

Psalm 119 – A Tribute to the Word of God

PSALM 119 is a tribute to the beauty and the splendor of the Word of God. It is the longest psalm and also the longest chapter in the bible. Almost every verse in this 176 verse psalm describes some great attribute of the Word of God. The Hebrew alphabet contains twenty-two letters and this psalm contains twenty-two sections - one section for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Each section in this psalm contains eight verses and every verse in each section begins with the corresponding Hebrew letter. For example, every verse in the first section of this psalm in the Hebrew begins with Aleph and every verse in the last section of this psalm in the Hebrew begins with Tav. Below is a chart that shows the names, letters, and the pronunciation of the Hebrew alphabet:

THE ARAMAIC AND HEBREW ALPHABET		
name	letter	pronunciation
Aleph	א	silent
Bet	ב	b
Gimel	ג	g
Dalet	ד	d
Heh	ה	h
Vav	ו	w
Zayin	ז	z
Het	ח	ch
Tet	ט	t
Yod	י	y
Kaf	כ	k
Lamed	ל	l
Mem	מ	m
Nun	נ	n
Samekh	ס	s
Ayin	ע	silent
Peh	פ	p
Tsade	צ	ts
Qof	ק	q
Resh	ר	r
Shin	ש	s
Tav	ת	t

Many synonyms for the Word of God are used through out this psalm. Among them are: law, testimonies, ways, precepts, statutes, commandments, judgments, word(s), and ordinances. The Word of God in Psalm 119 is given many titles such as:

- Righteous Judgments, vs. 7, 62, 106, 160, 164
 - Word of Truth, vs. 43
 - The Truth, vs. 142
- Word of Thy Righteousness, vs. 123

The Benefits of the Word of God:

- **Happiness:** vs. 1-2. The Word of God pronounces a blessing on those who walk in the law of the Lord and those who keep His testimonies. The first verse in this psalm opens up by saying: “Blessed or happy are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord.”
- **Cleansing:** vs. 9, 11, 101, & 133. The Word of God is a source of cleansing from sin for the youth and the aged alike. Jesus said in John 15:3: “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you” and in John 17:17: “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”
- **Guidance:** vs. 24, 105. The Word of God is like a counselor to us – guiding our feet and shedding light to our paths.
- **Revival:** vs. 25, 28, 50, 93, & 107. The Word of God is a source of revival that quickens us and gives us life.
- **Wisdom:** vs. 98-100, 130. The Word of God is a source of wisdom. In Psalm 111:10 it says: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments...” It makes “wise the simple” (Psalm 19:7).
- **Joy:** vs. 14, 54, & 111. The Word of God is a source of joy. It is “the rejoicing of our hearts” and “our song in the house of our pilgrimage.”
- **Hope:** vs. 92, 114, & 147. The Word of God is a source of hope. It gives us hope in the midst of our afflictions.
- **Peace:** vs. 165. The Word of God is a source of peace. God says to us in Isaiah 48:18: “O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! Then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea.”
- **The Right Way:** vs. 59, 128. The Word of God is our guide to lead us on the right way. It says in Psalm 19:8 that “the statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart.” “Following Him I know I’m right” as the old hymn says.
- **A Treasure:** vs. 72, 111, & 127. The Word of God is better than “thousands of gold and silver” and our “heritage forever.”

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ALEPH

- 1 Blessed *are* the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD.
- 2 Blessed *are* they that keep his testimonies, *and that* seek him with the whole heart.
- 3 They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways.
- 4 Thou hast commanded *us* to keep thy precepts diligently.
- 5 O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!
- 6 Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.
- 7 I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments.
- 8 I will keep thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly.

BETH

- 9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed *thereto* according to thy word.
- 10 With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.
- 11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.
- 12 Blessed *art* thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes.
- 13 With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth.
- 14 I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as *much as* in all riches.
- 15 I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways.
- 16 I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.

GIMEL

17 Deal bountifully with thy servant, *that* I may live, and keep thy word.

18 Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

19 I *am* a stranger in the earth: hide not thy commandments from me.

20 My soul breaketh for the longing *that it hath* unto thy judgments at all times.

21 Thou hast rebuked the proud *that are* cursed, which do err from thy commandments.

22 Remove from me reproach and contempt; for I have kept thy testimonies.

23 Princes also did sit *and* speak against me: *but* thy servant did meditate in thy statutes.

24 Thy testimonies also *are* my delight *and* my counsellors.

DALETH

25 My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word.

26 I have declared my ways, and thou heardest me: teach me thy statutes.

27 Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works.

28 My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word.

29 Remove from me the way of lying: and grant me thy law graciously.

30 I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid *before me*.

31 I have stuck unto thy testimonies: O LORD, put me not to shame.

32 I will run the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart.

HE

33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it *unto* the end.

34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe

it with *my* whole heart.

35 Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I
delight.

36 Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness.

37 Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; *and* quicken thou me in
thy way.

38 Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who *is devoted* to thy fear.

39 Turn away my reproach which I fear: for thy judgments *are* good.

40 Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: quicken me in thy
righteousness.

VAU

41 Let thy mercies come also unto me, O LORD, *even* thy salvation,
according to thy word.

42 So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I
trust in thy word.

43 And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have
hoped in thy judgments.

44 So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever.

45 And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts.

46 I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be
ashamed.

47 And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved.

48 My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have
loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes.

ZAIN

49 Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused
me to hope.

50 This *is* my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.

51 The proud have had me greatly in derision: *yet* have I not declined
from thy law.

52 I remembered thy judgments of old, O LORD; and have comforted
myself.

53 Horror hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked that forsake

thy law.

54 Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage.

55 I have remembered thy name, O LORD, in the night, and have kept thy law.

56 This I had, because I kept thy precepts.

CHETH

57 *Thou art* my portion, O LORD: I have said that I would keep thy words.

58 I intreated thy favour with *my* whole heart: be merciful unto me according to thy word.

59 I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.

60 I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments.

61 The bands of the wicked have robbed me: *but* I have not forgotten thy law.

62 At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments.

63 I *am* a companion of all *them* that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.

64 The earth, O LORD, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes.

TETH

65 Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O LORD, according unto thy word.

66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments.

67 Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.

68 Thou *art* good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes.

69 The proud have forged a lie against me: *but* I will keep thy precepts with *my* whole heart.

70 Their heart is as fat as grease; *but* I delight in thy law.

71 *It is* good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.

72 The law of thy mouth *is* better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.

JOD

73 Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding,
that I may learn thy commandments.

74 They that fear thee will be glad when they see me; because I have
hoped in thy word.

75 I know, O LORD, that thy judgments *are* right, and *that* thou in
faithfulness hast afflicted me.

76 Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to
thy word unto thy servant.

77 Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law *is*
my delight.

78 Let the proud be ashamed; for they dealt perversely with me without
a cause: *but* I will meditate in thy precepts.

79 Let those that fear thee turn unto me, and those that have known thy
testimonies.

80 Let my heart be sound in thy statutes; that I be not ashamed.

CAPH

81 My soul fainteth for thy salvation: *but* I hope in thy word.

82 Mine eyes fail for thy word, saying, When wilt thou comfort me?

83 For I am become like a bottle in the smoke; yet do I not forget thy
statutes.

84 How many *are* the days of thy servant? when wilt thou execute
judgment on them that persecute me?

85 The proud have digged pits for me, which *are* not after thy law.

86 All thy commandments *are* faithful: they persecute me wrongfully;
help thou me.

87 They had almost consumed me upon earth; but I forsook not thy
precepts.

88 Quicken me after thy lovingkindness; so shall I keep the testimony of
thy mouth.

LAMED

89 For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

90 Thy faithfulness *is* unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth.

91 They continue this day according to thine ordinances: for all *are* thy servants.

92 Unless thy law *had been* my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction.

93 I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me.

94 I *am* thine, save me; for I have sought thy precepts.

95 The wicked have waited for me to destroy me: *but* I will consider thy testimonies.

96 I have seen an end of all perfection: *but* thy commandment *is* exceeding broad.

MEM

97 O how love I thy law! *it is* my meditation all the day.

98 Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they *are* ever with me.

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies *are* my meditation.

100 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.

101 I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word.

102 I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me.

103 How sweet are thy words unto my taste! *yea, sweeter* than honey to my mouth!

104 Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

NUN

105 Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

106 I have sworn, and I will perform *it*, that I will keep thy righteous judgments.

107 I am afflicted very much: quicken me, O LORD, according unto thy word.

108 Accept, I beseech thee, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD,
and teach me thy judgments.

109 My soul *is* continually in my hand: yet do I not forget thy law.

110 The wicked have laid a snare for me: yet I erred not from thy
precepts.

111 Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they *are* the
rejoicing of my heart.

112 I have inclined mine heart to perform thy statutes *always, even unto*
the end.

SAMECH

113 I hate *vain* thoughts: but thy law do I love.

114 Thou *art* my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.

115 Depart from me, ye evildoers: for I will keep the commandments of
my God.

116 Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not
be ashamed of my hope.

117 Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe: and I will have respect unto
thy statutes continually.

118 Thou hast trodden down all them that err from thy statutes: for their
deceit *is* falsehood.

119 Thou puttest away all the wicked of the earth *like* dross: therefore I
love thy testimonies.

120 My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; and I am afraid of thy judgments.

AIN

121 I have done judgment and justice: leave me not to mine oppressors.

122 Be surety for thy servant for good: let not the proud oppress me.

123 Mine eyes fail for thy salvation, and for the word of thy
righteousness.

124 Deal with thy servant according unto thy mercy, and teach me thy
statutes.

125 I *am* thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know thy
testimonies.

126 *It is* time for *thee*, LORD, to work: *for* they have made void thy law.

- 127 Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.
- 128 Therefore I esteem all *thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.*

PE

- 129 Thy testimonies *are* wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them.
- 130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.
- 131 I opened my mouth, and panted: for I longed for thy commandments.
- 132 Look thou upon me, and be merciful unto me, as thou usest to do unto those that love thy name.
- 133 Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.
- 134 Deliver me from the oppression of man: so will I keep thy precepts.
- 135 Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; and teach me thy statutes.
- 136 Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law.

TZADDI

- 137 Righteous *art* thou, O LORD, and upright *are* thy judgments.
- 138 Thy testimonies *that* thou hast commanded *are* righteous and very faithful.
- 139 My zeal hath consumed me, because mine enemies have forgotten thy words.
- 140 Thy word *is* very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.
- 141 I *am* small and despised: yet do not I forget thy precepts.
- 142 Thy righteousness *is* an everlasting righteousness, and thy law *is* the truth.
- 143 Trouble and anguish have taken hold on me: yet thy commandments *are* my delights.
- 144 The righteousness of thy testimonies *is* everlasting: give me understanding, and I shall live.

KOPH

145 I cried with *my* whole heart; hear me, O LORD: I will keep thy statutes.

146 I cried unto thee; save me, and I shall keep thy testimonies.

147 I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried: I hoped in thy word.

148 Mine eyes prevent the *night* watches, that I might meditate in thy word.

149 Hear my voice according unto thy lovingkindness: O LORD, quicken me according to thy judgment.

150 They draw nigh that follow after mischief: they are far from thy law.

151 Thou *art* near, O LORD; and all thy commandments *are* truth.

152 Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever.

RESH

153 Consider mine affliction, and deliver me: for I do not forget thy law.

154 Plead my cause, and deliver me: quicken me according to thy word.

155 Salvation *is* far from the wicked: for they seek not thy statutes.

156 Great *are* thy tender mercies, O LORD: quicken me according to thy judgments.

157 Many *are* my persecutors and mine enemies; yet do I not decline from thy testimonies.

158 I beheld the transgressors, and was grieved; because they kept not thy word.

159 Consider how I love thy precepts: quicken me, O LORD, according to thy lovingkindness.

160 Thy word *is* true *from* the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments *endureth* for ever.

SCHIN

161 Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe of thy word.

162 I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.

- 163 I hate and abhor lying: *but* thy law do I love.
164 Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments.
165 Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.
166 LORD, I have hoped for thy salvation, and done thy commandments.
167 My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly.
168 I have kept thy precepts and thy testimonies: for all my ways *are* before thee.

TAU

- 169 Let my cry come near before thee, O LORD: give me understanding according to thy word.
170 Let my supplication come before thee: deliver me according to thy word.
171 My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes.
172 My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments *are* righteousness.
173 Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy precepts.
174 I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law *is* my delight.
175 Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me.
176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.