Throughout the ages, understanding the functions of the verbal forms in Biblical Hebrew poetry has been a big challenge to Hebraists, exegetes and Bible translators. Most attempts to find an answer to the enigma of Hebrew poetry’s use of the verb focus on literary features of the poetic texts and on the rhetorical capabilities of the authors.

In this dissertation, Gino Kalkman proposes a new methodological paradigm in which the highest priority is assigned to a search for syntactic patterns attested within clauses and in sequences of clauses. Kalkman defines Biblical Hebrew’s verbal system as a system of clause relations, in which there is an interaction between the position of a verbal form within the clause, mechanisms of inheritance and blocking operating within broader clause chains, and the function of a clause within a specific domain of discourse. In this way, Kalkman shows that Biblical Hebrew poetry indeed does make use of a consistent set of grammatical rules in its choice for specific verbal forms.

The computer proves to be an indispensable research instrument when it comes to the identification and systematic analysis of syntactic patterns. Thus, significant insights are gained by numerous queries put to the linguistically analyzed database of the Eep Talstra Centre for Bible and Computer, VU University, Amsterdam. In addition, the author has developed a computer program that consistently applies the newly discovered set of grammatical rules to the book of Psalms. The results of these computational analyses can be found on the research project’s website [http://nbviewer.ipython.org/github/etbbc/Biblical_Hebrew_Analysis/blob/master/PhD/Introduction.ipynb](http://nbviewer.ipython.org/github/etbbc/Biblical_Hebrew_Analysis/blob/master/PhD/Introduction.ipynb), which also provides succinct descriptions of different parts of the theory formulated in this dissertation.
