

Psalm 5

¹Give ear to my words, O Lord;
consider my **groaning**.

²Give attention to the sound of my **cry**,
my King and my God,
for to you do I pray.

³O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice;
in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch.

⁴**For** you are not a God who delights in wickedness;
evil may not dwell with you.

⁵The boastful shall not stand before your eyes;
you hate all evildoers.

⁶You destroy those who speak lies;
the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.

⁷**But** I, through the abundance of your steadfast love,
will enter your house.

I will bow down toward your holy temple
in the fear of you.

⁸Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness
because of my enemies;
make your way straight before me.

⁹**For** there is no truth in their mouth;
their inmost self is destruction;
their throat is an open grave;
they flatter with their tongue.

¹⁰Make them bear their guilt, O God;
let them fall by their own counsels;
because of the abundance of their transgressions cast them out,
for they have rebelled against you.

¹¹**But** let all who take refuge in you **rejoice**;
let them ever sing for **joy**,
and spread your **protection** over them,
that those who love your name may **exult** in you.

¹²For you bless the righteous, O Lord;
you cover him with favor as with a shield.

Psalm 5 has...

1. ...a Counterintuitive Logic

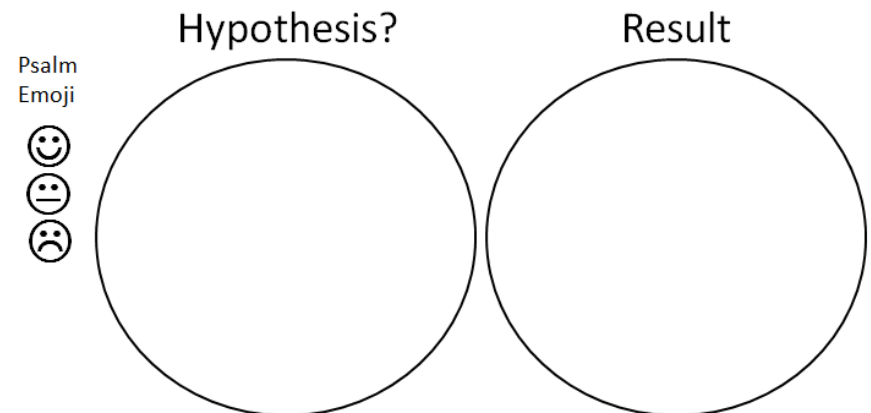
The world runs on *If*→*Then* logic,
which is relentless, unyielding, and contingent.
But Psalm 5 introduces *For*→*But* logic,
the disorienting and forgiving logic of prayer

For	⁴ Evil cannot dwell with you...	⁹ My enemies are powerful and ruthless...
But	... ⁷ I will enter your house	... ¹¹ there is joy and protection with YHWH.

2. ...a Fractal Form

The moods of Psalm 5 are a microcosm (a fractal) of the moods included in the Psalter.

Estimate the mood distribution of the Psalms:



The answer to the question, what is the primary mood of these "authorized sample prayers" is "yes." There are as many ways of talking to God as there are ways to be human.

Psalm Mood Map

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88
89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96
97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104
105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112
113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128
129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136
137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144
145	146	147	148	149	150		

			Elation+Despair				
			Both Intensely				
Despair	Anger	Sadness	Both	Gratitude	Joy	Elation	
			Serious/Calm				
			Existential				

Psalm Logic and the Fractal Mood Map



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