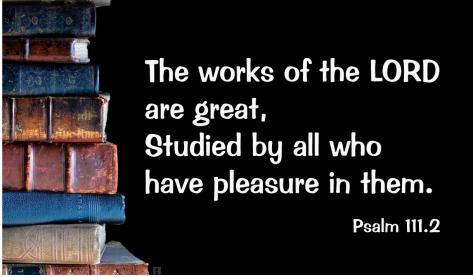


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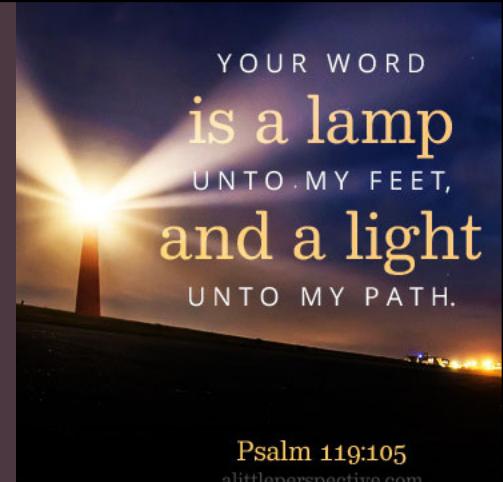


Survey of the Psalms

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 אָשְׁר תִּמְימִידֶךָ פְּהָלִים בְּתוֹרַת יְהֻנָּה:
אָשְׁר נִצְרִי עַדְתִּי בְּכָל-לֵב יְדָרְשָׁהוּ:
אָף לְאָפָעַלְוִי עֹלֶה בְּדָרְכֵי הַלְּכָה:
אָפָה צִוְמָה פְּקָדֵיךְ לְשָׁמֵר מָאָדָה:
אָחָלִי יְכָנוּ דָרְכֵיכְיָה לְשָׁמֵר חֲקִיבָה:
אָז לְאָבָאָשׁ בְּהַבִּיטִי אֶל-כָל-מִצְוָהִים:
אָזְדָה בִּישָר לְכָב בְּלִמְדִי מִשְׁפָטִי צְדָקָה:
אָתִיחָקִים אֲשָׁמָר אֶל-פְּעַזְבָּנִי עַד-מָאָדָה:

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

6

Psalm 119:1-8

N 1 ALEPH

בָּרוּךְ הַלְּכִים בְּתוֹרַת יְהוָה:
YHWH TORAH

אָשָׁר-תֵּלְךְ יְהוָה נִצְרָא עֲדָנָיו בְּכָל-לְבָב יְהוָה:
EDAH

אָשָׁר-נִצְרָא עֲדָנָיו בְּכָל-לְבָב יְהוָה:
DEREK

אָף לֹא-פָגַל צוֹלָה בְּדֶרֶךְ קָלָב:
PIQQUDIM

אָפָה צוֹתָה לְשָׁמֶר מָאָד:
CHOQ

אָמְלִי יְפַנֵּוּ דָּקִי לְשָׁמֶר חִקָּה:
MITZVAH

אָז לֹא-בָאֵש בְּקָבִיטִי אַלְפָלְמָצּוּתִי:
MISHPAT

אָזְדָּקָה אֲשֶׁר אָשְׁמָר אַל-תַּעֲזַבְנִי עַד-קָאָד:
CHOQ

1 Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,
who walk according to **Yahweh's law**.
2 Blessed are those who keep his **statutes**,
who seek him with their whole heart.
3 Yes, they do nothing wrong.
They walk in his **ways**.
4 You have commanded your **precepts**,
that we should fully obey them.
5 Oh that my ways were steadfast
to obey your **statutes**!
6 Then I wouldn't be disappointed,
when I consider all of your **commandments**.
7 I will give thanks to you with uprightness of heart,
when I learn your righteous **judgments**.
8 I will observe your **statutes**.
Don't utterly forsake me.

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7

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

ע 16 AYIN

עֲשִׂיתִי מִשְׁפָט בְּצָדָקָה בְּלִגְמָנִיתִי לִלְשָׁנִי:
MISHPAT

עֲבָר עֲזֹז לְטוֹב אַלְיאַשְׁנִי זָוָם:
IMRAH

עַזְיָה קָלָי לִשְׁוֹצָה וְעַזְיָה לְקָוָנָה:
CHOQ

עַשְׂה עַלְפָגָדָה כְּסָפָדָה וְעַזְיָה לְקָוָנָה:
EDAH

עַזְבָּחָאָנִי הַבְּנִינִי אַזְרָחָא יְתָרָחָה:
MITZVAH

עַזְבָּתִלְתִּשְׁלַח לְתוֹרָה YHWH:
PIQQUDIM

עַלְפָן אַתְּבָנִי מַתְּחָרְךָ מַתְּחָרְךָ:
CHOQ

עַלְפָן אַלְפָקָוִי כָּל שְׁרָמִי כָּל אַלְפָקָוִי שְׁקָר שְׁנָאָתִי:
PIQQUDIM

121 I have done what is **just** and **righteous**.
Don't leave me to my oppressors.
122 Ensure your servant's well-being.
Don't let the proud oppress me.
123 My eyes fail looking for your salvation,
for your **righteous word**.
124 Deal with your servant according to your loving
kindness. Teach me your **statutes**.
125 I am your servant. Give me understanding,
that I may know your **testimonies**.
126 It is time to act, **Yahweh**,
for they break your **law**.
127 Therefore I love your **commandments** more than
gold, yes, more than pure gold.
128 Therefore I consider all of your **precepts** to be right.
I hate every false way.

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8

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”

ז ZAYIN 49 Remember your **word** to your servant, because you gave me hope.

אַתָּה נַחֲמָתִי בְּנֵי כִּי סִדְרָךְ חִינְנָה:
DABAR IMRAH

50 This is my comfort in my affliction, for your **word** has revived me.

בָּוּם הַלְּיָנוּ עַדְגָּד מִתְּוֹרָה אֲלֹת בְּנֵי:
TORAH

51 The arrogant mock me excessively, but I don't swerve from your **law**.

צְרָפִי מִשְׁפָטִי מִלְּוָמִים | יְהָוָה וְנָגְנָה:
YHWH MISHPAT

52 I remember your **ordinances** of old, **Yahweh**, and have comforted myself.

53 Indignation has taken hold on me, because of the wicked who forsake your **law**.

לְלִפְפָה אָקְוָנִי מִרְשָׁעִים צָבִי תּוֹרָה:
TORAH

54 Your **statutes** have been my songs, in the house where I live.

צְמָרוֹת נְוִילִי חֶקְקִי בְּבֵית מִנְנָה:
CHOQ

55 I have remembered your name, **Yahweh**, in the night, and I obey your **law**.

אָתָּה קִיְּתָלִי כִּי סִדְרָךְ נְצָרָה:
YHWH PIQQUWD

56 This is my way, that I keep your **precepts**.

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11

Focus for today:

Psalm 119:81-112

13

Psalm 119:115 “ELOHIYM”

כ SAMEKH 113 I hate double-minded men, but I love your **law**.

סָצִים שְׁנָאָתִי תּוֹרָה אֲקָבָתִי:
TORAH

114 You are my hiding place and my shield. I hope in your **word**.

סְתִּירִי וְנִגְנִי אָפָה לְבָדָךְ נִילָתִי:
DABAR

115 Depart from me, you evildoers, that I may keep the **commandments** of my **God**.

סְטוּמָמִי מַרְעָם אַנְגָּרָה מִצְּבָאָלָה:
ELOHIYM MITSVAH

116 Uphold me according to your **word**, that I may live. Let me not be ashamed of my hope.

סְבִּכִּי כִּי אָמָרָךְ וְאַחֲרָה וְאַלְתְּבָשָׁנִי מִשְׁבָּרִי:
IMRAH

117 Hold me up, and I will be safe, and will have respect for your **statutes** continually.

סְדִּזְׁנִי אַוְשָׁה אַשְׁעָה בְּקָרְבָּתְמִים:
CHOQ

118 You reject all those who stray from your **statutes**, for their deceit is in vain.

סְלִיטָה קְלִשְׁוֹגָמָה מִתְּשָׁקָר תְּרִמְתָּמִים:
EDAH

119 You put away all the wicked of the earth like dross. Therefore I love your **testimonies**.

סְטוּ מִפְּחוֹת בְּשָׁרִי וּמִטְּפָעִי נִירָאִים:
MISHPAT

120 My flesh trembles for fear of you. I am afraid of your **judgments**.

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12

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

“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

“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

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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