

## Daniel 2:20-23: Scansion with Notes on Text, Prosody, and Tropes

Like MT, but not always in accordance with it, words dominated by a single main stress are conjoined with a *maqeph* (ֿ).<sup>1</sup> Prosodic variants vis-à-vis MT are noted.

### Symbols

ֿ	A strophe made up of three lines, 1:(1:1) in structure
ֿ	
ֿ	ֿ concludes a strophe; ֿ a sub-stanza; ֿ a stanza; ֿ a section
2:(2:2)	A line consisting of three versets of two stress units each; the last two form a pair.
◦	Reference to a location within the text.
*	MT, if preserved, would violate the rule of twos and threes.
+m or -m	The addition or subtraction of a <i>maqeph</i> vis-à-vis MT.
vd, ld	Change in verset division, or line division, vis-à-vis MT.
s <sub>1</sub> d, s <sub>2</sub> d, or s <sub>3</sub> d	Change in strophe, stanza, or section division vis-à-vis MT.
cv טַעֲמָה	Change in vocalization vis-à-vis MT; MT following.
cj 4QIsa <sup>f</sup> ׀א	Conjecture based on witness; MT following.
◦ce ׀א	Conjectural emendation vis-à-vis MT; MT following.
4/9/24	A stanza consisting of 4 lines, 9 versets, and 24 stress units.
40/90/216 17/6/2/1	A poetic composition made up of 40 lines, 90 versets, and 216 stress units, with a total of 17 strophes, 6 stanzas, and 2 sections.
$p$ (or $h$ )=0.5 (20/40)	Cases of <i>ssm</i> (semantic-syntactic-morphological) <i>parallelism</i> (or <i>hypotaxis</i> ) per verset, averaged over 40 versets.
$a^1b^1;_jc^1d^1$ $_xc^2d^2;_xjb^2a^2$	The first line contains two pairs of two elements; enjambment occurs (hence the $_j$ ); the second line begins with a pair of elements in chiasmic <i>ssm</i> parallelism with the second pair of elements of the first line (hence the $_x$ ); it concludes with another pair of elements that match up with elements $a$ and $b$ in the first line, but in reverse order (hence the $_x$ ); enjambment occurs (hence the $_j$ ).
$a^1b^1c^1;_gb^2c^2$	The first verset's $a$ is not paralleled in the second, but is gapped (hence the $_g$ ); $b^2$ 's match with $b^1$ is concomitant with a mismatch in one or more fundamental <i>ssm</i> dimensions.

<sup>1</sup> For terms and abbreviations used here, see the supporting essays at [www.ancienthebrewpoetry.typepad.com](http://www.ancienthebrewpoetry.typepad.com). For a first orientation to the prosodic information encoded by the masoretic accents, see Bezalel Elan Dresher, "The Prosodic Basis of the Tiberian Hebrew System of Accents," *Language* 70 (1994) 1-52; "The Word in Tiberian Hebrew," in *The Nature of the Word: Essays in Honor of Paul Kiparsky* (ed. Kristin Hanson and Sharon Inkelas; Cambridge: MIT Press, in press); online: <http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/~dresher/tibhebrew.pdf>.

## דניאל ב 23-20

(2:3):2	$ab;cde:jf^1f^2$	add רבא 4QDan <sup>a</sup> * <sup>+</sup> m	לְהוֹא שְׁמָה דִּי־אַלְהָא רַבְּאָ מְבָרְךְ מִן־עֲלָמָא וְעַד־עֲלָמָא	20
<u>2:2</u>	$ab^1b^2;c^1cd$	<sup>+</sup> m <sup>+</sup> m <sup>°</sup> m רבא גבורתא	דִּי־חֲכַמְתָּא וְגַבּוּרְתָּא	21
2:2	$ab^1;c^1c^2$	3x דִּי רבא גבורתא	וְהוּא מְהַשְׁנָא	21
2:2	$a^1b^2:a^1b^3$	2x מְלָכִין b's and c's share $\sqrt{\downarrow}$	מְהַעֲדָה מְלָכִין	22
5/11/25	<u>3:3</u> $ab^1c^1;_g b^2c^2$	2x sg ptcpl 4x pl obj 6x חֲכַמְתָּא v20	וּמְנַדְעָא לִדְעֵי בִינָה	22
2:2	$ab^1;c^1c^2$	v21	עֲמִיקְתָּא וּמְסַתְרָתָא	23
<u>3:3</u>	$b^2c^3;_x c^4db^3$		וְנְהוּרָא עֲמָה שְׂרָא	23
3:3	$abc;_d^1d^2e$	v20 מְבָ מְהוּ" וּמְש" v20 "אַל" ר"א אַל" אַבְ"ִּ	מְהוּדָא וּמְשַׁבַּח אֲנָה	23
2:2	$x^1a^1a^2;_j b^1_2$	<sup>+</sup> m 3x חֲבָ" v21  יהב $\sqrt{\downarrow}$ לְ v20  דִּי־חֲבָ"ִ	יְהַבְתָּ לִּי	23
5/11/27	<u>(2:2):3</u> $yb^2;_j za^3;_2;_x x^2a^4;_2 b^3$	$\sqrt{\downarrow}$ ידע v21,22,23 5x 2x דִּי 3x	וּכְעַן הוּדְעַתְנִי דִּי־בְעֵינָא מְנַדְךְ	23
		$\sqrt{\downarrow}$ מלך v21 2x sfx+ הוּדְעַתְךָ 2x	דִּי־מְלַת מְלָכָא הוּדְעַתְנָא	23

10/22/52 4/2/1

 $p = 4 (86/22) \quad h = 0.3 (7.5/22)$ 

## Comparison with Previous Scansions

Previous scansions of Daniel 2:20-23 include those found in BHS, NJB, NRSV, NJPSV, NIV, and Collins (1993). The scansion I offer differs from the others in that (1) I mark the medial caesura in half-lines. The prosodic configuration of the whole thereby becomes evident. Tripartite 7 beat lines at the beginning and end of the poem frame a sequence of shorter 2:2 and 3:3 lines. (2) 2:2 units are consistently treated as prosodic equivalents of 3:3 units. They are treated as such in previous scansions, if at all, only if each subunit of 2 constitutes a discrete clause. As I argue in the introduction to this scansion, since the typology of enjambment in evidence across 2:2 units is indistinguishable from that in evidence across the more generally recognized 3:3 units, the prosodic equivalence of 2:2 and 3:3 units is plausible. (3) On the scansion I offer, the structural symmetry of the whole is evident. The poem's halves, 5 lines and 11 versets each, mirror each other chiastically: A<sup>1</sup>B<sup>1</sup>:B<sup>2</sup>A<sup>2</sup> (letters stand for strophes [=masoretic verses]). The 22 verset poem has an onion-like structure. The outermost peel consists of v20a + the last verset of v23; if pared more deeply, of vv20a and 23b-c; more deeply still, of vv20 and 23. The core consists of vv21-22, in structural counterpoint to the poem's bipartition into equal halves.

v20a: Bisection after מְבָרְךְ with MT and Collins; BHS, NJB before מְבָרְךְ; NRSV, NJPSV do not divide. Inclusion of רַבְּאָ with Collins.

vv20b, 21a, 22a, 23b: All others do not bisect.

v21b: Bisection with BHS, Collins; NJB, NRSV, and NJPSV do not divide.

v23a: Bisection with NRSV, NJPSV, Collins; BHS, NJB do not divide.

\*In my view, 4QDan<sup>a</sup> (cf. OG) [ונהי|רותא] 'and illumination' in v23b is preferable to the contextually infelicitous MT וגבורתא, which assimilates to the parallel phrase in v20b. On this hypothesis, an original ונהרותא was misread as וגבורתא. So far as I know, I am the first to propose this.