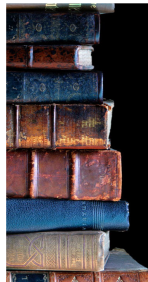


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The works of the LORD  
are great,  
Studied by all who  
have pleasure in them.

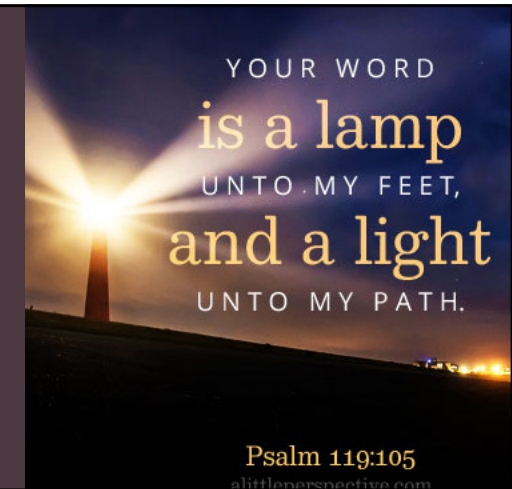
Psalm 111:2

## Survey of the Psalms

3

## Lesson 1: Psalm 119

Fall 2020



4

## Psalm 119

- Author unknown
- Is an acrostic poem with 22 stanzas
- Each stanza begins with a succeeding letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
- Each stanza has 8 verses made up of two lines.
- Each verse begins with the Hebrew letter of that stanza.

5

א אֲשֶׁרִי תַמִּימֵי־דֶרֶךְ הַהֲלָכִים בְּתוֹרַת יְהוָה:  
אֲשֶׁרִי נִצְרִי עֲדָתִיו בְּכָל־לֵב יִדְרְשׁוּהוּ:  
אֵף לֹא־פָעַלְוּ עוֹלָה בְּדַרְכָּיו הַלָּכֹו:  
אֵתָה צוֹיְתָה פִקְדֵיךָ לִשְׁמֹר מֵאֵד:  
אֲחִלִּי יִכְנוּ דַרְכִּי לִשְׁמֹר חֻקֶּיךָ:  
אֲז לֹא־אֲבוֹשׁ בְּהִבִּטִּי אֶל־כָּל־מִצְוֹתֶיךָ:  
אֲזֹדֵךְ בִּישָׁר לִבִּי בְלִמְדֵי מִשְׁפָּטֶי צִדְקָךָ:  
אֲת־חֻקֶּיךָ אֲשֹׁמֵר אֶל־תַּעֲזֹבֵנִי עַד־מָאֵד:

Psalm  
119:1-8  
in Hebrew,  
first letter  
highlighted

6

## Psalm 119:1-8

אשרי תמימי־דרך החלכים בתורת יהוה: YHWH TORAH	1	Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to <b>Yahweh's law</b> .
אשרי נצרי עֲדָתָיו בכלֵּב יִרְשׁוּהוּ: EDAH	2	Blessed are those who keep his <b>statutes</b> , who seek him with their whole heart.
אף לאֲפֹעֵלוּ עוֹלָה בְּדַרְכָּיו הַלְכוּ: DEREK	3	Yes, they do nothing wrong. They walk in his <b>ways</b> .
אִתָּה צִוִּיתָה פְּקֻדֶּיךָ לְשֹׁמֵר מֵאֵד: PIQQUWD	4	You have commanded your <b>precepts</b> , that we should fully obey them.
אֲחֵלִי יִכְנוּ דְרָכִי לְשֹׁמֵר חֻקֶּיךָ: CHOQ	5	Oh that my ways were steadfast to obey your <b>statutes</b> !
אִזְלָאֲבוֹשׁ בְּהִבִּיטִי אֶל־כָּל־מִצְוֹתֶיךָ: MITZVAH	6	Then I wouldn't be disappointed, when I consider all of your <b>commandments</b> .
אֲוֹדֶךָ בִּישׁר לִבִּי בְלִמְדֵי מִשְׁפָּטֶיךָ: MISHPAT	7	I will give thanks to you with uprightness of heart, when I learn your righteous <b>judgments</b> .
אֲתַחֲזִיק אֶשְׁמֹר אֶל־תַּעֲזָבֹנִי עַד־מָאֵד: CHOQ	8	I will observe your <b>statutes</b> . Don't utterly forsake me.

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Psalm 119:122 – only verse without  
a reference to God's Word

אֲנִי עָשִׂיתִי מִשְׁפָּט וְצֶדֶק בְּלִמְנוּחַי לְעֹשֵׂקָי: MISHPAT	121	I have done what is <b>just</b> and righteous. Don't leave me to my oppressors.
עֲרֹב עַבְדְּךָ לְטוֹב אֵלֶי־עֹשֵׂקָי וְיִים: CHOQ	122	Ensure your servant's well-being. Don't let the proud oppress me.
עֵינַי כָּלוּ לִישׁוּעָתְךָ וְלִמְנוּחַ צִדְקָתְךָ: IMRAH	123	My eyes fail looking for your salvation, for your righteous <b>word</b> .
עֲשֵׂה עִם־עַבְדְּךָ כְּחַסְדְּךָ וְכַדְּמִי לִפְדּוֹנִי: CHOQ	124	Deal with your servant according to your loving kindness. Teach me your <b>statutes</b> .
עֲבֹדְךָ־אֲנִי הִבִּינִי וְאַדְעָה עֲדָתְךָ: EDAH	125	I am your servant. Give me understanding, that I may know your <b>testimonies</b> .
עַתָּה לְעִשׂוֹת לִיתוּהָ הִפְרוּ תוֹרַתְךָ: TORAH YHWH	126	It is time to act, <b>Yahweh</b> , for they break your <b>law</b> .
עֲלֶכָּן אֶהְבֵּתִי מִצְוֹתֶיךָ מִזָּהָב וּמֶנֶף: MITZVAH	127	Therefore I love your <b>commandments</b> more than gold, yes, more than pure gold.
עֲלֶכָּן אֶלְפָקְדֶיךָ כֹּל יְשׁוּעָתִי בְּלֹא־חַסֵּד שִׁקְרֵי שְׁנֵאוֹתִי: PIQQUWD	128	Therefore I consider all of your <b>precepts</b> to be right. I hate every false way.

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Hebrew words  
referring to  
the Word of  
God in Psalm  
119:

- **The Law:** TORAH = instruction, teaching
- **Commandment:** MITZVAH = a command of God, has authority
- **Word:** DABAR = words, sayings, talking; used of the 10 commandments
- **Ordinance/Judgment:** MISHPAT = something to which penalties were attached; judicial pronouncements of the Law.

9

Hebrew words  
referring to  
the Word of  
God in Psalm  
119:

- **Statute:** CHOQ = something decreed, fixed and determined; emphasizes the binding nature; the written word of God and the authority of His written word.
- **Precepts:** PIQQUDIM = always used in the plural and only used in Psalms; responsibilities that God entrusted to man.
- **Testimony:** EDAH = solemn warning; to affirm; to bear witness
- **Word, Promise, Oracle:** IMRAH = what is spoken, synonym for DABAR, used primarily in the Psalms.

10

## Psalm 119:49-56 "JEHOVAH"

זָכַרְכָּר לַעֲבֹדְךָ עַל אֲשֶׁר יִחְלֹתֵנִי: DABAR	49 Remember your <b>word</b> to your servant, because you gave me hope.
זֹאת נִחְמוֹתִי בְעֲנִי כִי אִמְרֹתֶיךָ חִיֵּיתֵנִי: IMRAH	50 This is my comfort in my affliction, for your <b>word</b> has revived me.
יָדַי הִלִּיצְנִי עֲדֹמָדָר מִתּוֹרֹתֶיךָ לֹא נָטִיתִי: TORAH	51 The arrogant mock me excessively, but I don't swerve from your <b>law</b> .
יִזְכְּרֵנִי מִשְׁפָּטֶיךָ מֵעוֹלָם יְיָהוָה וְאַתָּה נִחְמוֹתִי: YHWH	52 I remember your <b>ordinances</b> of old, <b>Yahweh</b> , and have comforted myself.
יִלְעָפָה אַתְּמוֹתֵנִי מִרְשָׁעִים עֹזְבֵי תּוֹרֹתֶיךָ: TORAH	53 Indignation has taken hold on me, because of the wicked who forsake your <b>law</b> .
יִמְרוֹת הַיּוֹלֵי חֻקֶּיךָ בְּבֵית מְגוּרֵי: CHOQ	54 Your <b>statutes</b> have been my songs, in the house where I live.
יִזְכְּרֵנִי בְלַיְלָה שְׁמֶךָ יְיָהוָה וְאַתָּה נִחְמוֹתִי: TORAH	55 I have remembered your name, <b>Yahweh</b> , in the night, and I obey your <b>law</b> .
זֹאת הִיְתְהַלְכִי כִּי פִקְדוֹתֶיךָ נִצְרָתִי: PIQQUD	56 This is my way, that I keep your <b>precepts</b> .

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## Psalm 119:115 "ELOHIYM"

סָעִפִּים שְׂנֵאתִי וְתוֹרֹתֶיךָ אֶהְבֵּיתִי: TORAH	113 I hate double-minded men, but I love your <b>law</b> .
סְתֵרִי וּמִגְנִי אַתָּה לְדַבְּרְךָ יִחְלֹתִי: DABAR	114 You are my hiding place and my shield. I hope in your <b>word</b> .
סְוֹרֹמָמֵנִי מִצִּדָּה מִצִּדּוֹת אֱלֹהִים: ELOHIYM MITSVAH	115 Depart from me, you evildoers, that I may keep the <b>commandments</b> of my <b>God</b> .
סִמְכֵנִי כְאִמְרֹתֶיךָ וְאַחִיָּה וְאַלֹתֵיבִישֵׁנִי מִשְׁבְּרִי: IMRAH	116 Uphold me according to your <b>word</b> , that I may live. Let me not be ashamed of my hope.
סִעֲדֵנִי וְאַשְׁעֵה וְאַשְׁעֵה בְּחֻקֶּיךָ תָּמִיד: CHOQ	117 Hold me up, and I will be safe, and will have respect for your <b>statutes</b> continually.
סָלִיתָ כָּל־שׁוֹגִים מִחֻקֶּיךָ כִּישְׁקֵר תִּרְמִיתָם: CHOQ	118 You reject all those who stray from your <b>statutes</b> , for their deceit is in vain.
סָגִים הַשְׁבַּתָּ כָּל־רְשָׁעֵי־אֶרֶץ לֹכֵן אֶהְבֵּיתִי עֲדֵיתֶיךָ: EDAH	119 You put away all the wicked of the earth like dross. Therefore I love your <b>testimonies</b> .
סָמַר מִפְּחָדֶךָ בָּשָׂרִי וּמִשְׁפָּטֶיךָ יִרְאֵתִי: MISHPAT	120 My flesh trembles for fear of you. I am afraid of your <b>judgments</b> .

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Focus for today:

Psalm 119:81-112

13

Use of Hebrew word "KALAH:"

- Vs. 81 "My soul **languishes** for Your salvation..."
- Vs. 82 "My eyes **fail** with longing for Your word..."
- Vs. 87 "They almost **destroyed** me on earth..."

Repetition of the same word emphasizes his grief and his need for God's deliverance.

14

“Forever, O LORD,  
Your Word is settled  
in heaven.”

Psalm 119:89

15

**“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable** for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness.” II Timothy 3:16

“For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the **living and enduring Word of God**....The grass withers, and the flower falls off, but **the Word of the LORD endures forever.**” I Peter 1:23-25 (quoting Is 40:8)

16

“By meditation [on God’s Word] we preach to ourselves, and so **we come to understand more than our teachers, for we come to understand our hearts,** which they cannot.” Matthew Henry

17

#### Lessons from Psalm 119:

1. God’s Word is reliable, authoritative, the only rule of faith and practice. Ps 119:89, 142, 160
2. Knowing God’s Word takes commitment and effort. Ps 119:15-16, 44; 55-56
3. Learning God’s Word should be more than a duty, but a delight. Ps 119:47, 111
4. Focusing on God’s Word will put the rest of the world in the right perspective. Ps 119:93, 96, 98-100, 104
5. We can ask for the Lord’s help in understanding His Word. Ps 119:18, 26, 34-38

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