

Psalm 119

- **176 verses - longest chapter in Bible**
- **Need ~19 minutes (!) to read it all, so we won't**

- **Read Psalm 119**
 - **Vs 1-16**
 - **Vs 105-112**
 - **Vs 169-176**

Psalm 119

**¹Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD!**

**² Blessed are those who keep his testimonies,
who seek him with their whole heart,**

³ who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways!

**⁴ You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.**

**⁵ Oh that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!**

**⁶ Then I shall not be put to shame, having
my eyes fixed on all your commandments.**

**⁷ I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous rules.**

⁸ I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me!

Psalm 119

9 How can a young man keep his way pure?

By guarding it according to your word.

10 With my whole heart I seek you;

let me not wander from your commandments!

11 I have stored up your word in my heart,

that I might not sin against you.

12 Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes!

13 With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth.

14 In the way of your testimonies I delight

as much as in all riches.

15 I will meditate on your precepts and

fix my eyes on your ways.

16 I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word

Psalm 119

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

**106 I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to keep your righteous rules.**

**107 I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD,
according to your word!**

**108 Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O LORD,
and teach me your rules.**

109 I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.

**110 The wicked have laid a snare for me,
but I do not stray from your precepts.**

**111 Your testimonies are my heritage forever,
for they are the joy of my heart.**

112 I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end

Psalm 119

**169 Let my cry come before you, O LORD;
give me understanding according to your word!**

**170 Let my plea come before you;
deliver me according to your word.**

171 My lips will pour forth praise, for you teach me your statutes.

**172 My tongue will sing of your word,
for all your commandments are right.**

**173 Let your hand be ready to help me,
for I have chosen your precepts.**

174 I long for your salvation, O LORD, and your law is my delight.

175 Let my soul live and praise you, and let your rules help me.

**176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant,
for I do not forget your commandments.**

Psalm 119

**Rules, Relationship,
and / or Reformation?**

Outline for today:

- **Structure & Design of Psalm 119**
- **Highlights of this Psalm**
- **So What ?**

*** A note about 'my designed audience'**

Psalm 119

- **Structure & Design of Psalm 119**

Psalm 119

176 verses = 22 sections of 8 verses ea

- Hebrew language has 22 letters

י	כ	ג	ד	ה	ו	ז	ח	ט	י
Yod	Tet	Chet	Zayin	Vav	He	Dalet	Gimel	Bet	Alef
(Y)	(T)	(Ch)	(Z)	(V)	(H)	(D)	(G)	(B/V)	(silent)
פ	צ	ק	ר	ש	ת				
Tav	Shin	Resh	Qof	Tsadeh	Tsadeh	Feh	Peh		
(T)	(Sh/S)	(R)	(Q)	(Ts)	(Ts)	(F)	(P/F)		
נ	ך	ל	מ	מ	נ	נ	ס	ע	
Nun	Lamed	Mem	Mem	Lamed	Khaf	Kaf			
(N)	(L)	(M)	(M)	(L)	(Kh)	(K/Kh)			
א	ב	ג	ד	ה	ו	ז	ח	ט	י
Alef	Bet	Gimel	Dalet	He	Vav	Zayin	Chet	Tet	Yod
(silent)	(B/V)	(G)	(D)	(H)	(V)	(Z)	(Ch)	(T)	(Y)

Psalm 119

- **176 verses = 22 sections of 8 verses ea**
- **Hebrew language has 22 letters**

**All 8 verses in each section
each starts w the same Hebrew letter
ie, written as an Acrostic**

Psalm 119: 1-5



Aleph – first Hebrew letter

אֲנִי תָמִיד דָּרַךְ הַלְכִים בְּתוֹרַת יְהוָה:
אֲשֶׁר נִצְרִי עֵדוּתִי בְּכָל־לֵב יִדְרָשׁוּהוּ:
אֲךָ לֹא־פָעַלְוִי עוֹלָה בְּדַרְכֵי הַלְכוּ:
אֲנִי צִוִּיתָה פְקֻדֶיךָ לְשֹׁמֵר מְאֹד:
אֲדַלִּי וְיִפְנוּ דַרְכֵי לְשֹׁמֵר חֲקֻיךָ:

Hebrew reads right-to-left

Vs

Psalm 119

- 1 **א** (*aleph, '*) **Ah, blessed** are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law (*torah*) of the LORD!
- 2 **Also, blessed** are they who keep his testimonies (*edah*), seeking him with their whole heart,
- 3 **Always** do no wrong, but walk in his ways (*derek*)!
- 4 **Above all, you** have commanded your precepts (*piqqud*) to be kept diligently.
- 5 **Aye**, that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes (*choq*)!
- 6 **At that time** I shall not be ashamed, my eyes fixed on all your commandments (*mitsvah*).
- 7 **An upright heart will praise** you, when I learn your righteous rules (*mishpat*).
- 8 **As** I keep your statutes (*choq*); do not utterly forsake me!

- 9 **ב** (*bet, b*) **Best way** to keep a young man's way pure? By guarding it according to your word (*debar*).
- 10 **Be** thou the quest **of** my whole heart; let me not wander from your commandments (*mitsvah*).
- 11 **Buried** deep **in my heart**, your word (*imrah*) shall keep me from sinning against you.
- 12 **Blessed** are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes (*choq*)!
- 13 **By** these lips I declare all the rules (*mishpat*) of your mouth.
- 14 **Boldly** I delight **in the way** of your testimonies (*eduth*), as much as in all riches.
- 15 **Burrowing** deep, I meditate **on your precepts** (*piqqud*), and fix my eyes on your ways
- 16 **Buoyantly** I delight **in your statutes** (*chuqqah*); I will not forget your word (*dabar*).

Acrostic Psalms

Compare Psalm 34:

- **A song of Thanksgiving,**
- **22 verses**
- **each verse uses a different Hebrew letter**

See also: Psalm 9 & 10, 25, 37 & 112, 145

Psalm 119

- **Why would anyone write a Psalm that long, and with the acrostic form?**
- **Poetry ? Memorization? Vocabulary?**

Psalm 119

- **Highlights of the Psalm**
- **God's Word is emphasized all the way through**

Psalm 119

97 Oh how I love your law!

It is my meditation all the day.

**98 Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,
for it is ever with me.**

**99 I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for your testimonies are my meditation.**

**100 I understand more than the aged,
for I keep your precepts.**

**101 I hold back my feet from every evil way,
in order to keep your word.**

**102 I do not turn aside from your rules,
for you have taught me.**

**103 How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!**

**104 Through your precepts I get understanding;
therefore I hate every false way.**

Psalm 119

Nun ¹⁰⁵ Your **word** is a lamp to my feet
 and a light to my path.

¹⁰⁶ I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
 to keep your righteous **rules**.

¹⁰⁷ I am severely afflicted;
 give me life, O LORD, according to your **word!**

¹⁰⁸ Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O LORD,
 and teach me your **rules**.

¹⁰⁹ I hold my life in my hand continually,
 but I do not forget your **law**.

¹¹⁰ The wicked have laid a snare for me,
 but I do not stray from your **precepts**.

¹¹¹ Your **testimonies** are my heritage forever,
 for they are the joy of my heart.

¹¹² I incline my heart to perform your **statutes**
 forever, to the end.

Psalm 119

Your commandments make me wise

Your word is a lamp

Your righteous rules guide me

Your law remains forever

Your precepts protect me

Your testimonies are my heritage

Incline my heart to your statutes

Teach me your ways

These 8 words for God's Word are repeatedly used

- Every section uses 5 of these words
- Each 'word' is used 20+ times in this Psalm

Psalm 119

These 8 words for God's Word repeatedly used:

- **IF Ps 119 was written by David to Solomon,**
- **“The Word” here was very limited.**
- **It ONLY included Torah, Joshua & Judges, Job, maybe 1 Samuel.**
- **ALL the rest of the Old Testament came later!**

This is quite different than what we have for God's Word, and what we imagine

Psalm 119

There is more going on...

We'll look at:

- **The Voice: Who's talking?**
- **Why is this in the Bible??**
- **What's the situation? Generic?**
- **What about all the pronouns?**

Psalm 119

A typical “application”: For blessing...

- Read & study God’s word more**
- Obey & keep God’s word**

Q: Is this Simplistic & moralistic?

Psalm 119

The Voice: Who's talking?

- v 1-3: Intro “Blessed are those...”
- v 4 ‘til end:
 - All a One-way conversation !
 - No asides, explanations, or response
 - It's PERSONAL

**1 Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD!**

**2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies,
who seek him with their whole heart,**

3 who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways!

4 You have commanded your precepts to be kept..

**5 Oh that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!**

**6 Then I shall not be put to shame, having
my eyes fixed on all your commandments.**

**7 I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous rules.**

8 I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me!

9 How can a young man keep his way pure?

By guarding it according to **your word.**

10 With **my whole heart **I** seek **you**;**

let **me not wander from **your commandments**!**

11 **I have stored up **your word** in **my** heart,**

that **I might not sin against **you**.**

12 Blessed are **you, O **LORD**; teach **me your statutes**!**

13 With **my lips **I** declare all the **rules** of **your** mouth.**

14 In the way of **your testimonies **I** delight**

as much as in all riches.

15 **I will meditate on **your precepts** and**

fix **my eyes on **your ways**.**

16 **I will delight in **your statutes**; **I** will not forget **your word****

Psalm 119

The Voice: Who's talking?

Many want to know “What does GOD say?”,
Not “What does this random guy say?”

Q: Does ‘stream of consciousness’ belong in the
Bible?!?

Psalm 119

There are NO DETAILS in this text!

- **Struggles, conflicts, sickness... NONE of them get specific, ALL are totally generic.**
- **Why is that? Is that helpful?**

Psalm 119

So why is this Psalm in the Bible ?

- Not for God's comments**
- Not for INFO, facts**
- A model to follow?**

Psalm 119

Why this Psalm may be in the Bible -

Compare:

**“I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of Heaven
and Earth”**

And

**“You are my father. You established the earth. I and all
things are your servants.”**

Psalm 119

A concern in our culture:

Much of our education is about rationality & knowing; and often without using.

**Does “discipleship” become more about
KNOWLEDGE or CHARACTER ?**

Psalm 119

Why this Psalm may be in the Bible -

Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”

How is this transformation done?

Does Psalm 119 give us any insights or pattern?

Psalm 119

Why this Psalm may be in the Bible -

“We become what we think about. Our thoughts shape who we become.”

Psalm 119

My encouragement to you:

- **Read the Bible. NOT so God is happy with us, but so we can be changed**
- **My goal: THINK Scripture, don't just think ABOUT Scripture**

Psalm 119

Sleeplessness – an example

55 I remember your name in the night, O LORD, AND...

62 At midnight I rise to praise you, because of...

**147 I rise before dawn and cry for help; I hope in
your words. 148 My eyes are awake before the
watches of the night, that I may meditate on your
promise.**