ms
and all	which	he will do	he/it will succeed
a"			b"

4 -A לֹא-כֵן הַרְשָׁעִים

mpa	conj.	neg.
the guilty ones	thus	not

כַּמִּיץ	כִּי אִם-
msa+כ	two particles with one meaning
like chaff	but rather
-c	

רוּחַ	אֲשֶׁר-	תְּדַפְּנוּ
fsa	QIpf3fs+3ms	rel.part.
wind	she drives it/him	which
	-d	

5 עַל-כֵּן

two particles with one meaning
therefore

בְּמִשְׁפֵּט	רְשָׁעִים	יִקְמוּ	לֹא-	-e
msa+ב+ב+מ	mpa	QIpf3mp	neg.	
in the legal decision, judgment	guilty ones	they will stand	not	
c	b	a		

צְדִיקִים	בְּעֵדָת	וְחַטָּאִים
mpa	fsc+ב	mpa+ו
the righteous ones	in the assembly of	and the sinners
d	c'	b'

צְדִיקִים	דֶּרֶךְ	יְהוָה	כִּי- יוֹדַע	6 B
mpa	msc	D.N.	QPtcpms	part.
righteous ones	way (moral action and character)	of Yahweh	(is) knowing	because
c	b		a	

תֵּאבֵד	רְשָׁעִים	וְדֶרֶךְ	-B
QIpf3fs	mpa	fsc+ו	
she will perish (judgment for sin) ¹¹	guilty ones	and way (moral action and character) of	
-a	-c	b	

¹¹ Cf. Matt. 7:23-24, Job 21:14.