

Treasure Hunt

- What similarities link Psalm 17 with Psalm 22?
- What grammatical feature is the key to the structure of Psalm 17?
- What verse from the Law inspires the first set of requests?
- What earlier poems inspire the second set of requests?
- What two kinds of people does David compare, and what two kinds of requests does he make?
- What dimensions of ethical conduct does David use in this comparison? Can you give an example of conduct that might violate each of these?
- Where else are these dimensions mentioned?
- What is David's final contrast between the wicked and himself?

Chiasm in Psalms 15-24

Qualifications to dwell with God	15	24 (+ the King)	
Confidence	16 thou wilt show me the path of life	23 The Lord is my Shepherd	
Laments	17	22	
Thanksgiving	18 request + answer	20 (request) + 21 (answer)	
God's revelation	19 (cf. Psalms 15 and 24)		

Comparing Psalms 17 and 22

	Psalm 17	Psalm 22
God hears	1 Hear the right, O LORD, 6 for thou wilt hear me, O God:	21 for thou hast heard me 24 when he cried unto him, he heard .
Righteous	1 Hear the right , O LORD, 15 I will behold thy face in righteousness :	31 They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness
Abusive mouths	10 with their mouth they speak proudly.	13 They gaped upon me <i>with</i> their mouths ,
Surrounded	11 They have now compassed us in our steps:	12 Many bulls have compassed me: strong <i>bulls</i> of Bashan have beset me round.
Malevolent regard	11 they have set their eyes bowing down to the earth;	7 All they that see me laugh me to scorn:
Enemy as a lion	12 Like as a lion <i>that</i> is greedy of his prey , and as it were a young lion lurking in secret places.	13 They gaped upon me <i>with</i> their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion . 21 Save me from the lion's mouth:
Cry to the Lord קרא Strong 7121	6 I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God:	2 O my God, I cry in the daytime,
Wicked cast down כרע Strong 3766	13 Arise, O LORD, disappoint him, cast him down :	29 all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him:
Soul	13 deliver my soul from the wicked, <i>which is</i> by thy sword:	20 Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog.
God's face	15 As for me, I will behold thy face	24 neither hath he hid his face from him

Psalm 17: God hears the righteous and delivers from the wicked

1-6: God hears the **righteous**

1-2, **Request**: Hear me and Judge me

3-4, **Statement**: I am **righteous** (thought, speech, acts)

5-6, **Request**: Guide me and Hear me

7-14: God delivers from the **wicked**

7-9, **Request**: Keep me from the **wicked**

10-12, **Statement**: The thought, speech, acts of the **wicked**

13-14a, **Request**: Deliver me from the **wicked**

14b, **Statement**: The goal of the **wicked**

Statement: 15, David's **righteous** goal

Structure of Psalm 17

Deu 25:1 If there be a controversy between men, and they come unto judgment תשפט, that *the judges* may judge them; then they shall justify the **righteous**, and condemn the **wicked**.

Dimensions of Good Behavior

	Proverbs 4	Proverbs 6		Psalm 17	
Percep- tion	25 Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.	17 A proud look ,	and he that soweth discord among brethren.		11b they have set their eyes bowing down to the earth
Speech	24 Put away from thee a froward mouth , and perverse lips put far from thee.	a lying tongue ,	19 A false witness <i>that speaketh</i> lies,	3b my mouth shall not transgress.	10b with their mouth they speak proudly.
Actions	26 Ponder the path of thy feet , and let all thy ways be established. 27 Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.	and hands that shed innocent blood,	feet that be swift in running to mischief,	4 Concerning the works of men	11a They have now compassed us in our steps
Thoughts	23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it <i>are</i> the issues of life.	18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations,		3a Thou hast proved mine heart	10a They are inclosed in their own fat :

Mat 15:14 Let them alone: they be **blind** leaders of the blind. ... 19 For **out of the heart** proceed **evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies**: 20 These are *the things* which defile a man:

Mat 6:22 The light of the body is the **eye**: if therefore thine **eye** be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. 23 But if thine **eye** be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness.

Images of God's Care in vv. 7-8

Salvation by God's right hand:
the Song of Moses, Exodus 15

Exo 14:30 Thus the LORD **saved** Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore.

Exo 15:6 **Thy right hand**, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy. ... 12 Thou stretchedst out **thy right hand**, the earth swallowed them.

Moses' final exhortation,
Deuteronomy 32

Deu 32:10 He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him **as the apple of his eye**. 11 As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, **spreadeth abroad her wings**, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: 12 So the LORD alone did lead him, and *there was* no strange god with him.

Fat ~ Heart (v. 10)

Psa 119:70 Their heart is as fat as grease;
but I delight in thy law.

Isa 6:10 Make the heart of this people fat,
and make their ears heavy, and shut their
eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear
with their ears, and understand with their
heart, and convert, and be healed.

Relation between vv. 14 and 15

	The Wicked, v. 14	David, v. 15
Satisfaction (שבֵּעַ, Strong 7646)	they are full	I shall be satisfied
Temporal horizon	men of the world , <i>which have</i> their portion in <i>this</i> life	when I awake
Object of attention	whose belly thou fillest ... children	Thy face ... thy likeness

Summary: David prays for the Lord to judge and protect him from the wicked, based on the contrast between them in thought, word, and deed, but most of all in where they focus their attention.