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Thesis:  
Reading Psalm 93 in the Context of Book IV of the Psalter

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## Abstract

Canonical reading of the Psalms is a relatively new approach, so more research is needed to refine its methods and results. This paper is one such attempt. It tries to show what can be yielded by reading an individual psalm in the context of the psalmic Book to which it belongs. Psalm 93 is chosen as a test case to be read in the context of Book IV. The result will show that its placement and its correspondences with other psalms in Book IV can help readers to have a better understanding of the meaning and implications of this psalm and also its function in Book IV. This thesis first investigates the meanings of Psalm 93 by different approaches, including grammatical, form-critical, rhetorical and redactional readings. Then it probes the structure and message of Book IV. Book IV has three sections. The first (Pss 90-92, 94-95) and the third sections (Pss 102-106) are parallel, and the second section (Pss 93, 96-101) begins with Psalm 93. The parallel sections begin with psalms that display the suffering situation of the current generation (Pss 90, 102). They are followed by psalms with a divine solution to the problem (Pss 91, 103) and then by psalms consisting of human responses (Pss 92, 104). At the end of these parallel sections, we find pairs of psalms (Pss 94-95, 105-106) indicating to the readers what actions they should take in order to realize the ultimate solution of their problem. This solution lies in the realization of Yhwh's reign on earth, which is portrayed in the second section (Pss 93, 96-101). Lastly, the thesis will show the difference between reading Psalm 93 by itself and reading it in the context of Book IV.