

## Psalm 25

- 1 A "I lift up my soul unto them"  
2 B "Let not shame"  
3 C Treacherous shamed  
4-5a D Three petitions for guidance  
5b E Psalmist's salvation  
5c F "I wait"  
6 G.1 God's mercy  
7 G.2 God's goodness implored  
8-9 H God's instruction of the meek  
10a I God's faithfulness  
10b I' The faithful  
11 J "Pardon me"  
12-13 H' Instruction of God-fearers  
14-15 G.1' God's friendship and covenant  
16a G.2' "Have mercy"  
16b F' "I am desolate"  
17a E' Psalmist's troubles  
17b-19a D' Three petitions for salvation  
19b C' Psalmist's enemies  
20 B' "Let not shame"  
21 A' "I wait for thee"  
22 J' "Redeem Israel"

Such an elaborate arrangement could not have been accidental. Perhaps this was an aid to memory just as the acrostic feature was. But imagine the ingenuity of the poet who put this together with these (two features intermingled) and still produced such a meaningful psalm!

A third, less rigid device also marks this work. Many of the verses are linked by key words. A verse may pick up a word from its preceding verse and be connected to the following with yet a different word. This is how it works: Verses 1-2 are connected by the first person singular tes-

# PSALMS

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ROBERT ALDEN

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