

This work analyses the various lexical, thematic, and rhetorical links that span Book 2 (Ps 42–72) to undergird its organisation. A smooth transition across the inner seams of Book 2 consolidates its unity. David's life sheds light on the exilic debacle through the parallelism between Ps 42–49 and 51–72 where the latter interpret and refine the former. The penitential tone ensuing from Ps 50–51 bears upon Ps 52–72 which hence have a clear didactic function in relation to Ps 42–49, challenging the position taken in Ps 44. The *Jenseits* and *Diesseits* interpretations with which Ps 42–49 and 51–72 respectively conclude (and where the poor feature clearly) further develop the exilic underpinnings present in their initial laments. Unlike the royal Ps 45 which answers exilic concerns, Book 2 closes off with a royal psalm which focuses on the poor, that is, those whose situation is comparable to that of the exile.

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