



# CLEOPAS BIBLE STUDY

WHERE TWO OR MORE GATHER IN HIS NAME

## THE LIVING WORD

### A STUDY OF PSALMS 19 & 119


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## INTRODUCTION

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You will notice that Cleopas Bible Studies are broken down into separate days to help methodically introduce you to a rhythm for your progression in your studies so as not to be or feel overwhelmed and just as well, some of the Bible Studies are not broken down. The reason for this is some studies may be short and can be done in a few days. I try to keep the number of days around 10, give or take.

We at Cleopas believe that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God and is its own Authority to serves as its own commentary. Scripture will always interpret Scripture.  Cleopas Bible Study teaches that Scripture ultimately interprets Scripture where “Context is king” and “a text without a context is a pretext”. The context of a given passage begins in the immediate context of the phrase or sentence then moves to the paragraph, then the chapter, then the book. The Bible is One Book – not separate books. The New Testament is connected with the Old Testament just as the Book of Genesis is connected to the Book of Revelation -perfectly! There isn't mysticism in the Bible, but when God uses a principle, it is perfect and consistent throughout the Old into the New Testament. The entire Bible is God Breathed, just as God gave Adam "the breath of life" (Genesis 2:7). God breathed out the entire Bible, giving it life. 2 Timothy 3:16: “All Scripture is God-breathed and is valuable for teaching the truth, convicting of sin, correcting faults and training in right living” . Hebrews 4:12a Amplified Bible: “For the word of God is living and active *and* full of power [making it operative, energizing, and effective]. “

Tools for this Study: NASB Bible Version or other Word for Word translation is recommended;  
Nave's Topical Bible



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## OBSERVATION WORKSHEETS

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Not all studies have observation worksheets, but when we do, these are available for you to “mark” and “observe” scripture as we go through our study. This is a useful tool for you to slow down and look at the scriptures word by word and phrase by phrase. You can “mark” key words and phrases which will help you in your study. If the workbook is long, then the observation worksheets will be in a separate file. Shorter studies, if observation worksheets are used, they will be in the context of the lesson or located at back or end of the file.



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## BEGINNING OF STUDY DAY 1 HEART FOR THE WORD OF GOD

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Let me premise by being totally honest with you. Poetry is not really my “thing”. Not that I really have a “thing”, but some poetry is quite far down the list of things I'd like to read, own, or write.

However, I noticed a couple of very notable reasons why poetry needs to stay and have its place in society. Because it is timeless. When reading poetry, we go to areas where reading prose cannot. As with abstract painting, some people perceive one thing in poetry while others perceive something else entirely. Poems are a great way to express ourselves and let people in on our innermost thoughts and feelings. Poetry transports us to the poet's mind, heart, or even to another time and place. Poetry is characterized by ebb and flow. To take you from the first verse to the following verse with enthusiastic expectation. Perhaps there is a hint of sadness when we realize that the poem has come to an end, and we wish there had been more.

Only a few of the books in the Bible may be categorized as poetic. The book of Job, the book of Psalms, the book of Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs/Solomon and the book of

Lamentations. Scripture contains a number of poetries that teach us a great deal about God as well as a great deal about ourselves.

What exactly are the two Psalms for our study (19 and 119) about? For what purpose are these two Psalms the only focus of our current Bible study? Why? Because these two Psalms draw our attention to God speaking to us through His Word, both literally and in the sense that it has a profound impact on us as human souls when we realize our Heavenly Father's precious words.

The purpose of these two Psalms are to show us that the Bible is not a random hodge-podge of words written by different people without any real meaning or purpose, but rather a coherent whole meant to have practical application to our lives. **THESE WORDS ARE LIFE!**

2 Timothy 3:16 NIRV  
(New International Readers Version), which I like how this paraphrase version has this verse: *"God has*

*breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right."*

*"Men do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself, but because it contradicts them."*

All of God's Word, the Bible, contains God's very breath. When God created Adam in the Garden of Eden, He used the same word to describe the breath that gave Adam life—the same breath that gives life to all humans.

And though the Bible is constantly attacked, questioned, and dismissed by those who refuse to acknowledge its truth, Scripture stands firm. As 1 Thessalonians 2:13–14 reminds us, the Word of God does not rest on the opinions of humanity—because humanity, left to itself, is proud, deceitful, divided, envious, and prone to evil. God is none of these. Not even a trace.

His Word reflects who He is—pure, trustworthy, life-giving, and true.

### 1 Thessalonians 2:13-14, Amplified Bible

<sup>13</sup> And we also thank God continually for this, that when you received the word of God [concerning salvation] which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of [mere] men, but as it **truly** is, the word of God, which is effectually at **work** in you who believe [exercising its inherent, supernatural power in those of faith]. <sup>14</sup> For you, [a]brothers and sisters, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, because you too suffered the same [kind of] persecution from your own countrymen, as they did from the Jews,

His Word is at work in those who believe, those who believe the gospel of our LORD Jesus Christ. From the Amplified Bible Version added how the Word of God exercising its superhuman power in believers – the superpowers for those who put their trust, effort, faith into the Scriptures. As the word for *at work* in 1 Thessalonians 2:13 is **energeo** which always describes supernatural activity, mostly God's energizing like *energizing*, *working in* a situation which brings it from one stage (point) to the next, like an electrical current *energizing* a wire, bringing it to a *shining light bulb*.

It is not passive ink on ancient pages; it is living power that flows through the soul of the believer. Scripture contains divine voltage. And faith is the switch that lets that voltage flow.

A.W. Tozer often spoke about the difference between those who believe the Word of God and those who merely hear it. He wrote that the Bible is like a seed:

- **In believing hearts**, it takes root, grows, spreads, and produces fruit.
- **In unbelieving hearts**, it remains dormant—present, but powerless, like a seed sitting on a windowsill rather than planted in soil. Tozer stressed that the problem is never with the seed; it is always with the soil.

The Word of God does not lose power. It does not weaken with time. It does not diminish in impact. But it does require reception—humble, trusting, surrendered belief.

Those who receive the Word with faith experience its divine energy. They feel the Scriptures moving them from darkness to light, from confusion to clarity, from sin to holiness, from weakness to strength.

Those who reject it experience nothing—not because the Word lacks power, but because unbelief shuts the door. It's like refusing to plug in a lamp and then complaining it gives no light.

Tozer put it bluntly:

*“The Bible is alive, but only living men and women can feel its life.”*

Another thought from A W Tozer of the believing and unbelieving in the Word of God,

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**...it is not enough that we believe; we must believe in the right thing about the right One!**

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**UNBELIEF SAYS:**

Some other place, but not here

Some other time, but not now

Some other people, but not us

**FAITH SAYS:**

Anything He did anywhere else, He will do here

Anything He did any other time, He is willing to do now

Anything He ever did for other people, He is willing to do for us!

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The Greek word for *truly* in 1 Thessalonians 2:13 is **alethos** which gives the idea what one sees reflects what it really in fact is. The real thing is not concealed. It is genuine or authentic. **So, the Word of God is what one sees reflects what it really in fact is – the unconcealed, genuine, authentic message of God.**

We should count ourselves extremely fortunate to have the entire Bible at our disposal, and the word of God as a possession that we hold in the highest regard. I believe that it is something that we should treasure and take pleasure in.

God has been sufficiently excellent to provide us with Himself, us as His children, and how we should interact with the world around us through these priceless pages. Navigating through life's highs and lows, guidance, comfort, love, happiness, peace and joy are in these pages. Salvation is in these pages. Right and wrong are in these pages. And Transformation.

Through God's statutes, we have our source of hope, strength, and direction. Both Psalms 19 and 119 are a beautiful testament to the enduring power of God's Word in God's Wisdom.

Did you know that the Bible itself claims to be inerrant and to be completely truthful?

Look up and write these verses in the NASB version of the Bible. We use this version for doctrinal study.

**Psalm 12:6:** The words of the LORD are pure words (in NIV says FLAWLESS); Like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, filtered seven times.

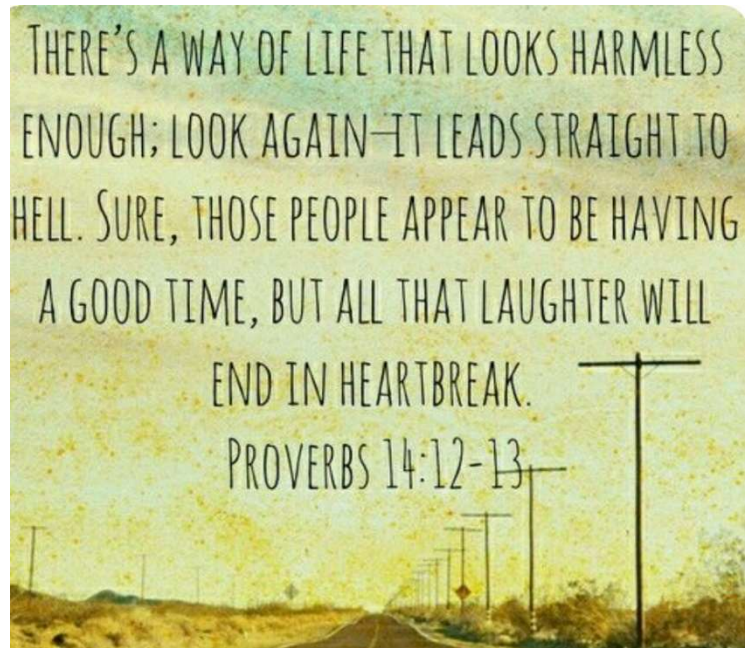
**Psalm 19:7:** The Law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

**Proverbs 30:5:** Every word of God is pure (in NIV says FLAWLESS); He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.

"Psalm 119 is actually not about the topic of getting Scripture into your life. Instead, it is the honest words that erupt when what God says gets into you. It's not an exhortation to Bible study; it's an outcry of faith...*Psalm 119 is the thoughtful outcry that rises when real life meets real God.*"

**David Powlison,  
Speaking the Truth in  
Love**

In Psalm 12:6a & Proverbs 30:5, I like how the NIV which says that the words of the LORD are **FLAWLESS!** The Bible stands or falls as a whole. The Bible is either reliable or it isn't. Every part of the Bible holds truth and should not be selectively interpreted. If there is an error, then what isn't an error? If we consider that certain parts or sections of the Bible may no longer be applicable in today's context, it raises the question of which parts or sections would remain relevant for today or for the future. If something can be seen as fantastical or fabled or only symbolic, then it's hard to argue that it surely isn't literal in any way.



We cannot just cherry-pick what we want from the Bible in order to make it conform to our preferences and requirements of the moment. We have no choice but to take the Bible at its word and in its totality.



Is there something in God's Word that makes you feel uneasy? Explain.



Have you made an effort to maintain your position in the face of the Bible, only to discover that you are unable to do so?

Do you still hold on to the belief that your sin is now justified solely in the eyes of mankind, which is meaningless, or do you let your fear of an all-powerful and holy God, who loves you and wants what's best for you, make you run away from His Words? No one, even yourself, will ever benefit from your sins.

Dearest Friend, the Christian life is a journey, and the way to life is found in God's word. The road of sin destroys not only us but also the people we care about the most. We will study these two Psalms inductively together, so you are right where you should be: in God's Word. Let our adventures begin!

### ***"YOU DO NOT WANT TO LEAVE TOO, DO YOU?"***

Let Jesus' words (John 6:67) resound in our minds for those who abandoned Him because His message – His words of eternal life – which contradicted their own personal convictions and beliefs. Jesus' words of eternal life ran opposite to their sense of what was "right." And that is still the dividing line today—whether we trust what **God says is right** over what **we feel is right**.

To rely on our own convictions apart from God's truth is not confidence—it is *spiritual blindness*. And spiritual blindness is far more serious than physical blindness, because the physically blind know they cannot see and seek help; the spiritually blind often walk confidently in wrong directions, unaware that their path leads into darkness.

Friend, nothing is more tragic than being lost and not knowing it. Nothing is more heartbreaking than wandering in spiritual night, unaware that the Light of the World stands only a few steps away.

To reject Jesus' words because they challenge us is to trade sight for shadows. It is to walk away from the only One who can open our eyes, steady our steps, and lead us into life.

When Jesus asks, "You do not want to leave too, do you?" He is not merely questioning the disciples—He is asking **us**:

Will we walk away when His truth presses against our pride?

Will we follow Him only when His words agree with our desires?

Or will we stay—because we know what Peter knew:

**"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."**

**To stay with Jesus is to stay in the light.  
To follow Him is to finally see.**

Let's pray as we end our study today and to be bright-eyed and bushy-tailed for tomorrow's study!

***AWESOME AND WONDERFUL GOD, OUR FATHER, DRAW NEAR TO US. MAY YOUR FACE SHINE TOWARDS US. LORD, OPEN OUR MINDS TO THE TRUTHS AND PRECEPTS OF YOUR WORD. GUIDE US THROUGH THIS STUDY AS IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WE WALK THE PATH OF LIFE AND NOT THE PATH OF DESTRUCTION. ONLY YOU CAN PROVIDE US THIS WAY. WE CANNOT FIND IT IN THE THINGS OF THE WORLD. WE CANNOT FIND LIFE THROUGH OUR OWN FEELINGS, THOUGHTS AND DESIRES. ONLY THROUGH YOUR WILL ARE WE GRANTED THE AMAZING LIFE THAT ONLY YOU CAN PROVIDE US. THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING US WITH YOUR WORD. GUIDE AND LEAD US TO LIFE EVERLASTING. AMEN.***



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## DAY 2 – BACKGROUND

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Getting into Scripture becomes far more meaningful when we practice good habits, and one of the strongest habits you can build is learning the background of what you’re studying. When you know the setting, the people, the culture, and even the land itself, the text begins to feel less like words on a page and more like a real world you can walk through. Even simple tools—like maps or timelines—can open your eyes to details you might otherwise breeze past. Sometimes the shape of a journey or the distance between two places explains more than a paragraph ever could.

Today, though, we’re directing all that good preparation toward one magnificent part of the Bible: the Psalms.

As *The World’s Handbook Bible* notes, the Psalter contains 150 poems—prayers, songs, laments, celebrations, and declarations of faith—originally crafted for worship and often set to music. These ancient songs are more than literature; they are a record of real hearts reaching for a real God.

This was something I just learned as I was preparing for this Bible Study. The Psalms are not just a simple lengthy collection of poetry. No, the Psalms are divided into a 5 book

structure which are intentionally arranged into **five books**, mirroring the five books of Moses (Genesis–Deuteronomy).

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## WHY STUDY THE PSALMS?

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As Christians, we are commanded to utilize the Psalms:



Write Ephesians 5:19 (use 2 or 3 separate versions – circle which version speaks directly to your heart ❤️) and if you like, make a short comment why. A unique study approach I find incredibly enriching is reading a single passage in several Bible versions. Each translation—whether more literal or more dynamic—offers a slightly different lens. When I line them up side-by-side, I often discover deeper layers of meaning and identify the phrasing that connects most personally with me.

### NASB

SPEAKING TO ONE ANOTHER IN PSALMS AND HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS, SINGING AND MAKING MELODY IN YOUR HEART TO THE LORD

### GOD'S WORD® TRANSLATION

BY RECITING PSALMS, HYMNS, AND SPIRITUAL SONGS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD. SING AND MAKE MUSIC TO THE LORD WITH YOUR HEARTS.

### EASYENGLISH BIBLE

<sup>19</sup> HE WILL HELP YOU TO SPEAK TO EACH OTHER WITH ALL KINDS OF SPIRITUAL SONGS. SING PSALMS FROM THE BIBLE, AND CHRISTIAN SONGS. PRAISE THE LORD WITH SONGS FROM INSIDE YOURSELVES.



Write Colossians 3:16 (use 2 or 3 separate versions – circle which version speaks directly to your heart ❤️) and if you like, make a short comment why.

### NASB

LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN YOU RICHLY IN ALL WISDOM, TEACHING AND ADMONISHING ONE ANOTHER IN PSALMS AND HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS, SINGING WITH GRACE IN YOUR HEARTS TO THE LORD.

Amplified Bible

LET THE [SPOKEN] WORD OF CHRIST HAVE ITS HOME WITHIN YOU [DWELLING IN YOUR HEART AND MIND—PERMEATING EVERY ASPECT OF YOUR BEING] AS YOU TEACH [SPIRITUAL THINGS] AND ADMONISH AND TRAIN ONE ANOTHER WITH ALL WISDOM, SINGING PSALMS AND HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS WITH THANKFULNESS IN YOUR HEARTS TO GOD.

### EASY ENGLISH BIBLE

<sup>16</sup> LET CHRIST'S MESSAGE ALWAYS BE IN YOUR THOUGHTS, WITH ALL THE GOOD THINGS THAT IT BRINGS. USE THAT MESSAGE TO TEACH AND TO WARN EACH OTHER. BE VERY WISE AS YOU DO THAT. AND ALSO SING ALL KINDS OF SPIRITUAL SONGS TO PRAISE GOD. SING PSALMS AND CHRISTIAN SONGS. AS YOU SING, THANK GOD FROM INSIDE YOURSELVES.



Write James 5:13 (use 2 or 3 separate versions — circle which version speaks directly to your heart ❤️) and if you like, make a short comment why.

### NASB

IS ANYONE AMONG YOU SUFFERING? LET HIM PRAY. IS ANYONE CHEERFUL? LET HIM SING PSALMS.

### LIVING BIBLE

<sup>13</sup> IS ANYONE AMONG YOU SUFFERING? HE SHOULD KEEP ON PRAYING ABOUT IT. AND THOSE WHO HAVE REASON TO BE THANKFUL SHOULD CONTINUALLY BE SINGING PRAISES TO THE LORD.

### EXPANDED BIBLE

#### THE POWER OF PRAYER

<sup>13</sup> ANYONE WHO IS -HAVING TROUBLES [SUFFERING] SHOULD PRAY. ANYONE WHO IS -HAPPY [JOYFUL] SHOULD -SING PRAISES [SING PSALMS].

The psalms serve as a Christian's "training guide". God's instruction manual sent by the manufacturer. **The Word of God, The Bible, contains all we need to know about living life to the maximum!**

The **B**asic **I**nstructions **B**efore **L**eaving **E**arth (**B.I.B.L.E.**)

The psalms serve as evidences of truths, fulfilled scripture prophecies, personal experiences, and morality which helps to strengthen us in our faith in Jesus Christ.

The psalms are a prayer book to help us to learn how to approach God in prayer and petitions and thanksgiving.

The psalms assist us as a hymnal to sing or speak our praises to God.

Each section carries its own tone and emphasis. Each Psalms book mirrors the **structure and purpose** of its corresponding Torah book.

**BOOK I (GENESIS)** (Psalms 1–41): Often personal and individual, wrestling with trust, trouble, and God’s faithful care – His nearness in everyday life.

**BOOK I: BOTH START WITH BEGINNINGS—LIFE, CREATION, AND PERSONAL TRUST**

**BOOK II (EXODUS)** (Psalms 42–72): Expands the lens to the nation; you’ll notice additional authors and a strong emphasis on longing for God’s presence and celebrating His deliverance.

**BOOK II: BOTH EMPHASIZE GOD’S SAVING ACTS FOR THE COMMUNITY**

**BOOK III (LEVITICUS)** (Psalms 73–89): The darkest section; it deals honestly with crisis, loss/lament, questions on justice and questions about God’s promises.

**BOOK III: BOTH DEAL WITH HOLINESS, COVENANT, AND STRUGGLE WITH GOD’S WAYS**

**BOOK IV (NUMBERS)** (Psalms 90–106): Lifts our eyes back to God’s sovereignty/faithfulness, stability, and eternal reign/perspective—especially when life feels unstable.

**BOOK IV: BOTH SHOW GOD’S GUIDANCE IN TIMES OF WANDERING AND CHALLENGE**

**BOOK V (DEUTERONOMY)** (Psalms 107–150): A rising chorus of praise, trust, and thanksgiving culminating in the final five Hallelujah psalms.

**BOOK V: BOTH END WITH RENEWAL, BLESSING, AND JOYFUL OBEDIENCE/PRAISE/WORSHIP – A RESPONSE TO GOD’S GOODNESS**

**FOR THIS EXERCISE, PLEASE FILL OUT for PSALM 19 AND PSALM 119**  
**WHICH BOOK OF PSALMS and its Torah counterpart from the information provided above.**

Aspect	Psalm 19	Psalm 119
Book of Psalms	BOOK I	BOOK V
Torah Parallel	GENESIS	DEUTERONOMY .
Focus of Revelation	<b>CREATION &amp; LAW</b> God’s glory revealed in creation (vv. 1–6) and in His law (vv. 7–14).	<b>LAW &amp; COVENANT</b> The beauty, power, and guidance of God’s Word.
Theme	Universal revelation & moral insight	Personal devotion & obedience
Human Response	Praise, delight, moral integrity	Meditation, obedience, faithful love
Study Angle/ Observation	<b>Seeing God in the world and in His Word</b>  <b>OBSERVATION:</b> Psalm 19 bridges the natural world and the moral/spiritual world, showing how both creation and God’s Word speak to His people.	<b>Living out God’s Word in daily life</b>  <b>OBSERVATION:</b> Psalm 119 represents the culmination of the Psalms’ journey—a crescendo of praise and devotion centered on God’s revealed truth in Scripture.

**Psalm 19** shows God's revelation **outwardly**—through the world, the universe and His commands; **Psalm 119** shows God's revelation **inwardly**—through Scripture, shaping the heart and life of His people. Together, they form a beautiful “bookends” picture of how God communicates with humanity. The **author** of Psalm 19 is believed to be **David**.

Psalm 119 is the longest psalm and the longest chapter in the Bible. This psalm focuses on the Living Word of God which the psalmist loves passionately. It is an expansion of Psalm 19:7-9. The **author is unknown**, though Jewish and Christian traditions often attribute it to **David**.

The lines (verses) in Psalm are grouped in eights. If you were reading this psalm in Hebrew, each of the eight verses in each stanza begins with the letter of the alphabet used in the heading. Each group of 8 is a stanza and is organized under a Hebrew letter of the alef-bet, which are grouped in order, beginning with alef and ending with tav. 22 letters = 22 stanzas of 8 lines each = 176 lines (verses). The first verse of each stanza is a clue as to the subject of that stanza.

Each line (verse) begins with the stanza's Hebrew letter, and each line is tied thematically to the Hebrew letter pictographically. The psalm consistently employs Hebrew parallelism (e.g. Prov 3:13-26). Alphabetic **Acrostic** structure for memorization.

REGARDING HEBREW: Hebrew thinks in pictures/pictographs. Each letter has a name directly related to the picture. The pictographs of each letter evolved over time. The connection between the pictograph and the name is lost without knowledge of the original pictograph which is the perfect representation of its meaning of the picture.

1 Pictograph - What the pictograph represents is the first clue to what the name of the letter is. For example, the letter is an eye. The Hebrew word for an eye is (ayin) and is the Modern name for this letter.



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## DAY 3 – INTRODUCTION LET'S OBSERVE

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Our website, [www.cleopasbiblestudy.org](http://www.cleopasbiblestudy.org), offers the observation worksheets for this study in a separate PDF that may be downloaded and printed. You can print this PDF file from your computer. In order to "mark" keywords, which is essential for studying Scripture inductively, I strongly advise using these worksheets to explore the specific verses we are studying in this Bible study. When studying inductively, it is crucial to observe and mark the text since it allows you to take your time and examine the scriptures word by word and phrase by phrase. You are encouraged to use these observation worksheets, but you can also mark your Bible, but keep in mind that because Bible pages are thin and have little room for writing, you should use the proper pens or highlighters specifically to use on Bible pages.

Included in the Observation Worksheets are both of the Psalms that are in our study of THE LIVING WORD – Psalms 19 and 119. In this case, what is the purpose of text observation? What are key phrases and words exactly?

Using key words and phrases—which are typically recognized through repetition—allows students studying God's word to comprehend the message of the text more easily. An accurate interpretation of the context—which includes the verses or chapters that precede and follow—is essential to correctly interpreting the message as a whole. To ensure that one's understanding is correct, it is crucial to consider each passage in light of the entirety of Scripture. This is due to the fact that removing scriptures from their context can lead to misinterpretation. If we take the time to investigate the context, we can prevent abusing a text or misdirecting its intended purpose.

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D.L. MOODY AND A CRITIC, WHO SAID TO HIM:  
"I HAVE BEEN THROUGH THE BIBLE 10 TIMES, IT HASN'T DONE MUCH FOR ME!"  
MOODY REPLIED:  
"IF YOU ALLOW IT TO GO THROUGH YOU ONCE, YOU WILL BE A CHANGED MAN!"

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The items that are typically repeated are the obvious facts, details, names, places, events, or ideas that you are learning and observing. Using symbols and/or colors, key words and phrases should be identified in a distinctive manner.

How do we go about identifying these crucial words and phrases? First, we need to understand a few more details about these vital "keys" and then we can take "action". Once key words and phrases are identified and the context is established, then we will take the principles, commands and precepts and apply them to our lives – to learn and grow in our walk with Jesus. Application is how the Holy Spirit makes the Living Word of God collide with your daily life.

IT'S THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO  
SPEAKS TO US- IN GOD'S  
WORD

IT'S THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO  
CONVICTS US- WITH GOD'S  
WORD

IT'S THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO  
TRANSFORMS US-  
THROUGH GOD'S WORD.

[www.wordbymail.com](http://www.wordbymail.com)

Allow me to talk about Psalm 119 for a moment before we start our observations with Psalm 19. Psalm 119

contains something we may not be familiar with, at least, it was not familiar to me and was quite interesting when I looked into this Psalm further.

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible. It has a unique acrostic structure using successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Each of the Psalm's 22 eight-line/verse sections begins with a word with the corresponding Hebrew letter of that section. A very unique and very special Psalm. Throughout our study of THE LIVING WORD, focusing on Psalms 19 & 119 and supporting cross references of other verses of Scripture, our focus will be on these elements of Scripture – His Word, laws, statutes, judgments, testimonies, commandments and His precepts. We will see these words will repeat as key words and key phrases throughout our study. This is the main focus but also, we will start with Creation as Creation was the beginning, the first words of the Bible itself as we begin our study with Psalm 19 as : Day after day, night after night, the unchanging patterns of the sun, moon, and stars continually "utter speech" and "reveal knowledge" about their Creator. It's a continual display. What we see in nature is meant to constantly show us that God exists and tell us how amazing a Creator He truly is. God said in Genesis 1, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. In the same way, the light of His Word removes the darkness that keeps us from Him.

In Romans 1, God has revealed enough of Himself in nature that nobody has an excuse for rejecting Him or for doing what is wrong. David, in his wisdom, came to this realization and guides his reader through his poetry, explaining that the words uttered by God to create light, heaven, earth, moon, plants, animals, and more are the same as His commandments, precepts, and statues. That God who reveals Himself in creation is the same God revealing Himself in His word.


We will start today's study with observing Psalm 19 and hold off for now observing Psalm 119. Included in each study if I ask you to observe the text, I include all the scripture using the NASB version of the Bible for you to use for observation. These may be located at the very end of your lesson if it's a short lesson, if it is longer lessons, the Observation sheets will be located as a separate document.



To help you to observe your text, I drew what I used to mark using a mouse on a computer – so please be gentle with me about my artistry 😊. **These are only suggestions – please mark the text as you would like.**

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OBSERVE/MARK  
PSALM 19 ONLY


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Mark all mention of time: 


Mark all occurrences of God:  


Mark all occurrences of heavens/expanse:


Mark sun and all its pronouns: 

Mark earth/world: 

Mark all occurrences of speech/word(s)(of my mouth)/voice: 

Mark all occurrences of heart(s)/love: 

Mark errors/hidden faults, presumptuous sins/great wrongdoings  and its pronouns:

Mark all occurrences of redeem/Lord, my rock and my Redeemer: 

Mark **Law of the Lord**

Mark **Testimony of the Lord**

Mark **Precepts/Statutes of the Lord**

Mark **The Commandment of the Lord**

Mark the Fear of the Lord

Mark Judgments of the Lord

**Note that we will be marking many of these in Psalm 119 as well.**

This will complete Day 2 of our study. I want to emphasize to you all that just because I like to divide my studies into Days rather than Chapters does not mean that everyone may hope to have the time to do each day's study in just one day. Please take as much time as necessary to finish. Please note that Day 5 includes all 22 stanzas so take as much time as you need.

I hope you agree on the significance of studying in these methods. In marking the text, you slow down and engage physically and mentally in the scripture for careful study. Daily reading through scripture is a meeting place with God, along with prayer. Studying scripture and immersing yourself to understand God's precepts and His will for your life as we apply the scriptures to our lives as we observe the texts.

*Proverbs 2:3-5 (CSB): "...if you call out to insight and lift your voice to understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it like hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and discover the knowledge of God."*



We are on an adventure through God's Word. Just like a treasure map to hidden treasure, God's Word leads us to unimaginable riches. The difference is you will gather treasures on the way – many, many treasures – it just depends on how **deep/inductive** you want to go. Just like a treasure map, you must

follow the directions to reach the destination. Going your own way won't likely result in much progress. Although there may be some baubles along the way, they won't point you in the direction of the genuine treasure; you'll need to dig deep for it, and you are now becoming equipped to do so.

1: We OBSERVE: What does the passage say?

2: Then INTERPRETATION: Discover what it means!

3: Then APPLICATION: Discover how it works in application to your life! How does the meaning of this passage apply to me?

Let's pray as we end our study today and to be bright-eyed and bushy-tailed for tomorrow's study!

*AWESOME AND WONDERFUL GOD, OUR FATHER, WE GIVE THANKS TO YOU FOR YOUR MAJESTY, MIGHT, AND SOVEREIGNTY. EVERY ONE OF US HAS THE PRIVILEGE OF APPROACHING YOUR THRONE, O KING, AND RECEIVING THE HEALING, CONSOLATION, AND DIRECTION FOUND IN YOUR WORD. PLEASE PROTECT US FROM MISSING ANY OF THE TREASURES YOU HAVE IN STORE FOR US. HELP US WITH OUR STUDY. REKINDLE OUR SPIRITUAL FIRE. HELP US GET READY FOR TOMORROW'S LESSON BY GIVING US A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP AND BY MEETING WITH US AS WE SEEK YOU WITH ALL OUR HEARTS. SING PRAISES TO JESUS, THE LORD, THE SAVIOR, AND THE REDEEMER! WE MAKE OUR REQUESTS BEFORE GOD IN JESUS NAME. AMEN! AND AMEN!*



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## DAY 4 PSALM 19 LITTLE PSALM, BIG PICTURE

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Writing Bible Studies has always been thrilling for me. I adore being in the Scriptures and coming up with ideas to put down on paper. But the truth is that it is through the Holy Spirit that these words end up on these pages. The One who helps me craft them is the same Holy Spirit who opened the minds of prophets, poets, and apostles. He guides, corrects, prompts, and brings to remembrance. He shapes my thoughts when they wander, softens my heart when it grows dull, and sharpens my understanding when I am slow to see.

So when I write, I write with gratitude. Not confidence in my own abilities, but confidence that the Spirit who authored the Word still delights to help God’s people understand it, love it, and live it. And if He chooses to use my studies, even in a small way, then every page becomes an act of worship rather than just a work of writing.

From the very first time I studied Psalm 19 alongside Psalm 119, a pattern became clear: Psalm 19 is like a small window into the vast landscape of Psalm 119. It’s a “mini-me” version—a brief, radiant snapshot that captures the heart of what Psalm 119 explores in loving, expansive detail. Psalm 19 points us to God’s glory in creation and the perfection

of His Word, while Psalm 119 unpacks that same truth verse by verse, showing the depth, beauty, and richness of a life fully devoted to God’s instruction.

Psalm 19 teaches us to pay attention—to see God’s fingerprints in creation and His truth shining from His Word. Psalm 119 teaches us to stay committed—to keep returning to Scripture until it becomes our delight, our anchor, and our life. One grabs our attention for the moment; the other shapes our devotion for the long haul. Together, they show how God uses His Word to meet us quickly and to mature us slowly.

As we move through these passages, may we allow the **Holy Spirit to lead us**, just as He guided the psalmist. He brings Scripture to life, opening our eyes to its wisdom, speaking to our hearts, and shaping us from the inside out. Psalm 19 and Psalm 119 are not just texts to read—they are invitations to listen, reflect, and be transformed. May this study help you enter that dialogue, experiencing both the brilliance and the depth of God’s Word in your own life.

Be sure to have your Observation Worksheets handy for our study today. These worksheets are designed to help you slow down, see the text with fresh eyes, and trace its movements—what the author emphasizes, where the thought shifts, and how the passage builds. Let the layout of the passage settle in your mind. When the structure feels familiar, the study becomes richer, your insight deepens, and our group conversation becomes far more fruitful.

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## CREATION’S WITNESS & SCRIPTURE’S WISDOM

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Creation itself is God’s first sermon. His glory is evident to all who look up. This is general revelation: God speaks universally with continuous, unspoken preaching. God’s handiwork communicates steadily without words. According to the Psalmist of Psalm 19, God reveals Himself in 2 ways. By the general or natural revelation of the Heavens (vs 1-6) and by the specific supernatural revelation His Word (vs 7-14). God communicates through **both nature and His Word**.

There is Glory in God's Creation. God Speaks Through the Heavens (Psalm 19:1–6).  
“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.”

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## WHAT PSALM 19 MEANS

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Psalm 19 is about words. Interestingly though, in **verses 1 - 6** nobody speaks the words. We see the moon and the stars and the sun. We see the earth and the animals and the plants. They all make us feel inside ourselves, "Somebody made all this". The Psalm tells us in verses 1 and 4 who that "Somebody" is. His name is God. We have a special name for all these things that God made. We call them all "nature". Nature is like a very big book. It tells us, "God made everything".

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*Creation is God's universal sermon. It crosses language barriers, cultures, and generations. No translator is needed; the message is woven into the fabric of creation*

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**Romans 1:20** says, we are all without excuse. Everyone should recognize the glory of God. I like how the Bible Version The Message has titled **Romans 1:19-23 – IGNORING GOD LEADS TO A DOWNWARD SPIRAL**. It's a gradual spiral: ignoring God leads to

twisted values, which leads to moral and spiritual decay. It is futile thinking, moral confusion, and idolatry emerge naturally when God is ignored.



Write Romans 1:19-21 in any version:

### Romans 1:19-21 International Children's Bible

19 God shows his anger because everything that may be known about God has been made clear. Yes, God has clearly shown them everything that may be known about him. 20 There are things about God that people cannot see—his eternal power and all the things that make him God. But since the beginning of the world those things have been easy to understand. They are made clear by what God has made. So people have no excuse for the bad things they do. 21 They knew God. But they did not give glory to God, and they did

not thank him. Their thinking became useless. Their foolish minds were filled with darkness.

Romans 1:20 emphasizes that God’s attributes are “clearly seen”, so ignoring God is a conscious act, not an accidental oversight. Ignoring God is like closing our ears to a voice that never stops calling. Psalm 19 is basically saying that Creation speaks without words. The heavens shouts God’s existence and character. Verses 2–3 emphasize this paradox: God communicates through beauty, consistency, order, and magnificence.

Use your Observation Worksheets. List below 7 elements of creation mentioned in verses 1-4.

ELEMENT 1	THE HEAVENS 1A
ELEMENT 2	THE SKY AB
ELEMENT 3	DAY 2A
ELEMENT 4	NIGHT 2B
ELEMENT 5	EARTH 4A
ELEMENT 6	END OF THE WORLD 4A
ELEMENT 7	SUN

The Psalm begins not on earth but in the expanse above. Creation is not silent, and its speech does not depend on any one individual human language. Day after day, night after night, the sky is preaching—announcing, revealing, telling the story of God’s majesty.

Read The Story of Creation when God created the universe in Genesis 1.



How does God create and compare this with Psalms 19:1-6? God said (spoke, commanded)

God spoke His creation into existence. It should be understandable that through His continued upkeep of creation – the order, the magnificence that His glory would be manifested to us.

Because God spoke creation into existence, it makes sense that the same voice still echoes through everything He sustains. The order, beauty, and rhythm of the world does not simply display His power—they reach into us, reminding our hearts of the One who holds all things together. When we notice the vastness of the sky and the steady order of creation, His glory stirs something deep within us, helping us sense the God who is far beyond our understanding yet close enough to touch our hearts. Despite not having a literal voice, nature speaks in a way that reaches every human heart. When we take the time to observe creation, we see **God’s fingerprints everywhere** - His craftsmanship - we are reminded of His greatness. Creation is an invitation to worship and stand in awe of the One who made it all.

His Word enriches our souls in ways that material possessions never can.

Genesis shows God speaking to make the world.

Psalms 19 ends by asking God to shape our **inner world**—thoughts and words.

## GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD (PSALM 19:7–11)

Psalm 19:7-14. The Psalmist unfolds a different facet of the Word, using a sixfold pattern descriptions or parallel statements about the scriptures and the benefit and purpose of the scriptures (The...of the Lord...)

In the table below, use your Observation Worksheets for Psalm 19:7-14 NASB and fill in the blanks

	Descriptive Title	Source	Divine NATURE	Divine PURPOSE	SUBJECT
THE	LAW	OF THE LORD IS	PERFECT	RESTORING	THE SOUL
THE	TESTIMONY	OF THE LORD IS	SURE	MAKING WISE	THE SIMPLE
THE	PRECEPTS	OF THE LORD ARE	RIGHT	REJOICING	THE HEART
THE	COMMANDMENT	OF THE LORD IS	PURE	ENLIGHTENING	THE EYES

	Descriptive Title	Source	Divine NATURE	Divine PURPOSE	SUBJECT
THE	FEAR	OF THE LORD IS	CLEAN	ENDURING FOREVER	
THE	JUDGEMENTS	OF THE LORD ARE	TRUE & RIGHTEOUS		
THEY	(ALL OF THE ABOVE)	ARE	MORE DESIRABLE THAN PURE GOLD		
THEY	(ALL OF THE ABOVE)	ARE	SWEETER THAN HONEY & DRIPPINGS OF HONEYCOMB		
YOUR	SERVANT	IS WARNED	BY THEM (ALL THE ABOVE)		
	(ALL OF THE ABOVE)	KEEPING (ALL) IS	GREAT REWARD		

It's that shift from God showing Himself in the world around us to God speaking directly through His Word. And when we actually take in that Word, it doesn't just teach us—it refreshes us and brings our spiritual life back up to strength.

Both show:

1. **God orders life through Creation** (Genesis) – “This is **who** you are”
2. **God orders life through His Word** (Psalm 19) – “This is **how** you should live”

### GENESIS MAPS THE WORLD; PSALM 19 MAPS THE HEART.

In both Psalms 19 and 119 there are eight basic words used to describe the Scriptures, God's written revelation to us. These eight terms are describing different spiritual aspects and purposes and organized as such as a portrait of God's whole word.

**Law** (תּוֹרָה / **torah**) **God's teaching or instruction.** Focused on God's instruction or teaching; the full body of His guidance for righteous living. “Its parent verb means ‘teach’ or ‘direct’; therefore coming from God it means both ‘law’ and ‘revelation.’ It can be used of a single command or of a whole body of law.” (Derek Kidner). The Hebrew word (**torah**) is often translated as “law” but has the broader meaning of “teachings.” It is much like the guidance a parent gives to a child. It involves instructions, correction, praise, and punishment (when appropriate).

**Word** (דָּבָר / **davar**) Appears in almost every stanza of Psalm 119. God's message; His communication to guide, teach, and bless. Emphasizes God's Word as the central object of meditation. The idea is of the spoken word, God's revealed word to man. "Proceeding from his mouth and revealed by him to us..." (Matthew Poole)

**Word** (אִמְרָה / **imrah**): **imrah** is similar in meaning to **dabar**, yet a different term. A spoken word or utterance; God's declaration or promise "The 'word' may denote anything God has spoken, commanded, or promised." (Willem VanGemerem)

**Judgments** (מִשְׁפָּטִים / **mispatim**) Meaning: "God's righteous decisions; His just, wise verdicts." "...from shaphat, to judge, determine, regulate, order, and discern, because they judge concerning our words and works; show the rules by which they should be regulated; and cause us to discern what is right and wrong, and decide accordingly." (Adam Clarke)

**Testimonies** (עֲדוּת / **edot/edut**) **God's covenant promises.** Focuses on God's covenant/faithful witness.. This word is related to the word for witness. To obey His testimonies "...signifies loyalty to the terms of the covenant made between the Lord and Israel." (Willem VanGemerem)

**Commandments** (מִצְוָה / **mitzvot/mitzvah**) **God's commands to obey.** Emphasizes obedience and practical application of God's Word. **A divine instruction or directive that guides the believer's life.** "This word emphasizes the straight authority of what is said...the right to give orders." (Derek Kidner). The Hebrew word (**mitzvah**) is usually translated as "command" or "commandment." The English word "command" has sort of a harsh connotation. It is more like something a general might give to his troops. The Hebrews, who had a nomadic background, thought of life like a journey. The word "**mitzvah**" originally denoted a directive to show the right path to take on the journey.

**Statutes** (חֻקִּים / **huqqim/chukim**) **God's rules, decrees or ordinances that guide and protect; His decrees that show His will.** The noun is derived from the root verb "engrave" or "inscribe"; the idea is the written word of God and the authority of His written word: "...declaring his authority and power of giving us laws." (Matthew Poole)

**Precepts** (פְּקֻדִים / **piqqudim**) **God's instructions/directions for daily living.** Highlights God's rules as a pattern for righteous living. "This is a word drawn from the sphere

of an officer or overseer, a man who is responsible to look closely into a situation and take action.... It's root word, paqad can also have the sense of entrusting something for safe keeping. So the word points to the particular instructions of the Lord, as of one who cares about detail." (Derek Kidner). Precept - a general rule intended to regulate behavior or thought

## **Fear of the LORD** A reverent awe and respect for God, which leads to

**obedience and wisdom.** A profound reverence that shapes the believer's entire life. It is a holy awe that inspires obedience, devotion, and careful attention to God's Word. Those who fear the Lord walk carefully, seek His guidance, and delight in His statutes, recognizing that His commands are life-giving and just. Throughout the psalm, this fear is closely linked with wisdom, understanding, and steadfast love, showing that reverent awe of God forms the foundation for a faithful and flourishing spiritual life.

A quote from Warren Wiersbe from Bible Exposition Commentary who makes a profound comment we dare not read over too quickly -

**"The way a Christian treats his Bible shows how he regards Jesus Christ.**

**He is the living Word** (John 1:1, 14),

**and the Bible is the written Word;**

**but in essence they are the same.**

**Both are**

**bread** (Mt. 4:4; John 6:48),

**light** (Ps. 119:105; John 8:12),

**and truth** (John 14:6; 17:17)."

Psalm 19:10.

- **The Word is more desirable than gold.**  
Not just valuable—*craved*.
- **The Word is sweeter than honey.** Not just nourishing—*delightful*.

Verse 11 ends with a double blessing:

**Scripture warns us from danger and rewards us with life.**

a bible  
falling apart  
USUALLY  
BELONGS  
TO SOMEONE  
WHO  
ISN'T.

---

## GOD SPEAKS TO THE HEART (PSALM 19:12–14)

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After beholding the majesty above and the perfection of God’s Word, David turns inward.

**The closer we come to God’s light, the more clearly we see our shadows.**

The Psalmist David acknowledges in this Psalm:

- **Hidden faults** – sins we don’t see
- **Presumptuous sins** – sins we fully know yet commit anyway
- **Dominating sins** – sins that try to rule us

His prayer becomes threefold:

1. **Cleanse me** from what I cannot see.
2. **Restrain me** from what I can see and am tempted by.
3. **Rule me**, so that sin does not rule me.

He wants not only forgiveness but transformation—integrity from the inside out.

Finally, the psalm climaxes with one of Scripture’s most beloved prayers:

**“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable in your sight,  
O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.”**

This prayer joins the outer and inner life: speech and thought, action and motive. It acknowledges God as **Rock** (strength) and **Redeemer** (Savior).

Psalm 119 invites us, like Psalm 19, to look up and listen—to step into God’s creation and let His Word speak to our hearts. Both psalms celebrate God’s Word as **“sweeter than honey”** (Psalm 19:10; 119:103), something that nourishes the soul and shapes our lives. From the vast heavens to the quiet of our prayers, God’s truth delights, guides, and transforms us, turning awe into devotion and meditation into living obedience.

When you put Psalm 19 and Psalm 119 side by side, you can really see how they connect. Psalm 19 walks us through a simple progression—God speaks through creation, then through His Word, and then it moves into a personal response. Psalm 119 does something similar, but it slows everything down and really digs into the beauty and impact of God’s Word. Psalm 19 is short and poetic; Psalm 119 is long and meditative. But both hit the same big themes: God brings light, joy, guidance, protection, and real life through what He reveals.

Let's pray. The next section will take some elbow grease, but the reward is worth every bit of the effort!

*AWESOME AND WONDERFUL GOD, OUR FATHER, WE GIVE THANKS TO YOU FOR YOUR MAJESTY, MIGHT, AND SOVEREIGNTY. TEACH US TO LOOK UP AND SEE AND "LISTEN" AS YOU SPEAK TO US IN THE GLORY OF YOUR CREATION, IN THE STARS AND THE UNIVERSE AND THE SUN AND THE COMPLETENESS OF YOUR WORD. MAY YOUR WORD NOURISH OUR SOULS AND MOVE US TO RESPOND IN DELIGHT TO YOUR WORD AND SEE THE JOY, PROTECTION, GUIDANCE AND OUR REAL LIFE THAT ONLY YOU PROVIDE. WE DO NOT REQUEST THIS LIGHTLY OR CARELESSLY, LORD, BUT IN FULL HUMBLE AND SURRENDERED HEARTS, BELONGING TO YOU IN EVERY WAY THAT WE CAN FULLY COME TO THE THRONE OF GRACE AND TO OUR HEAVENLY FATHER. WE MAKE OUR REQUESTS BEFORE GOD IN JESUS NAME. AMEN! AND AMEN!*



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## DAY 5

### LET'S OBSERVE PSALM 119

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**Psalm 119 is definitely long—but no need to be intimidated.** Take a breath, settle in, and just keep going. Pretty quickly, the psalm starts to open up, and what felt huge at first becomes surprisingly enjoyable. God's Word is a treasure, and the more time you spend in it, the more little jewels start popping out—truths you only notice when you slow down and dig a bit. As you move through Psalm 119 one stanza at a time, you find yourself caught up in its progression, and before you know it, you've gone farther than you expected, not out of duty but because you're genuinely enjoying the journey.

As you keep going, you'll notice something else—Psalm 119 doesn't just talk about God's Word; it starts working on your heart while you read it. Certain phrases will stick. A line will nudge you. A prayer will echo something you didn't know you needed to say. It's like the psalm quietly disciplines you as you move through it. Little by little, your pace slows, your focus sharpens, and your hunger for God grows. What began as "a long chapter" starts to feel more like a conversation.

To help you to observe your text, I drew what I used to mark using a mouse on a computer – so please be gentle with me about my artistry 😊 . These are only suggestions – please mark the text as you would like.

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## OBSERVE/MARK PSALM 119

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Mark all occurrences of God/LORD, Your name and pronouns:



Mark all occurrences of bless(ed):



Mark earth:



Mark all occurrences of speech/word(s)(of my mouth)/voice:



Mark all occurrences of heart(s)/love:



Mark the following:



*Aleph*: none

*Beth*: sin

*Gimel*: arrogant, the cursed, disgrace and contempt

*Daleth*: the false way

*He*: dishonest gain, what is worthless; my disgrace which I dread

*Vav*: none

*Zahin*: my misery; the arrogant; the wicked

*Heth*: the snares of the wicked

*Teth*: astray; the arrogant; forged a lie against; insensitive like fat

*Yodh*: The arrogant; lead me astray with a lie

*Kaph*: like a wineskin in the smoke; the arrogant have dug pits for; a lie; destroyed

*Lamedh*: the wicked wait for; destroy;

*Mem*: evil way

*Nun*: the wicked

*Samekh*: double-minded, evildoers, who stray, their deceitfulness is useless, all the wicked of the earth like impurities

*Ayin*: my oppressors; the arrogant, they have broken, false way

*Pe*: wrongdoing; from oppression by man

*Tsadhe*: my enemies have forgotten; trouble and anguish

*Qoph*: Those who follow after wickedness; They are far from

*Resh*: the wicked; my persecutors and my enemies; the treacherous

*Shin*: Rulers persecute; falsehood

*Tav*: none

Mark **Law of the Lord**

Mark **Testimony of the Lord**

Mark **Precepts/Statutes of the Lord**

Mark **The Commandment of the Lord**

Mark **the Fear of the Lord**

Mark **Judgments of the Lord**

Mark **Your words**

Mark all occurrences of walk, footsteps (Pe) :



Mark all occurrences of soul:

Mark all occurrences of salvation:

Mark all occurrences of graciousness; righteous(ness):

Mark all occurrences of treasure(d)/riches, gold, silver, plunder:



Mark all occurrences of eye(s), look(ing), seen:



Mark all occurrences of servant(s) and pronouns:



Mark all occurrences or variations of discernment, knowledge, wise, understand, not forget/forgotten:



Mark all occurrences of sweet(er):



Mark all occurrences of lamp, light, shine:



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## PSALM 119

### BIG PSALM, EVEN BIGGER PICTURE

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Psalm 119 is a big chapter, but it's aiming at an even bigger truth. While Psalm 19 presents a grand view of God communicating through both creation and His Word; in contrast, Psalm 119 encourages a more deliberate approach, inviting us to savor Scripture—spend time with it, immerse ourselves in it, and allow its profound layers to impact us over our lives. The psalmist wants us to soak it in—how God's Word teaches, anchors, comforts, and reshapes a life. It's basically a slow walk through the goodness of God's truth, one step and one verse at a time. Think of Psalm 119 as a **discipleship roadmap**.

Psalm 119 is basically the Old Testament's way of saying what Jesus later affirms in Matthew 5:18—*that even the tiniest part of God's Word matters*. The psalmist delights in God's commands, precepts, and promises with a kind of attention that matches *Jesus' "jot and tittle"* emphasis.

Read Matthew 5:17-19 in the Expanded Bible Version below:

**Matthew 5:17-19 Expanded Bible THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS**

<sup>17</sup> “Don’t think that I have come to ·destroy [abolish; do away with] ·the law of Moses or the teaching of the prophets [the Law and the Prophets; referring to the OT].

I have not come to destroy them but to ·bring about what they said [fulfill/complete them].

<sup>18</sup> I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth ·are gone [pass away; disappear], not even ·the **smallest letter [one jot; one iota; the smallest Greek letter] or the smallest ·part [stroke; tittle] of a letter** will ·be lost [pass away; disappear] until everything ·has happened [is accomplished/achieved].

<sup>19</sup> [Therefore] Whoever ·refuses to obey [ignores; breaks; annuls] ·any command [one of the least of these commands] and teaches other people ·not to obey that command [to do likewise] will be ·the least important [called/considered least] in the kingdom of heaven.

But whoever ·obeys [keeps; practices] the commands and teaches other people to obey them will be [considered; called] great in the kingdom of heaven.

If even the *smallest* pen-strokes in Scripture matter to God, then the whole of Scripture is trustworthy, intentional, and meaningful. He’s not just protecting the big commands; He’s honoring every detail, every nuance, every small stroke of what God has spoken.

Psalms 119 shows a heart that trusts God’s Word down to the finest line, and Jesus echoes that same confidence when He says not even the smallest letter or mark will pass away until all is accomplished.

**God pays attention to the details, and Jesus says we can bank our lives on every line, letter, and little stroke of the entirety of His Word.**

Hebrew in the Old Testament began as a pictographic language—words built from simple images that carried layers of meaning, emotion, and movement. Each letter wasn’t just a sound; it was a picture, a symbol, a story. Because of that, Hebrew words often hold a depth that English just can’t fully capture. Our English Bibles give us the truth, but the Hebrew behind them carries color, texture, and layers that unfold when you look at the original pictographs. This is especially true in Psalm 119. Each stanza is built on a single Hebrew letter, and when you know that those letters began as pictographs—a strong ox, a house, a camel, a door—it opens up whole new windows of insight. The images behind the letters quietly reinforce the themes of each section, giving your Bible study greater

depth, richness, and “aha!” moments that you’d never see in English alone. Hebrew word pictures do not replace or define Scripture – *they illustrate it.*

**As an acrostic, each stanza in Psalm 119 follows the Hebrew alphabet starting with Aleph to Tav (A to Z). This reflects a Hebrew way of thinking that God’s Word covers life “from beginning to end.”**

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EACH STANZA HAS ITS OWN EMOTIONAL TONE. EACH STANZA FOCUSES ON A SEASON OF LIFE AND EMPHASIZES A SPIRITUAL THEME. EACH ONE IS LIKE CHAPTER IN A LARGER STORY OF A BELIEVER’S LIFE.

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It’s also good to mention that the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet that, in the ancient pictograph script, **Tav** looked like a **cross mark**. It’s pretty amazing that the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet carries the picture of a cross. When Psalm 119 ends with Tav, it quietly points ahead to the Messiah, whose work on the cross would complete and fulfill God’s promises. The alphabet ends with the sign of the cross—and so does God’s plan of redemption. That is pretty amazing!

Throughout our study, there are word studies, writing prompts, cross references. Since this study is about the Living Word, it leads itself for journaling which is completely voluntary and designed just for your enjoyment and compliments your own spiritual journey.

Today, we will begin our study by exploring the first three Hebrew letters of Psalm 119: **Aleph, Bet, and Gimel**. Each letter opens a unique window into the richness of God’s Word, offering insights that go beyond the surface of the text and see how we apply God’s Word to our everyday lives. Over the coming days, we will continue this journey, studying at least three Hebrew letters at a time, allowing us to go deeper into the psalm and uncover the wisdom, guidance, and encouragement embedded in each stanza.

Before we start, grab your Observation Worksheets for Aleph – Psalm 119:1-8. These sheets are perfect for jotting down notes, thoughts, or anything that jumps out at you. Today, we’re zooming in on the different words Psalm 119 uses for **God’s Word**: *Law of the Lord, Testimonies of the Lord, Precepts/Statutes of the Lord, Commandments of the Lord, Fear of the Lord, Judgments of the Lord, and Your (God’s) Words.*

Why focus on these? Each word shows a different side of how God communicates with us. Some teach, some guide, some protect, and some remind us of His faithfulness. By paying attention to these words, we start seeing God’s Word not just as rules on a page,

but as a living guide for our everyday lives. This study isn't about memorizing terms—it's about letting God's Word shape our hearts, our choices, and the way we live day to day.

**As we go through each stanza and its pictographs, I've included the descriptive words used for God's Word in each verse. Try reading the verses with the definitions substituted for the original words—it can help deepen your understanding.**



## ALEPH (א)

### WORDS USED FOR GOD'S WORD:

LAW, TESTIMONIES, WAYS,  
PRECEPTS, STATUTES,  
COMMANDMENTS, JUDGMENTS

ANCIENT PICTOGRAPH:  
(OX HEAD)



SYMBOLIC MEANING:  
STRENGTH/STRONG • LEADER •  
FIRST • STEADY PATH • AUTHORITY

**How Symbol connects to God's Word:** Aleph symbolizes strength and leadership. God's Word provides spiritual strength (Word), guides our life (Statutes), and witnesses God's covenant (Testimonies). As the first letter, it represents the beginning of spiritual life.

Each verse in the Aleph section reflects one aspect of the ox: strong, steady, first in the line, leading the plow, making straight paths, bearing burdens.

### Who leads my life?

#### 119:1 – The ox sets the straight path

"Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk **in the law of the LORD.**" Any

**\*\*torah - In the Law of the Lord – God's teaching or instruction \*\***



**Imagery:** The ox is the **first** to step out, plowing a **straight, clean furrow.**

- A "blameless way" is like a straight and steady furrow without wobble.



Cross Reference: Isaiah 45:2a Amplified Bible. Classic Edition

*"I will go before you and level the mountains (to make the crooked places straight)."*

- Those under God’s leadership have **strength to walk straight**, avoiding crooked paths
- Walking in God’s law mirrors walking behind a **strong, steady leader**.
- **The strong foundation / the first principle.**
  - Aleph is about **beginning with the right authority**.

IF ALEPH IS THE *FIRST* LETTER, THEN OBEDIENCE TO GOD’S AUTHORITY IS THE *FIRST* PRINCIPLE. START WITH HIM, OR EVERYTHING ELSE WOBBLER.

### 119:2 – Whole-hearted seeking is strength under a leader

“Blessed are those who comply with **His testimonies**, and seek Him with all their heart.”

**\*\*edot/edut Testimony of the Lord God’s covenant promises\*\***



**Imagery:** The ox “**gives its strength**” fully to the plow under the guidance of its leader

- Leading your heart under God’s Authority.
- No half-effort. Our spiritual strength comes from surrender, our meekness of “harnessed” strength



The word “blessed” in the Greek is **makarioi** which means how fortunate or how happy which has the connotation of “has got it all” or “has got it made”.

Now read the first two lines of Psalm 119 this way: *I’ve got it made. I’ve got it all —those whose way is blameless. who walk in the law of the LORD . I’ve got it made. I’ve got it all – those who comply with His testimonies and seek Him with all their heart* Thinking of it like this hits differently: following God’s Word isn’t just good—it’s the ultimate win. The full, satisfying life we were made for.

### 119:3 – A straight walk with no crookedness

“They also do no injustice; They walk in His ways.”



**Imagery:** An ox **that’s well-trained** doesn’t veer left or right.

- “Do no injustice” = **no swerving into crooked paths**.



The word injustice connotes doing wrong willfully. The Hebrew word for injustice is **awlah** which means a willful wrongdoing and unfairness. The word **awlah** refers to moral distortion and unrighteousness – twisting what is right. A frequent and deliberate or persistent wrongdoing and a settled stance against God’s ways.

More Bible Versions for injustice in this verse: unrighteousness, iniquity, wrong, compromise with evil, wickedness

- “Walk in His ways” = following the **leader’s line like an ox following a steady plow**.



Cross Reference: Proverbs 4:27 Good News Translation

*“Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don’t go one step off the right way.”*

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### 119:4 – A firmly commanded path

“You have ordained (commanded) **Your precepts**, that we are to keep **them** diligently.”

**\*\*piqqudim Precepts God’s instructions/directions for daily living\*\***



**Imagery:** The farmer sets the direction; the ox **follows** with quiet strength.

- God “ordains” = God **sets the path**.



Write Proverbs 16:9 <any version> and how does this relate to God ordains and sets your path?

*English Standard Version (ESV) “The heart of the man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.”*

Emphasizes God’s sovereignty in guiding our paths/steps.

- We “keep them diligently” = we follow with **ox-like reliability** and steady obedience.
- God gives us specific guidance, not vague advice.

---

### 119:5 – Strength to stay established

“Oh that my ways may be established to keep **Your statutes!**”

**\*\*huqqim/chukim Statutes of the Lord God’s rules, decrees or ordinances that guide\*\***



**Imagery:** Only a **strong ox** can hold a plow line steady in tough soil.

- The psalmist longs for **inner strength** to be steady—an Aleph theme.
- “Established” evokes firm footing, like the ox bracing itself for the pull.



The Hebrew word for “keep” is **shamar**. This is a rich, layered word, and “keep” in English barely scratches the surface. What **shamar** carries the ideas of is guarding, watching closely, protecting something valuable, paying careful attention. Holding onto something with intention and care.

It's the same word used for a shepherd **watching over** his flock or a guard **keeping watch** over a city.

The psalmist is basically saying: "Lord, **steady my steps** so I can hold onto Your ways like something precious —so I don't just know them, but **guard them, watch them, and live them out.**"

### A simple picture

If English "keep" is like **putting something in your pocket**, then comparably the Hebrew **shamar** is like **putting something in a safe and watching over it because it matters deeply**.

---

### 119:6 – Walking in confidence, not shame

"Then I will not be ashamed when I look at all **Your commandments.**"

**\*\*mitzvot/mitzvah** The Commandment of the Lord **God's commands to obey\*\***



**Imagery:** The ox under a good master walks with **quiet dignity**.



The Hebrew word for "ashamed" is **bosh** which is both emotional and moral. Shame (**bosh**) is like a plow line that suddenly reveals a wobble—you look back and see the crooked path.

But keeping God's commands "in view" keeps the furrow straight, so you don't look back with regret.

The psalmist is basically saying here → "If I keep God's commands before me —if I aim my life straight—I won't end up exposed, disappointed, or proven false."

- The ox's presence reflects **strength + submission**—Aleph's dual idea.
- Obedience brings confidence before God.

---

### 119:7 – Uprightness of heart like the upright strength of the ox

"I will give thanks to You with uprightnes of heart, when I learn **Your righteous judgments.**"

**\*\*mispatim** Judgments of the Lord **God's righteous decisions; His just, wise verdicts\*\***



**Imagery:** The ox stands **upright and steady and unmoving**, symbolizing integrity/*Strength of character*.

- "Uprightnes of heart" = inner strength and moral stability. **A heart with a BACKBONE** that is firm and stable and aligned to what is true.
  - Our inner compass (our heart) lines up with His authority. Weakness often bends us inward, but inner strength bends us upward—toward God.

---

### 119:8 – Dependent on the Leader for strength

"I will keep **Your statutes**; do not utterly abandon me!"

**\*\*huqqim/chukim Statutes of the Lord God's rules, decrees or ordinances that guide\*\***



**Imagery:** Even the strongest ox depends entirely on its master.

- Keeping statutes = **strong, steady unchanging loyalty**. It's a commitment to stay in the furrow God has marked out—no wandering, no resisting, no plowing in our own direction.
- "Do not abandon me" = recognition that strength comes from the **Leader's presence**.

**My responsibility:** "I will keep Your statutes."

**My dependence:** "I need You to keep me."

The strongest believers are the most aware of their dependence. Real strength is staying close to the Leader who guides the plow.

---

Aleph's pictograph—the **ox**—is a perfect metaphor for a life aligned under God's authority: strong, steady, guided, and faithful.



List all the Words used for God's Word, the main action words (verbs) and descriptive words (adjectives) in this stanza (Aleph)

**Words used for God's Word: ALL THE WORDS FOR GOD'S WORD EXCEPT THE WORD OF GOD but does not contain the Hebrew words for GOD'S WORD (davar) or (imrah).**

**Major verbs:** walk, keep, seek, do, ordained, establish, look, give thanks, learn, forsake

**Major adjectives:** blessed, blameless, upright, righteous, ashamed



Why do you think the Aleph pictograph—the ox—fits so well with these action words?



Where do you need more "ox-like" steadiness—slow, strong, faithful obedience?

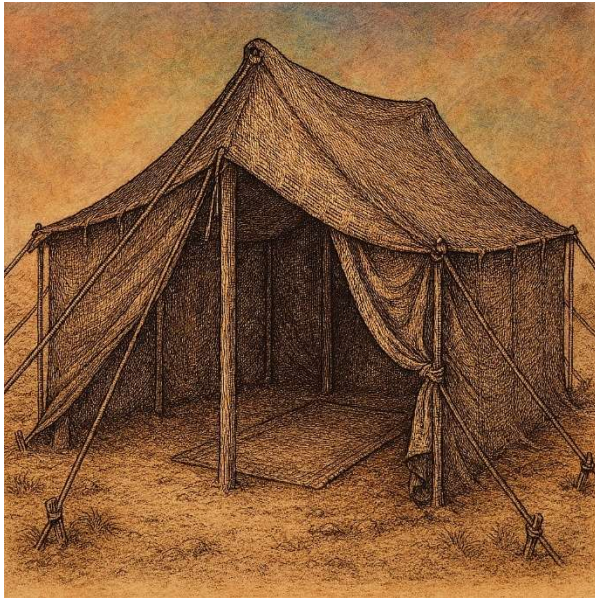


**JOURNAL PROMPT:** What is one small step you can take this week toward walking more closely in God's ways?



**Summary:** Movement verbs dominate in this Aleph/Ox stanza → the picture is not of someone *thinking* about obedience but *moving steadily* in it—like an ox plowing a straight path. Obedience always involves motion— “walking” with God. Life under God’s guidance. God as Master and Source. Faith starts with surrender.

**Grab your Observation Worksheets for Beth – Psalm 119:9-16.**



**BETH (ב)**

**WORDS USED FOR GOD’S WORD:**

**WORD, COMMANDMENTS, STATUTES, TESTIMONIES, PRECEPTS**

**ANCIENT PICTOGRAPH:**  (A TENT OR HOUSE SHAPE)

**SYMBOLIC MEANING:**  
**STRENGTH/STRONG • HOUSE • HOME • DWELLING • INSIDE • HEART-ROOM • FAMILY • WHERE ONE BELONGS**

**How Symbol connects to God’s Word:** Beth represents a “house.” God’s Word builds a **spiritual house** in our hearts. Precepts and testimonies strengthen the “household” of faith. Statutes are the **foundation** for living in God’s “house.”

Beth is about:

- **Creating a sacred inner space**
- **Letting God dwell within**
- **Making the heart a home for God’s Word**

The Beth stanza (vv. 9–16) focuses on how to **build and protect the inner house** of one’s life with Scripture.


**Belonging**

**Psalm 119:9–16 – Beth Imagery Verse by Verse**

**119:9 – Cleansing the “house” of the heart**

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word.”

**\*\*davar** Word **the spoken word, God's revealed word to man\*\***

 **Imagery:** Before a house can be lived in, it must be cleansed.

- Purity = a **clean interior space**.
- God's Word becomes the **housekeeping tool** that maintains the purity of the inner dwelling from spiritual dirt and sin.
- The question is about **protecting the house of the heart**.

---

### 119:10 – Inviting God fully inside


"With all my heart I have sought You; do not let me wander from **Your commandments**."

**\*\*mitzvot/mitzvah** The Commandment of the Lord **God's commands to obey\*\***

 **Imagery:** Seeking God "with all my heart" fills the whole house—no empty rooms.

- This is a **whole-house search** for God's presence.
- Staying close to His commands keeps the "home" from becoming empty or abandoned.



Using your Observation Worksheets, how many times in this Stanza Beth is the word heart  used? **4 times**

Throughout the entirety of Psalm 119, heart appears a total of 15 times. The heart is the command center of the believer's life.

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### 119:11 – Storing God's Word in the inner room

"I have treasured Your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against You."

**\*\*imrah** Word **utterance; God's declaration or promise**

 **Imagery:** In ancient tents, valuables were stored in the **innermost chamber**.

- God's Word is placed in the **inner room of the heart-house**.
- Treasuring God's Word inside protects from sin—like guarding what's stored in the home.
  - When God's Word is stored deep inside you, it will rise up when you need it most. In temptation — it warns. In sorrow — it comforts. In confusion — it guides

and in weakness – it strengthens. A heart filled with God’s Word is a heart well guarded.

- This is the first time sin is mentioned in this Psalm. Verse 11 is acting like a hinge, one side of the door is pursuit of God’s Word and how God’s Word empowers believers – the other side of the door Verse 11 marks the **first acknowledgment of the human problem of sin**

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## A HOUSE FILLED WITH GOD’S WORD LEAVES NO SPACE FOR SIN TO LIVE

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### 119:12 – A house has its Master

“Blessed are You, LORD; teach me **Your statutes**.”

**\*\*huqqim/chukim Statutes of the Lord God’s rules, decrees or ordinances that guide\*\***


 **Imagery:** Every house has a master who instructs those within.

- The psalmist stands inside God’s “household,” asking to be taught by the **Head of the house**.
- An invitation to let God set the order of my inner home.
- Learning God’s ways = living by the **house rules of God’s family**.

---

### 119:13 –The voice of the Master/Owner

“With my lips I have told of all the **ordinances** of Your mouth.”

 **Imagery:** A house reveals who lives in it by what comes out of it.

- His lips echo **the words of God**, showing that God dwells inside. Intentional testimony. A verbal faith, not silent belief. Faith is meant to be **confessed**, not hidden.



“I have told” in Hebrew is **sapar** which means to recount, declare, tell repeatedly. It does not mean casually speaking but “a careful retelling”. It’s like the psalmist is saying *‘I intentionally rehearse Your truth out loud.’*

“Of your mouth” is what is spoken by God. Scripture is not human ideas but divine speech. So when he speaks God’s Word, he is echoing God Himself.

An **ordinance**, in biblical terms, refers to a decree or command instituted by God or established by religious authority, often for the purpose of guiding the conduct and worship of His people

---

### 119:14 – Joy in the “household” treasures

"I have rejoiced in the way of **Your testimonies**, as much as in all riches."

**\*\*edot/edut Testimony of the Lord God's covenant promises\*\***

 **Imagery:** A household's greatest treasures are stored inside.

- Another Bible version, The Voice tells us "*I have celebrated Your testimonies as though rejoicing over an immeasurable fortune.*"
  - A different economy. God's Word compared with wealth that cannot be measured, counted or exhausted. There is no limit to God's Word as it is **spiritual abundance, spiritually wealthy.**
- Inside the "house" of Beth, God's testimonies become the family stories of faith, shaping trust, joy, and obedience. I don't just know God's covenant promises—I live among them, and they define what feels like home



What makes me feel "rich"? Is it: Money? Security? Recognition? Control? Or: Is it: God's presence? His Word? His guidance? His faithfulness?

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### 119:15 – Guarding and watching over what's inside

"I will meditate on **Your precepts** and regard Your ways."

**\*\*piqqudim Precepts God's instructions/directions for daily living\*\***

 **Imagery:** To "regard" means to **watch carefully**, like someone protecting the home.

- Meditation is **tending to the interior**, keeping the house orderly.
  - This is not Eastern meditation or transcendental meditation which should be avoided which could open to ungodly spiritualness. It focuses on emptying the mind.
  - Christian meditation is quite different in that it's a **pondering or mulling over, to reflect deeply**. To dwell on in thought and contemplate, to study, to turn or revolve in the mind
    - Meditation does not happen naturally. Distraction does. This verse shows spiritual discipline.
- The verse mirrors a homeowner attentively caring for everything inside.


---

### 119:16 – Making God's Word your daily dwelling-place

"I shall delight in **Your statutes**; I will not forget Your word."

**\*\*huqqim/chukim** **Statutes of the Lord** **God's rules, decrees or ordinances that guide\*\***

**\*\*davar** Word **the spoken word, God's revealed word to man\*\***

 **Imagery:** You don't forget what fills your home.

- Delight indicates that God's Word has become the **comfort, warmth, and joy** within the house.
- Forgetting in Scripture often means: Living as if God's Word does not matter. We tend to listen more to culture than Scripture.
  - **Do not forget:** Try meditating on One Verse a Day; try reading through the Bible in a Year; try praying scripture; try repeating scripture outloud; try memorizing a verse, and best of all try living God's Word.
- The house is not silent – God speaks within it. The house is alive, living and active

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BETH, THE LETTER OF THE HOUSE, OPENS PSALM 119 BY REMINDING US THAT GOD'S WORD IS NOT MEANT TO VISIT US OCCASIONALLY, BUT TO DWELL WITHIN US, SHAPING THE INNER ROOMS OF OUR HEARTS.

---

This is exactly the picture of **Beth**—the house, the dwelling place, the inner life ordered around God's presence.



List all the Words used for God's Word. the main action words (verbs) and descriptive words (adjectives) in this stanza (Beth)

**Major verbs:** **keep, seek, treasure, meditate, delight, not forget**

**Major adjectives:** **pure, righteous**



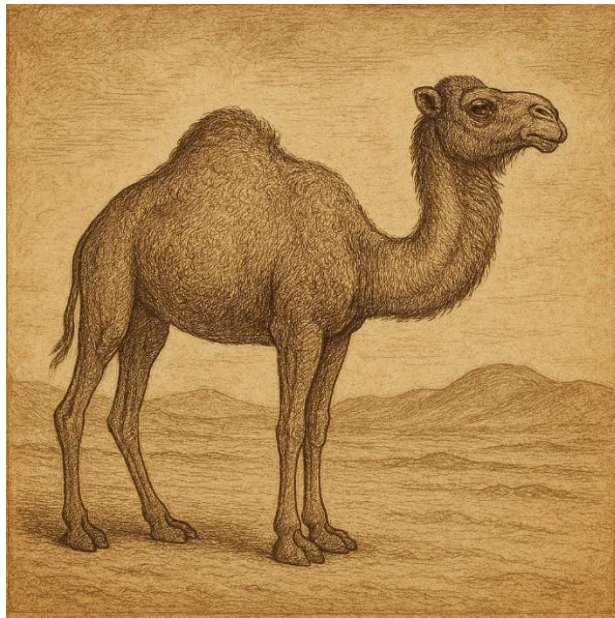
As I mentioned before, these are internal verbs—actions that happen in the secret places of your heart—so what 'rooms' of your heart (the command center of a believer's life) need to be cleared out or cleaned so God's Word can dwell there more fully?"



Are the treasures referred to here earthly possessions? Why would the psalmist use the word "treasures"?


**Summary:** Verbs of internal discipline ("treasure," "meditate") – not moving or external like the Ox/Aleph stanza. This stanza reminds us that building our lives on God's Word creates a strong, steady foundation—our spiritual "house". Learning to live in God's household. Identity is formed.

### Grab your Observation Worksheets for Gimel – Psalm 119:17-24.



## GIMEL (ג)

**WORDS USED FOR GOD'S WORD:**  
WORD, LAW, COMMANDMENTS,  
TESTIMONIES, STATUTES

**ANCIENT PICTOGRAPH:**   
(CAMEL FOOT / CAMEL)  
**SYMBOLIC MEANING:** BENEFIT •  
PROVISION • LIFTING UP •  
CARRYING • GIVING • REWARDING •  
MOVEMENT TOWARD ANOTHER

**How Symbol connects to God's Word:** Gimel symbolizes a **journey or reward**. God's Word is a **guide on life's journey**, rewarding obedience (precepts, statutes) and moving the believer forward spiritually.

Gimel is the picture of a **camel**—the creature that:

- Carries burdens
- Brings provision across deserts
- Moves toward those in need
- Lifts up the weary
- Represents generosity and supply

The Gimel stanza highlights God as the One who **comes toward us with help**, and the believer as the one who **moves toward God's Word for sustenance**.

## Walking the Path

### Psalm 119:17–24 – Gimel Imagery Verse by Verse

#### 119:17 – God’s provision enables life and obedience

“Deal generously with Your servant, that I may live and keep Your word.”

**\*\*davar** Word **the spoken word, God’s revealed word to man\*\***

**↳ Imagery:** A camel **brings abundance** to a traveler—food, water, supplies.

- “Deal bountifully” = **Give generously**, like the camel laden with goods.
- “Your Servant” = The psalmist **chooses** this title.
  - A servant is someone who lives for another’s will. He is basically saying “My life is not about me. It is about You.”
  - In Scripture, God’s closest people often call themselves servants: Moses, David and the prophets

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#### 119:18 – God lifts the veil so we can see

“Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from **Your law.**”

**\*\*torah** - **In the Law of the Lord** – **God’s teaching or instruction** \*\*

**↳ Imagery:** The camel lifts its rider **higher**, giving a new vantage point.

- “Open my eyes” = **Lift me up** so I can see what I couldn’t see before. **This Is a Model Prayer Before Bible Reading...This is prayerful study, not academic study only so before reading, pray: “Lord, open my eyes.”**

D.L. MOODY

“THE BIBLE WILL KEEP YOU FROM SIN, OR SIN WILL KEEP YOU FROM THE BIBLE.”

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#### 119:19 – A traveler needing provision on the journey

“I am a stranger on the earth; do not hide **Your commandments** from me.”

**\*\*mitzvot/mitzvah** **The Commandment of the Lord** **God’s commands to obey\*\***

**↳ Imagery:** A foreigner traveling long distances depends on the camel for survival.

- The psalmist sees himself as a traveler needing God’s **guidance and provision**.
- The stranger in the earth makes you as a servant of God a citizen of heaven



Cross Reference: Philippians 3:20 The Voice *“...we are citizens of heaven, exiles on earth waiting eagerly for a Liberator, our Lord Jesus the Anointed, to come”*

- God’s commandments are like the camel’s supplies—**critical for the journey – they guide in a strange land and keep us from getting lost.**

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### 119:20 – A soul longing for continual supply

“My soul is crushed with longing for Your **ordinances** at all times.”

 **Imagery:** Spiritual Appetite


- The soul “crushed with longing” reflects a **deep thirst** only God can satisfy. Deep seeking. You know you need more. Resisting a lukewarm faith and moving beyond surface religion. This is getting deep down with resolute determination to get more than superficial faith.
- Gimel symbolizes God who **provides continually**, not just once.

---

### 119:21 – God stops the proud who refuse His provision

“You rebuke the arrogant, the cursed, who wander from **Your commandments.**”

**\*\*mitzvot/mitzvah** The Commandment of the Lord **God’s commands to obey\*\***

 **Imagery:** Wanderers without provision perish in the desert; they reject the camel that carries life.

- “Rebuke” is not rejection but correction. It is a rescue like throwing a life preserver to one who is sinking.
- The proud “wander” because they won’t **receive** what God gives. A willful independence from God. These are people who say “I will live my way, not God’s.”
  - God resists spiritual pride as pride is not a small sin but is the root of ALL REBELLION.
    - Pride says “I know better”, “I decide what’s right”
- The “cursed” does not mean God hates them but they have placed themselves outside of blessing. It’s a disobedience that brings spiritual loss.
- “Who wander” are those who stray, drift, go off course and are aimless. This is a slow drifting, not a sudden falling away. There is danger for those who wander.
- Gimel reminds us that rejecting God’s provision leads to ruin and loss. But, staying on God’s path brings blessings.



Pride Is the Greatest Spiritual Threat. Pride destroys prayer, resists correction and blocks spiritual growth. Where might pride be hiding in my faith?

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### 119:22 – Lift away reproach and contempt

“Take disgrace and contempt away from me, for I comply with **Your testimonies.**”

**\*\*edot/edut Testimony of the Lord God’s covenant promises\*\***

**ℒ Imagery:** The camel **lifts burdens off** its traveler.

- “Take away” = **Carry off** shame and scorn, the way a camel carries loads.
- God removes the weight of reproach from the faithful.

---

### 119:23 – God sustains even when opposed

“Even though rulers sit and speak against me, Your servant meditates on **Your statutes.**”

**\*\*huqqim/chukim Statutes of the Lord God’s rules, decrees or ordinances that guide\*\***

**ℒ Imagery:** A camel remains steadfast under heavy loads.

- Though authorities “sit and talk” (pressure, weight), the psalmist stays steady under pressure.
- Meditation becomes the **strength to endure** opposition—like the camel standing firm.

---

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE SEE REAL OPPOSITION—PEOPLE PUSHING BACK, MISUNDERSTANDING, OR EVEN ATTACKING THOSE WHO TRY TO FOLLOW GOD. THAT HITS BECAUSE UP UNTIL NOW (ALEPH–BET), THE FOCUS HAS BEEN ON WALKING BLAMELESSLY AND LOVING GOD’S WORD. GIMEL REMINDS US THAT FOLLOWING GOD ISN’T JUST A PRIVATE THING—IT’S GOING TO FACE RESISTANCE FROM THE WORLD AROUND US.

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### 119:24 – God’s Word is the traveler’s comfort and guide

“**Your testimonies** also are my delight; they are my advisors.”

**\*\*edot/edut Testimony of the Lord God’s covenant promises\*\***

**Imagery:** In the wilderness, a camel is both **companionship and guidance**.

- God's Word is the **delight** that travels with him. It guides every decision.



The Hebrew word for "delight" is **shaashuai** which means deep pleasure, cherished treasure and source of happiness.

- The testimonies act as **counselors**—like having a reliable guide across barren terrain. God's Word functions as our advisor/counselor – when our thoughts are wrong, God's Word redirects our perspective; guides our decisions, warns of dangers like sin, compromise, pride, ungodly relations and foolish choices before damage happens, and consulting God's Word provides us with truth -> "What does God's Word say about this?".

Every line fits the imagery of **the camel who carries you through the desert**. This stanza introduces the first opposition—enemies, misunderstanding, and challenges that come when you follow God faithfully. Yet every line fits the imagery of a camel carrying you through the desert, steady and strong, even against those who try to unseat you.

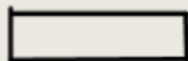
Who are the people mentioned here? (Not every person has a proper name or stated position.) •

"Your servant" (v.17) • "a stranger in the earth" (v.19) • "the arrogant" (v.21) • "the cursed" (v.21) • "princes" (v.23) • "counselors" (v.24)

Who are you as represented in this stanza (hint – there are two descriptions). Also, explain why if you are the one, then why are you the other. "Your servant" (v.17) • "a stranger in the earth" (v.19) – WHY, BECAUSE you are God's servant because you belong to Him, but a stranger in the earth because you are no longer a citizen of earth but a sojourner – your home is heaven!



Using your Observation Worksheets, how many times in this Stanza Gimel introduces sin/wickedness. On Page 37 on marking text, you were to mark by using this black box



. What are the 4 "sin" words you marked with the black box in this stanza?  
**arrogant, the cursed, disgrace and contempt**



List all the main action words (verbs) and descriptive words (adjectives) in this stanza (Gimel)

**Major verbs:** deal bountifully, live, keep, open (eyes), behold, hide, crushed, rebuke, stray, remove, meditate, delight

**Major adjectives:** generously, wonderful, crushed, arrogant, cursed, disgrace, contempt, delight



If Gimel presents God's Word as the camel that carries, supplies, and steadies you through the desert—even when opposition, pride, and contempt try to knock you off—how does this stanza help you see who you are in the journey (servant, stranger, or both), and where are you being invited to rely more fully on God's Word to carry you forward?

When resistance, reproach, or proud voices rise against you, what does this stanza reveal about whether you are allowing God's Word to truly carry the weight, or if you are trying to carry the journey on your own?

**Summary:** Strong verbs reveal desperation and need; adjectives highlight emotional strain. Learning to carry God's Word through life. Faith becomes active.

Trusting entirely in God's Word, a servant of God learns to live faithfully in a broken world, as depicted in the Gimmel stanza. As a spiritual traveler yearning for God's truth, the psalmist asks for life, wisdom, guidance, and safety in his prayers. Devotion to Scripture stays unwavering in the face of pride, criticism, and formidable opposition. Ultimately, God's Word serves as his delight and counselor, leading him through every phase of his life.

## Grab your Observation Worksheets for Daleth – Psalm 119:25-32.




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# DALETH (ד)

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WORDS USED FOR GOD'S WORD:  
WORD, LAW, COMMANDMENTS,  
JUDGMENTS, TESTIMONIES,  
STATUTES

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ANCIENT PICTOGRAPH:   
(A TENT DOOR FLAP)  
SYMBOLIC MEANING: DOOR •  
PATHWAY • ENTRANCE/EXIT •  
HUMILITY (BOWING LOW TO ENTER) •  
ACCESS • TRANSITION


---

**How Symbol connects to God's Word:** Daleth symbolizes a **door**, showing **access and opportunity**. God's Word opens the door to blessing, obedience, and fellowship. Statutes and commandments **guide through the door of righteousness**.

Daleth is the image of a **doorway** – the place where one:

- Enters or exits
- Moves from one place to another
- Chooses which path to take

---

DALETH (VV. 25–32) IS UNUSUALLY DENSE WITH VERBS OF REQUEST DIRECTED TO GOD. HERE, THE PSALMIST REPEATEDLY ASKS GOD TO ACT. THESE ARE NOT STATEMENTS OF PRAISE OR RESOLVE; THEY ARE APPEALS. DALETH IS DOMINATED BY IMPERATIVES AND DEPENDENT REQUESTS WHICH FITS ITS SYMBOLISM AS  (DOOR) AS THE PSALMIST IS AT A THRESHOLD AND CANNOT MOVE FORWARD WITHOUT GOD ACTING FIRST. IT'S ALSO GOOD TO NOTICE THAT DALETH IS PLACED IMMEDIATELY AFTER GIMEL'S "JOURNEY IMAGERY"

# THE POINT WHERE THE PSALMIST ADMITS: I CANNOT CONTINUE UNLESS YOU ACT

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## Choice

### Psalm 119:25–32 – Daleth Imagery Verse by Verse

#### 119:25 – Lying at the door, needing to be lifted in

“My soul cleaves to the dust; revive me according to Your word.”

**\*\*davar** Word **the spoken word, God’s revealed word to man\*\***

 **Imagery:** A person collapses at the doorway, unable to rise.

- “Cleaves to the dust”. Biblically, dust represents: Human frailty, Mortality, Death, the Curse after the Fall, the Separation from Eden life and Physical and spiritual decay. So “dust” is not neutral. But is tied to death’s shadow.
  - Being brought to the end of yourself. Feeling of being lifeless and drained with no strength left.
  - Dust = Death → Word = Life.
    - This mirrors creation itself as in Genesis:
      - Man was dust → Until God breathed life.
- Sometimes believers remain in “dust” seasons because they rehearse their losses over and over in their mind; they relive their failures; they dwell on guilt; accept discouragements as normal and stop expecting renewal. And without realizing it, they begin to “cleave” to it and make the dust their home.
- The request to revive me – breathe life into me. Lift me from what is draining my life.




Think about a time you needed God’s help more than your own confidence—how does Daleth speak to that moment?

Daleth normalizes coming to God without strength or answers. The psalmist does not start by stating what he knows or can do, but by asking—clinging, seeking revival, requesting teaching, and asking for strength. This stanza invites us to bring our unmet needs honestly before God and trust that His Word meets us at the door of dependence, not self-assurance.

## 119:26 – Opening one’s life before God

“I have told of my ways, and You have answered me; teach me **Your statutes**.”

**\*\*huqqim/chukim Statutes of the Lord God’s rules, decrees or ordinances that guide\*\***

 **Imagery:** A door must be opened to allow someone in.

- The psalmist “opens his ways” like opening the **door of his life, his personal choices, routines, patterns, and life direction. He brings his imperfect, human ways to God .**
- **Dependency on God:** You cannot navigate life correctly relying solely on “my ways.”
- Telling God your ways is the first step; learning God’s ways is the next step.



What are areas of your life you have kept hidden from God?



**JOURNAL PROMPT:** Told of my Ways” → “God, here’s what’s going on in my life—my struggles, my choices, my doubts, I need You to speak.”


**Journaling approach:** write your day, your decisions, your emotional state, then invite God to guide you.

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## 119:27 – Walking through the doorway of understanding

“Make me understand the way of **Your precepts**, and I will meditate on Your wonders.”

**\*\*piqqudim Precepts God’s instructions/directions for daily living\*\***

 **Imagery:** Opening a door and pointing to the right road


- Another Bible version, The ESV tells us “*Teach me the right way to live, for I am faithful to your instructions.*”
- “The way of Your precepts” = God’s **path** visible through the open door.
- The psalmist asks God to **lead him through** into understanding. God shows us how to walk wisely.

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## 119:28 – Strength to stand and walk through

“My soul weeps because of grief; strengthen me according to Your **word**.”

**\*\*davar Word the spoken word, God’s revealed word to man\*\***

 **Imagery:** At the doorway, the weak or grieving person cannot step forward.

- The “Soul’s sorrow” expresses **raw, internal sorrow and struggle**. **This is a grief affects heart, mind, and spirit, not just feelings.**

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A SOUL’S SORROW IS NOT DEFEAT; IT IS THE FERTILE GROUND WHERE GOD’S WORD STRENGTHENS, RENEWS, AND REVIVES THE INNER LIFE.”

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### 119:29 – Turning away from the wrong door

“Remove the false way from me, and graciously grant me **Your Law.**”

**\*\*torah - In the Law of the Lord –God’s teaching or instruction \*\***

 **Imagery:** There are **two doors** – the true path and the false one.

- The psalmist asks God to close the door of deception. We cannot always see the dangerous paths ahead or avoid falsehood on our own so we need God’s guidance.
- God’s law is the **correct doorway** he wants us to enter and shows us the correct door to follow.




The Hebrew word translated as “false” or “of lying in the KJV/NKJV” is **sheqer**. In an amazing website for studying Hebrew is [www.hebrewwordlessons.com](http://www.hebrewwordlessons.com) titles this Hebrew Word as **Sheqer: The Prison of Falsehood, Lies and Deceit** .. I found “Prison” very interesting and meditated on this word as related to Daleth. Daleth shows the doorway of choice: without God’s Word, we are trapped in **sheqer**—lies and deception, like Eden’s serpent—while clinging to God’s truth opens the door to life, freedom, and strength.

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### 119:30 – Choosing the right entrance

“I have chosen the faithful way; I have placed **Your judgments** before me.”

**\*\*mispatim** Judgments of the Lord **God’s righteous decisions; His just, wise verdicts\*\***

 **Imagery:** A traveler stands before a doorway and **chooses** the faithful path.

- From the previous verse 29 of the choice of 2 doors, one of false ways and the other God’s ways, he **actively chooses the correct door**, committing his life to God’s Word.
- Daleth emphasizes decision and direction. Following God is a daily, intentional choice. **God’s Word is our chosen door.**

### 119:31 – Clinging to the doorframe of truth

“I cling to **Your testimonies**; LORD, do not put me to shame!”

**\*\*edot/edut** Testimony of the Lord **God’s covenant promises\*\***



**Imagery:** Someone holding desperately to the **doorpost** for security.

- In the ancient Passover, blood was placed on the **doorposts** – a place of protection, a spiritual shield.
- He clings to God’s testimonies like that **doorframe** of safety.

---

### 119:32 – Running through the open door God provides

“I shall run the way of **Your commandments**, for You will enlarge my heart.”

**\*\*mitzvot/mitzvah** The Commandment of the Lord **God’s commands to obey\*\***



**Imagery:** When God opens a door wide, you can run through it freely.

- “Running’ implies deliberate, purposeful and continuous motion, not sporadic effort in living according to God’s Word.
- “Enlarge my heart” = freedom from spiritual constraint. A narrow heart can be overwhelmed by worldly pressures, doubt or guilt but enlarging one’s heart brings courage, confidence and boldness in following God’s Ways.



List all the Words used for God’s Word. the main action words (verbs) and descriptive words (adjectives) in this stanza (Daleth)

**Words used for God’s Word: ALL THE WORDS FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Major verbs about the Psalmist:** *clings, told, declare, meditate, weeps, choose, cling, run*

**Major verb requests towards God:** *revive, answer, make me understand, strengthen, remove, grant, put, enlarge*

---

REQUESTS TO GOD OPEN THE DOORWAY—GOD’S WORD IS THE KEY TO MOVING FROM WEAKNESS OR DECEPTION INTO LIFE AND FREEDOM.

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Major adjectives: **blessed, blameless, upright, righteous, ashamed**

▣ Summary – Why Daleth Is Unique. Daleth is the only stanza where the entire vocabulary of God’s Word is gathered together in one place.

That is not accidental. Restoration depends on every aspect of God’s Word, not a partial one.

Daleth also highlights choice at the doorway: False way vs. faithful way (vv.29–30). The psalmist actively chooses truth while asking God to remove deception –coming to God in need rather than relying on his own confidence. **Will I enter God’s way or not?** Obedience becomes real.

**Grab your Observation Worksheets for He – Psalm 119:33-40.**



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HE (ה)

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WORDS USED FOR GOD’S WORD:

LAW, TESTIMONIES, WAYS,  
PRECEPTS, STATUTES,  
COMMANDMENTS, JUDGMENTS

---

ANCIENT PICTOGRAPH:



(MAN WITH ARMS RAISED / WINDOW)

SYMBOLIC MEANING:

REVELATION/REVEAL • BREATH •  
BEHOLD! • WONDER • DIVINE  
INSPIRATION • OPEN VISION

---

**How Symbol connects to God’s Word:** He represents **revelation and breath**. God’s Law **opens our eyes** and gives spiritual insight. Commandments and precepts are the **breath of life**, sustaining the soul and revealing God’s will.

He is the image of a **man with arms raised or a window opening to the sky** – representing:

- **God revealing Himself**
- **Being able to see and behold God’s glory**
- **Receiving guidance and instruction from above**

This stanza focuses on **learning, understanding, and being filled with God’s revelation** – a “He” theme of seeing, receiving, and responding. Almost entirely requests (“Teach me... Give me understanding... Incline my heart”).

**He is used at the beginning of verbs to make them causative (to cause) it’s like saying “to cause something to happen” rather than just the action itself** – so the prayers in this section can be read as “cause me” to learn the way of your statutes; “cause me” to understand; “cause me” to walk in Your path; “cause me” to incline my heart; “cause me” to turn my eyes away from looking at what is worthless.

## Seeing God Clearly

### Psalm 119:33–40 – He Imagery Verse by Verse

#### 119:33 – Teach me the path through revelation

“Teach me, O LORD, the way of **Your statutes**, and I shall keep it to the end.”

**\*\*huqqim/chukim** **Statutes of the Lord** **God’s rules, decrees or ordinances that guide\*\***



**Imagery:** The arms of a man raised, ready to **receive instruction from above**.

- The psalmist asks to **see the path clearly**.
- God’s teaching = **divine revelation entering the heart**.

---

#### 119:34 – Fill the heart with understanding

“Give me understanding, and I shall keep **Your law**; indeed, I shall observe it with all my heart.”

**\*\*torah** - **In the Law of the Lord** – **God’s teaching or instruction** \*\*



**Imagery:** A **window opens**, light floods in, illuminating the interior.

- Understanding comes as **light into the mind and heart**.
- “All my heart” = the whole inner life is open to God’s breath of wisdom.

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#### 119:35 – Direct me in Your path

“Make me go in the path of **Your commandments**, for I delight in it.”

**\*\*mitzvot/mitzvah** **The Commandment of the Lord** **God’s commands to obey\*\***



**Imagery:** The raised arms receive direction and guidance.

- “Make me go” = submission to **divine guidance**, seeing clearly the way to step.



"Path" is recurrent in Psalm 119. It is the Hebrew word **derekh** meaning way, lifestyle or moral course.

- Delight = responding with **joy to the revelation received**.

### 119:36 – Incline my heart toward God’s truth

"Incline my heart to **Your testimonies**, and not to dishonest gain."

**\*\*edot/edut** **Testimony of the Lord** **God’s covenant promises\*\***



**Imagery:** The posture of a man bowing in awe, opening inward to God.

- Inclining the heart = **bending toward revelation**.
- Rejecting false gain = **keeping the heart aligned with the vision from above**.

- Psalm 119:36 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition: *"Incline my heart to Your testimonies and not to covetousness (robbery, sensuality, unworthy riches)."*

### 119:37 – Turn eyes from distractions

"Turn my eyes away from looking at vanity and **revive** me in Your ways."



**Imagery:** Eyes as windows; God **directs our gaze** to what is real.



"Revive" in Hebrew "Vanity" = **hevel** which means emptiness, futility, worthless things. In a spiritual nuance would imply worldly allure, fleeting pleasures, and distractions — those things that **cannot satisfy** or contribute to spiritual growth but is more like a **SPIRITUAL POISON**

- Other bible versions have worthless things, what is worthless, false, foolish desires, what is unimportant



"Revive" in Hebrew is **chayah** — is used **2xs** in this stanza (vs 37 & 40) — Revival is not the unsaved coming to Jesus, but the backslidden — restore to life, be whole, repair



Can you recognize the "vanities" or "spiritual poison" in your life that pull your eyes and heart away from God?

---

### 119:38 – Confirm God’s Word in life

“Confirm to Your servant Your word, which is for those who **fear** You.”

**\*\*davar** Word **the spoken word, God’s revealed word to man\*\***



**Imagery: A window brings light into darkness**

- Confirm = Establishing God’s Word as **stability and security** in a changing world
- He is the **source of insight**, showing which steps to take.

**Reverence and awe** are exactly what the **fear** of God means for Christians.

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### 119:39 – Deliver me for the sake of revelation

“Turn away my reproach which I dread, for Your ordinances are good.”



**Imagery: The raised arms lift up a burden**, revealing God’s goodness.

- **Turning away reproach**: the psalmist **cannot remove it himself**.
  - God’s word acts as a shield
- 

### 119:40 – Let your Word satisfy

“Behold, I long for **Your precepts**; revive me in Your righteousness.”

**\*\*piqqudim** **Precepts** **God’s instructions/directions for daily living\*\***



**Imagery: “Behold!”** mirrors the **man with arms raised**, eyes open wide in wonder.

- Longing for precepts = desire to **see and experience God fully**.
- Revival = being **filled with His breath**, the inspiration that sustains life.

**\*\*piqqudim** **Precepts** **God’s instructions/directions for daily living\*\***

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List all the main action words (verbs) and descriptive words (adjectives) in this stanza (He)

**Major verbs about the Psalmist:** **comply, keep, delight, dread**

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Major verb requests towards God: **teach, give, make, incline, turn away, revive, establish, take away**

---



### Summary – The He Theme in All Eight Verses

He emphasizes **seeing, receiving, and responding to God’s revelation**. The verbs express **submission**—“teach,” “incline,” “turn.”

He is the channel through which understanding, direction, revival, and life flow from God’s Word.

As the symbol of He is a man with arms raised in worship reminds of me Genesis where God breathed life into man, His creation (Gen 2:7). His Word isn’t just instruction; it’s also living, breathing, active and life-giving (2 Timothy 3:16-17) – as He empowers the heart to be teachable, the mind to understand, and life to flourish in alignment with His ways.

God’s Word is alive and **causative**, not just descriptive. He’s actively at work through affliction, instruction, and promises to **bring His will to life in us**. We cannot transform ourselves – only God **initiates/causes our transformation**. God opens spiritual understanding. Relationship deepens.

### Grab your Observation Worksheets for Vav – Psalm 119: 41-48.



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VAV (ו)

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#### WORDS USED FOR GOD’S WORD:

WORD, JUDGMENTS, LAW,  
PRECEPTS, TESTIMONIES,  
COMMANDMENTS, STATUTES

---

#### ANCIENT PICTOGRAPH:

(NAIL, HOOK, PEG)

SYMBOLIC MEANING: HOOK •  
CONNECTION • JOINING • SECURING  
• LINKING • ESTABLISHING •  
CONTINUITY • AND

---

**How Symbol connects to God’s Word:** Waw represents a **hook or connection**, symbolizing **continuity and linking things together**. Represents **linking heaven and earth**, connecting human

actions to God's will. Vav doesn't have a meaning like the letters Aleph or Beth, but is actually a conjunction like the word "and".

Vav is the **nail or hook** that **joins one thing to another**. **Vav** is the Hebrew letter of **connection**:

- "and," "so," "then," "now"
- It links **cause** → **effect, belief** → **action, God's word** → **lived faith**

Vav keeps **stitching together**. Nothing in this stanza stands alone; every truth is linked

- *What God says* → *what the psalmist loves* → *how the psalmist lives*
- This stanza is less about asking and more about **alignment with God**

## **Binding to God**

### **Psalm 119:41–48 – Vav Imagery Verse by Verse**

#### **119:41 – God's mercy as the connecting nail**

"May your favor also come to me, LORD, Your salvation, according to Your word."

**\*\*imrah** Word **utterance; God's declaration or promise**

**Y** **Imagery:** The nail secures two boards together; God's mercy **connects the believer to salvation**.

- Favor/Lovingkindness = the **link that binds** life to God's promise.
- Salvation is established and held firm through **God's Word**.

---

#### **119:42 – Connecting speech with God's Word**

"So that I will have an answer for one who taunts me, for I trust in Your word."

**\*\*davar** Word **the spoken word, God's revealed word to man\*\***

**Y** **Imagery:** A hook holds in place; the psalmist's words are **hooked/joined to God's Word**.

- Responding to opposition not on self but by reliance on God's Word which provides the wisdom for verbal defense, courage in trials and moral clarity.
- When others challenge me, God's Word holds me steady.

---

#### **119:43 – God's Word links us to endurance**

"And do not take the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for I wait for Your judgments."

**\*\*davar** Word **the spoken word, God's revealed word to man\*\***

**\*\*mispatim** Judgments of the Lord **God's righteous decisions; His just, wise verdicts\*\***

**Y** Imagery: A nail holds together **structure under tension**.

- His words are **fastened to truth**, preventing them from falling away.

The Vav stanza uses both **davar** and **imrah** for God's Word (vv. 41–43):

**Imrah** highlights God's promises—what He has said and pledged

**Davar** emphasizes truth that is spoken, lived, and embodied

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### 119:44 – Keeping God's commands as continuity

"So I will keep **Your Law** continually, forever and ever."

**\*\*torah** - **In the Law of the Lord** – **God's teaching or instruction** \*\*

**Y** Imagery: Vav joins one plank to another, creating a **continuous line**.

- Obedience is not temporary or conditional
- "Forever and ever" = **unbroken continuity**, just like nails holding a structure.
- God's Word is my permanent guide.



Cross Reference: Psalm III:7-8 Expanded Bible *"Everything he does is [The deeds of his hands are] • good [faithful: true] and • fair [just]: all his • orders [precepts] • can be trusted [are faithful/true/reliable]." hey will • continue [endure: be unshakeable] forever. They were made true [faithful] and right [virtuous: with integrity].*

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### 119:45 – Walking securely through life

"And I will walk at liberty, for I seek **Your precepts**."

**\*\*piqudim** **Precepts** **God's instructions/directions for daily living\*\***

**Y** Imagery: A nail secures a hinge, allowing the door to **swing freely but remain joined**.

- A definition of liberty: the quality or state of being free
- Liberty is possible because the **path is connected and stable**.

"Walk at Liberty" in the NASB is also translated as walk freely in open places: go wherever I like, gained perfect freedom, not be in danger as I live, live in freedom, walk in complete freedom, be secure, walk as a free man. As a teaching technique, I like to have my students use multiple Bible translations for a word or phrase in a verse because each one can strike a slightly different tone of the

same truth—like a tuning fork. Sometimes a particular wording resonates with our heart or understanding in a way another version doesn't, helping the meaning come alive.

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### 119:46 – Speaking boldly from connection

"I will also speak of **Your testimonies** before kings and shall not be ashamed."

**\*\*edot/edut** **Testimony of the Lord** **God's covenant promises\*\***

**Y** **Imagery:** Nails secure banners or signs, displaying them publicly.

- Connection to God's Word gives **confidence to proclaim it openly, enabling boldness**.
  - When we base our words on God's Word, we don't need to be afraid of what others think or say about us."
- 

### 119:47 – Rejoicing in connectedness

"I will delight in **Your commandments**, which I love."

**\*\*mitzvot/mitzvah** **The Commandment of the Lord** **God's commands to obey\*\***

**Y** **Imagery:** Nails hold elements together, making a **functional whole**.

- Delight comes from being **joined securely to God's ways**.

Charles Spurgeon:

**"The heart that loves the law of God finds delight in it; obedience is a pleasure, not a burden."**

---

### 119:48 – Lifting hands in celebration of connection

"And I will lift up my hands to **Your commandments**, which I love, and I will meditate on Your statutes."

**\*\*mitzvot/mitzvah** **The Commandment of the Lord** **God's commands to obey\*\***

**Y** **Imagery:** A peg lifts and supports a hanging object; raised hands show **joy in connection**.

- Love ('ahav) is covenant devotion, not mere emotion. Love is repeated intentionally.
-



List all the Words used for God's Word, the main action words (verbs) and descriptive words (adjectives) in this stanza (Vav)

Major verbs about the Psalmist: **come to, wait, keep, walk, seek, speak of, delight, love, lift up, meditate**



How does this stanza challenge the idea that commandments restrict freedom?

## Y Summary – The Vav Theme in All Eight Verses

Vav emphasizes **connection, security, and continuity**. Speaking verbs increase—confidence and courage in proclaiming truth = BOLD FAITH.

Vav is the **nail that fastens believer to God's Word and ways**. In this stanza both descriptive words in Hebrew for God's Word, 'imrah and davar, are used —God's promises are hooked to the believer's testimony. Covenant, commitment, faithfulness. Faith becomes anchored.

**Grab your Observation Worksheets for Zayin – Psalm 119: 49-56.**



## ZAYIN (ז)

WORDS USED FOR GOD'S WORD:

**WORD, LAW, STATUTES,  
JUDGMENTS, PRECEPTS**

ANCIENT PICTOGRAPH:   
(WEAPON, SWORD, CUTTING TOOL)  
SYMBOLIC MEANING: WEAPON •  
CUTTING • PROTECTION •

**How Symbol connects to God's Word:** Zayin symbolizes a **weapon or tool for defense**. God's Word equips and protects us. Law and commandments are **spiritual tools** to defend against sin and guide moral living.

Zayin is the image of a **sword or cutting tool**, symbolizing:

- **Protection from enemies**
- **Cutting away what is harmful**
- **Providing spiritual nourishment and strength**

It seems to me when I read this stanza that the **Zayin stanza feels like a roller coaster**. Zayin breaks the calm of Vav, thrusting us into reality of lived out faith as tension and conflict—faith lived out in a fallen world with real opposition.


## **Spiritual Battle**

### **Psalm 119:49–56 – Zayin Imagery Verse by Verse**

#### **119:49 – God's Word as a weapon of hope**

"Remember the word to Your servant, in which You have made me hope."

**\*\*davar** Word **the spoken word, God's revealed word to man\*\***

 **Imagery:** The sword sustains the warrior, providing confidence and hope.


- Zayin frames the Word as something to **hold onto in battle**.
- "Hope here is not optimism, but **anchored expectation**
- God's Word is my anchor and sword of hope.

---

#### **119:50 – Comfort as the balm of the weapon**

"This is my comfort in my misery, that Your word has revived me."

**\*\*imrah** Word **utterance; God's declaration or promise**


 **Imagery:** Affliction is the battlefield, God's Word defends

- God's Word "revives" = cuts through grief and restores life when enduring hardship or feeling crushed.
- Zayin symbolizes **protection and sustenance amid struggles**.

### 119:51 – Opposition and defense

“The arrogant utterly deride me, yet I do not turn aside from **Your Law.**”

**\*\*torah** - **In the Law of the Lord** – **God’s teaching or instruction** \*\*

 **Imagery:** The sword defends against attacks.

- Survival, not avoidance.
- Deliberate, targeted opposition, highlighting **spiritual warfare and external trials**
- God’s Word becomes a **defensive and guiding weapon**.
- External lies and attacks are part of the spiritual journey, but integrity comes from **wholly obeying God’s Word**




**JOURNAL PROMPT:** How can I let my love for God’s commandments guide my response to lies or criticism??

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### 119:52 – Reflecting on God’s Word as nourishment

“I have remembered **Your judgments** from of old, LORD, and comfort myself.”

**\*\*mispatim** **Judgments of the Lord** **God’s righteous decisions; His just, wise verdicts\*\***

 **Imagery:** The sword represent **life’s battles**, and **remembering God’s Word is a defensive and strengthening action**.

- “Your judgments from of old” – God’s past interpositions in behalf of His people - divine dealings
- Zayin teaches that God’s Word is **both defense and sustenance** for the faithful.

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### 119:53 – Pain cut by obedience

“Burning Indignation has seized me because of the wicked, who abandon **Your Law.**”

**\*\*torah** - **In the Law of the Lord** – **God’s teaching or instruction** \*\*

 **Imagery:** The sword defending, revealing what is harmful.




“Burning indignation” is **charadah** in Hebrew. Root: word is **charad** to tremble, shudder, fear, or be distressed. The Spiritual nuance expresses intense emotional reaction to sin and the violation of God’s law

- The psalmist's grief is sharpened by others' sin.
- God's law distinguishes truth from corruption, cutting away **spiritual falsehood** and resist evil

### 119:54 – Meditating on God's Word as sustenance

"Your statutes are my songs in the house of my pilgrimage."

**\*\*huqqim/chukim Statutes of the Lord God's rules, decrees or ordinances that guide\*\***


 **Imagery:** A sword may be used ceremonially, signaling **victory or celebration**.

- Life is described as a **journey**, not a destination. Zayin a **symbol of spiritual strength, praise, and protection** during life's journey

### 119:55 – Hope and waiting as fortified defense

"LORD, I remember Your name in the night, and keep **Your Law**."

**\*\*torah - In the Law of the Lord – God's teaching or instruction \*\***

 **Imagery:** Standing guard at night with a sword.

- Remembering God's name = **acknowledging His presence and sovereignty in every aspect of our lives**
- Obedience = **staying fortified spiritually** while waiting for God's intervention.
- God's Word guides and protects me, even in dark times. Night represents trials, darkness, fear or times of affliction

## PSALM 63:6 THE VOICE

OFTEN AT NIGHT I LIE IN BED AND REMEMBER YOU,  
MEDITATING ON YOUR GREATNESS TILL MORNING SMILES  
THROUGH MY WINDOW.

### 119:56 – Perseverance anchored in the Word

"This has become mine: that I obey **Your precepts**."

**\*\*piqqudim Precepts God's instructions/directions for daily living\*\***

 **Imagery:** A sword of mine own – my personal weapon.

- Zayin reminds us that the Word is **both sustenance and defense**, requiring vigilance and obedience.
- God’s word is my personal sword and defense.



Cross Reference: Psalm 119:57 EasyEnglish Bible *“Lord, you are everything that I need. I promise to obey your rules.”*



List all the descriptive words (adjectives) in this stanza (Zayin)

Negative descriptive words (ex, misery...): **misery, the arrogant, deride, burning indignation, the wicked**



How does Zayin reshape our expectations of the Christian walk?

### Summary – The Zayin Theme in All Eight Verses

Memory verbs (“remember”) anchor the stanza. Zayin emphasizes **God’s Word as weapon and sustenance**. Zayin reminds us God’s Word does not remove opposition—it prepares us for it. God’s Word becomes Hope when afflicted, Strength when mocked and when we are weary.

Faith doesn’t cancel the battle; it determines how you fight it. In the Zayin stanza, the psalmist is still afflicted, still mocked, still pressured by the arrogant. Faith is not linear, it matures not in the absence of conflict, but in learning how to wield God’s Word while walking through it. Standing firm against opposition. Testing begins in this stanza.



**Challenge Question:** What would it look like to treat Scripture as daily strength for the journey, not just comfort at the destination?

## Grab your Observation Worksheets for Cheth – Psalm 119: 57-64.



# CHETH (ח)

WORDS USED FOR GOD'S WORD:

WORD, COMMANDMENTS,  
STATUTES, PRECEPTS, LAW

ANCIENT PICTOGRAPH: **III**  
(FENCE, ENCLOSURE, COURTYARD)  
SYMBOLIC MEANING: FENCE •  
BOUNDARY • PROTECTION •  
ENCLOSURE • SAFE SPACE •  
SEPARATION FROM HARM

**How Symbol connects to God's Word:** Heth represents a **fence or boundary**. God's Word sets **boundaries for living**, protecting us and giving structure. Statutes and precepts act as protective measures in life.

Cheth represents a **fenced or enclosed area**, showing:

- **God as the protector who surrounds His people**
- **Distinction between inside (faithful) and outside (worldly danger)**

God **fences in His people**, providing protection, covenant, and guidance

## Boundaries

### Psalm 119:57–64 – Cheth Imagery Verse by Verse

#### 119:57 – Life safely within God's enclosure

"The LORD is my portion; I have promised to keep Your words."

**\*\*davar** Word **the spoken word, God's revealed word to man\*\***


**III Imagery:** The fenced enclosure is God Himself – the safe space where the psalmist dwells.

- Commitment to God's Word is the key to **staying inside the fence**.
- Promise to obey = staying **inside the boundary of His Word**.

### 119:58 – Seeking God’s protection through prayer

“I sought Your favor with all my heart; be gracious to me according to Your word.”

**\*\*imrah** Word utterance; God’s declaration or promise

 **Imagery:** Standing inside the security of the fence.


- Wholehearted prayer reinforces the believer’s position inside God’s protective fence
- God’s favor = **security reinforced by His promise**.

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### 119:59 – Turning away from danger outside the fence

“I considered my ways, and turned my feet to **Your testimonies**.”

**\*\*edot/edut** Testimony of the Lord **God’s covenant promises\*\***

 **Imagery:** Moving back into the fenced area after straying.

- “Considered” is an intentional reflection, not casual thought. True spiritual growth requires honest self-examination before God.



“My ways” is **derakhai** in Hebrew meaning path, lifestyle, habits and direction of life. It includes all our decisions, patterns, attitudes and priorities. *It’s looking at your life’s trajectory.*



Cross Reference: Proverbs 14:12 Expanded Bible *“Some people think they are doing right [There is a path that seems straight to a person] but in the end it leads [is the path] to death.”*

- “Turned my feet” = re-entering the safe enclosure. Cheth highlights **deliberate movement into protection**. Intimacy with God keeps the believer safe from the snares/dangers outside



What are some signs that you may have drifted outside God’s “fence”?

---

### 119:60 – Immediate obedience within the enclosure

“I hurried and did not delay to keep **Your commandments**.”

**\*\*mitzvot/mitzvah** The Commandment of the Lord **God’s commands to obey\*\***

**III Imagery:** Quickly returns inside the fence and does not linger outside.

- This verse emphasizes **two actions: He hurried and He refused to delay – DOUBLE DETERMINATION TO OBEY**
  - Many people **know God's will but postpone to obey.**
- Delay allows the wicked to encroach; the heart grows dull and obedience becomes harder
- These two verses (59 and 60) form a powerful **repentance sequence –**
  - **V59 - reflection and deliberate movement to return and**
  - **V60 – immediate obedience/repentance**

---

### 119:61 – The Wicked seek to oppress

“The snares of the wicked have surrounded me, but I have not forgotten **Your Law.**”

**\*\*torah - In the Law of the Lord – God’s teaching or instruction \*\***

**III Imagery:** Threats approach the fence, but the enclosure **keeps them out.**

- There are two enclosures appear in contrast in this verse:
  - The snares/cords of the wicked – **Binding traps** - the wicked attempt to fence in, capture or ensnare the believer
  - God’s law – the protective boundary of the covenant
- This imagery becomes **external traps vs. internal security.** Even though the wicked surround him, his heart remains within God’s fence. The “fence” of God’s Word does not make life free from opposition but reinforces safety.



Picture yourself inside the fenced safety below. What are some modern snares—temptations, lies, or influences—from which God keeps you safe?



---

### 119:62 – Worship within the protected courtyard

“At midnight I will rise to give thanks to You, because of **Your righteous judgments.**”

**\*\*mispatim** Judgments of the Lord **God’s righteous decisions; His just, wise verdicts\*\***

**III Imagery:** Even in the **middle of the night**, the fenced space is safe.

- “Midnight” – In ancient times - nights were divided into **watches** for guards. Midnight represents the **most silent and vulnerable time**.
  - “Shall rise” is a purposeful action – He chooses to rise which reflects discipline and devotion.
- 

### 119:63 – Fellowship within the protected community

“I am a companion of all those who **fear** You, and to those who keep **Your precepts**.”

**Fear - A reverent awe and respect for God;**

**\*\*piqqudim Precepts God’s instructions/directions for daily living\*\***

**III Imagery:** The fence encloses not just the individual, but a **community of faithful ones**.

- There are two groups in this verse - those outside God’s fence and those inside God’s fence. Outside are the wicked and lawless and inside are those who fear God and who keep His precepts
  - Fellowship = living **together within God’s protective boundary and help us stay inside God’s boundaries and avoid spiritual snares**.
- 

### 119:64 – God’s goodness as the encompassing fence

“The earth is full of Your goodness, LORD. Teach me **Your statutes**.”

**\*\*huqqim/chukim Statutes of the Lord God’s rules, decrees or ordinances that guide\*\***

**III Imagery:** The fence surrounds completely, **providing life, abundance, and security**.

- “The earth is full” - God’s mercy is everywhere
  - Fence is not restrictive—it’s a safe space to flourish, learn, and experience God’s abundance and care
- 

### Summary – The Cheth Theme in All Eight Verses

Cheth emphasizes **protection, boundaries, and secure dwelling**. **The structure of the Cheth stanza a mini-me complete spiritual journey is hidden in this stanza**—from commitment, repentance, obedience, opposition, worship, community, and finally **seeing God’s mercy everywhere**. Learning holy limits. Maturity grows.

## Grab your Observation Worksheets for Teth – Psalm 119: 65-72.



# TETH (ט)

## WORDS USED FOR GOD'S WORD:

WORD, COMMANDMENTS,  
STATUTES, PRECEPTS, LAW

ANCIENT PICTOGRAPH:   
(BASKET, CONTAINER, WOMB,  
SNAKE)

SYMBOLIC MEANING: SURROUND •  
HIDDEN GOODNESS • WOMB •  
NURTURING • PROTECTION •  
PROVISION • TWISTING/COILING

**How Symbol connects to God's Word:** Teth symbolizes **containment or what is good**. God's Word contains **moral guidance** and goodness for life. Law and commandments preserve the believer in spiritual blessing.

Teth symbolizes **something that holds, nurtures, or contains goodness**:

- This stanza contains **more comparisons than previous stanzas**, highlighting contrasts between life **with God vs. without God**,
- This stanza emphasizes **God's goodness** repeatedly using the word "**good**" (NASB) to underscore that God's character produces observable benefits.

**GOD IS GOOD, ALL THE TIME.**


## Inner Transformation

### Psalm 119:65–72 – Teth Imagery Verse by Verse

#### 119:65 – God's goodness

"You have treated Your servant well, LORD, according to Your word."

**\*\*davar** Word the spoken word, God's revealed word to man\*\*

 **Imagery:** God alone is sufficient. The basket contains **abundance**. The snake reminds us to stay alert against temptations that mimic provision

- God’s goodness = hidden treasure released to the faithful. The **active, observable quality of God’s goodness** in the believer’s experience
  - “Dealt well” = God supplies the **contents of the basket** for our benefit.
  - **Comparison:** Life focused on God vs. life depending on worldly things
- 

### 119:66 – Teaching to receive hidden treasures

“Teach me good discernment and knowledge, for I believe in **Your commandments.**”

**\*\*mitzvot/mitzvah** **The Commandment of the Lord** **God’s commands to obey\*\***

⊗ **Imagery:** Opening the basket to see its hidden contents.; **Snake imagery:** Discernment protects from hidden dangers

- The psalmist asks God to **reveal wisdom & insight** stored in His Word.
  - **Comparison:** Life with God’s guidance vs. life relying on human insight
- 

### 119:67 – Growth through discipline

“Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I keep **Your word.**”

**\*\*imrah** **Word utterance; God’s declaration or promise**

⊗ **Imagery:** The basket was closed before but God opens the basket at conversion.

**Comparison:** Life without God (wandering) vs. life aligned with God’s Word (faithful living)

---

### 119:68 – Recognizing God’s worthy goodness

“You are good and You do good; teach me **Your statutes.**”

**\*\*huqqim/chukim** **Statutes of the Lord** **God’s rules, decrees or ordinances that guide\*\***

⊗ **Imagery:** The basket contains **goodness ready to give life.**



If God is good and does good, then affliction must serve goodness — even when it hurts. “You are good and do good.” Why is this confession especially important in the middle of affliction?

---

### 119:69 – Separation from the worthless

“The arrogant have forged a lie against me, with all my heart I will comply with **Your precepts.**”

**\*\*piqqudim** **Precepts** **God’s instructions/directions for daily living\*\***

⊗ **Imagery:** Basket keeps valuable items **separate from worthless things.**

---

- God’s Word = treasured contents; the wicked = discarded chaff.
  - Standing up for ones beliefs is not always popular and sometimes it causes friction
- 

### 119:70 – God nurtures the faithful even through opposition

“Their heart is insensitive, like fat, but I delight in **Your Law.**”

**\*\*torah** - **In the Law of the Lord** – **God’s teaching or instruction** \*\*

⊗ **Imagery:** Snake Imagery: Like a concealed snake, danger is present but unrecognized. A hardened heart loses discernment and cannot sense threat or truth.

- This verse is not primarily about indulgence, but **spiritual insensitivity**. In Scripture, a “fat” heart signals dullness and resistance (Isa. 6:10). Affliction refines; resistance hardens. The difference is not circumstance, but **response to God’s Word**.
  - The wicked remain unchanged: **their hearts are unreceptive**, not teachable
- 

THIS VERSE EXPOSES THE DANGER OF UNRESPONSIVE HEARTS—NOT  
IGNORANCE, BUT REFUSAL.  
TETH WARNS: A HEART THAT CLOSES ITSELF EVENTUALLY CANNOT DISCERN  
WHAT IT CARRIES.

---

### 119:71 – Affliction produces hidden benefit

“It is good for me that I was afflicted, so that I may learn **Your statutes.**”

**\*\*huqqim/chukim** **Statutes of the Lord** **God’s rules, decrees or ordinances that guide**\*\*

⊗ **Imagery:** The basket contains **hidden treasures revealed through refining**.

- Affliction = shaking the basket so that its valuable contents are accessible.
- 

### 119:72 – Wisdom is better than visible riches

“**The Law** of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.”

**\*\*torah** - **In the Law of the Lord** – **God’s teaching or instruction** \*\*

⊗ **Imagery:** The basket contains **treasures of enduring value**, far exceeding outward wealth.

- **Comparison:** God’s provision vs. worldly riches
-

## ⊗ Summary – The Teth Theme in All Eight Verses

Teth emphasizes **the lasting, contained treasures of God that nurture the soul**. A life aligned with God is truly “good.” God forms goodness within. Character develops.

### Grab your Observation Worksheets for Yod – Psalm 119:73-80.



# YODH (י)

## WORDS USED FOR GOD’S WORD:

COMMANDMENTS, JUDGMENTS,  
WORD, LAW, PRECEPTS,  
TESTIMONIES, STATUTES

## ANCIENT PICTOGRAPH: י

(HAND, ARM, WORK, POWER, DEED)

SYMBOLIC MEANING: HAND • WORK  
• POWER • ACTION • SKILL • DIVINE  
DEED • INTENTIONAL ACTION

**How Symbol connects to God’s Word:** Yod represents a hand or work, symbolizing action and power. God’s Law gives power to live rightly. Statutes and testimonies are tools to act faithfully in God’s service. **Yod is also the letter Jesus referred to in Matthew 5:18 “...till heaven and earth pass away, one jot (yodh) or tittle will not pass from the law till all is fulfilled” – These are small, tiny, almost insignificant differences – yet Jesus said that even these smallest differences would not pass away from God’s word. God’s Word has authority because it comes from the same hand that made us.**

Yodh is a *quietly profound* stanza, and at first glance it can feel similar to what comes before. But when you slow down, **Yod has some unique theological weight** that hasn’t appeared this clearly yet.

Yodh represents a **hand**, symbolizing:

- **Yod emphasizes what God has done, is doing, and continues to do.**
- Clearly the stanza is no longer about the Psalmist, but about his Maker/Creator – It’s no longer “I” but “You”/God.
- Formed by God’s Hand, Sustained by God’s Word

Yodh is about **why obedience makes sense**, not just how it feels. **Yod moves underneath the surface** – it explains *why* God has authority over the psalmist's life at all.


## God's Work in Me

### Psalm 119:73–80 – Yod Imagery Verse by Verse

#### 119:73 – God as the creator with skillful hands

"Your hands made me and fashioned me; give me understanding so that I may learn **Your commandments.**"


**\*\*mitzvot/mitzvah** The Commandment of the Lord **God's commands to obey\*\***

-  **Imagery:** God's hand shapes clay; The hand that shapes does not abandon the work
- The psalmist acknowledges God as his **Master Artisan**.
  - *Because* God formed me, He has the right to instruct me
- 

#### 119:74 – Faith that encourages others

"May those who **fear** You will see me and be glad, because I wait for Your word."


**\*\*davar** Word **the spoken word, God's revealed word to man\*\***

-  **Imagery:** Hands joining together in fellowship.
- Yodh teaches that small, faithful lives ripple outward: Patience, Waiting and Endurance
  - This is discipleship without a microphone
- 

#### 119:75 – Discipline as a shaping hand

"I know, LORD, that **Your judgments** are righteous, and that You have afflicted me in faithfulness."


**\*\*mispatim** Judgments of the Lord **God's righteous decisions; His just, wise verdicts\*\***

-  **Imagery:** A potter's hand shapes clay through pressure.
- Affliction = God's **hand refining and molding**. His hand does not harm thoughtlessly.
- 

#### 119:76 – Petition for mercy from God's powerful hand

"May Your favor comfort me, according to Your word to Your servant."

**\*\*imrah** Word **utterance; God's declaration or promise**

-  **Imagery:** The hand reaches out to give comfort and support.
- God's hand = active instrument of **restoration and provision**.
-

- Biblical comfort does not remove difficulty; it restores trust
- 

### 119:77 – Reviving life through God’s hand

“May Your compassion come to me, so that I may live; for **Your Law** is my delight.”

**\*\*torah - In the Law of the Lord – God’s teaching or instruction\*\***


 **Imagery:** Hand lifting the weary traveler.

- God’s hand sustains life moment by moment
- 

### 119:78 – God’s hand humbles the proud

“May the arrogant be put to shamed because they lead me astray with a lie; but I shall meditate on **Your precepts.**”

**\*\*piqqudim Precepts God’s instructions/directions for daily living\*\***


 **Imagery:** Hand brings justice, striking or restraining wrongdoers.

- Yodh = God’s **active power against injustice.**
  - Meditation = responding to God’s action with **faithful focus.**
- 

### 119:79 – Faithfulness draws the faithful together

“May those who **fear** You turn to me, and those who know **Your testimonies.**”

**\*\*edot/edut Testimony of the Lord God’s covenant promises\*\***


 **Imagery:** Open hands sharing blessings.

- God’s hand works in the psalmist to **draw others toward instruction and guidance.**
- 

### 119:80 – Strengthened by God’s hand for upright living

“May my heart be blameless in **Your statutes,** so that I will not be ashamed.”

**\*\*huqqim/chukim Statutes of the Lord God’s rules, decrees or ordinances that guide\*\***

 **Imagery:** God’s hand stabilizes the foundation of life.

- Heart blameless = secured and supported by **divine grip.** God’s hand shapes the heart, not just behavior
- 

 **Summary – The Yod Theme in All Eight Verses**

Yodh emphasizes **being created and shaped by God. God's creative and sustaining power, and human response through obedience.**

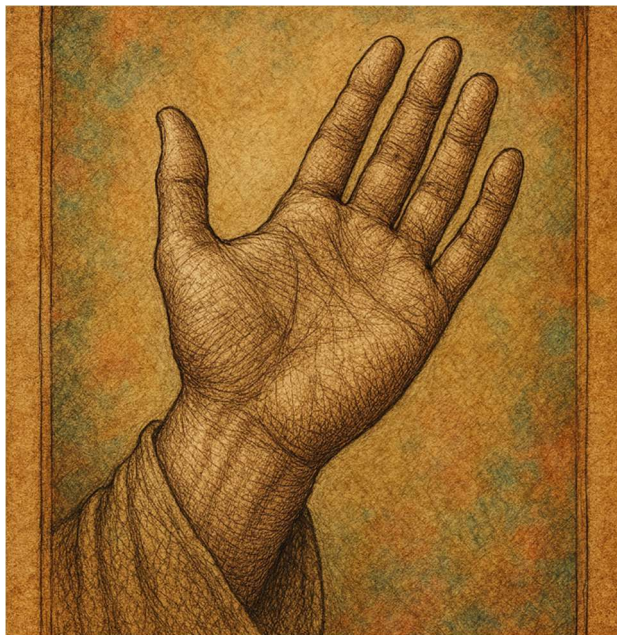
Obedience flows from: Being made; Being shaped and Being sustained.

**Read the Instructions.** Led by God's Spirit, the psalmist wrote to convince us to make knowing and obeying the Word of God the most important activities in our lives.

Faith here is not loud – it is deeply rooted. Dependence on His power. Humility deepens.

The smallest letter carries the weightiest truth: **we live by the hand that made us.**

## **Grab your Observation Worksheets for Kaf – Psalm 119:81-88.**



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# KAPH (כ)

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**WORDS USED FOR GOD'S WORD:**

**WORD, STATUTES, LAW,  
COMMANDMENTS, PRECEPTS**

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**ANCIENT PICTOGRAPH:**   
(PALM OF HAND, EMPTY OPEN HAND,  
PALM OF A BOWL)

**SYMBOLIC MEANING: PALM**  
**•RECEIVING • COVERING • GIVING •**  
**SUSTENANCE**

---

**How Symbol connects to God's Word:** Kaph symbolizes a hand of giving or blessing. God's Word is generous, giving guidance (commandments) and blessing (testimonies). It also represents receiving God's mercy.

The word Crown is a Kaph word. There are many crowns in the Bible.

There are crowns of rewards and there is the Crown of Thorns, worn by Jesus as He paid the price of our redemption.

Kaph represents an **open hand**, symbolizing:

- **Receiving God's blessings and provision**
- **Offering praise and worship**
- **Covering and protection**
- **Capacity to hold or give**

- Spiritually, Kaph often conveys the posture of a person bent low, holding nothing but receiving everything from God.

Unlike earlier stanzas that feel confident or instructional, Kaph sounds like survival faith—faith that has been squeezed thin but not broken. The psalmist is not standing strong here but is prolonged suffering with unwavering faith and persistent hope; refusing to forget or let go God’s Word.


## Suffering & Submission

### Psalm 119:81–88 – Kaph Imagery Verse by Verse

#### 119:81 – Reaching out for God in weakness

“My soul languishes for Your salvation; I wait for Your word.”

**\*\*davar** Word **the spoken word, God’s revealed word to man\*\***


 **Imagery:** The cupped hand is empty—but still extended. Waiting itself becomes an act of trust

- “Languishes” conveys exhaustion to the point of collapse. Pining would be a proper word for what is happening to this psalmist.
- the psalmist does not wait for relief, but for **God’s word**

#### 119:82 – Asking for revival

“My eyes fail with longing for Your word, While I say, ‘When will You comfort me?’”

**\*\*imrah** Word **utterance; God’s declaration or promise**

 **Imagery:** Eyes and hands together, pleading and reaching.

- Physical imagery is mirroring spiritual fatigue.
- The question “*When?*” is not unbelief—it is honest prayer.

#### 119:83 – Clinging for life and support

“Though I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, I do not forget Your statutes.”

**\*\*huqqim/chukim** Statutes of the Lord **God’s rules, decrees or ordinances that guide\*\***

 **Imagery:** Hands hold fragile vessels carefully, protecting them.

- Soul is weak like a wineskin = **feeling discarded, overlooked, damaged by prolonged suffering**
- The suffering is not momentary—it is **ongoing exposure**

- A commentary from Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges: “As a wineskin out of use hung up among the rafters of the roof grow shriveled and blackened by the smoke till it almost loses its original appearance, so the Psalmist is growing emaciated and disfigured by suffering and sorrow till he can scarcely be recognized.”



Why do you think the psalmist uses such a *damaging* image (wineskin in smoke) to describe himself?

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### 119:84 – Waiting for God to act

“How many are the days of Your servant? When will You execute judgment on those who persecute me?”



**Imagery:** Open hand held upward, **expecting God’s intervention.**

- Waiting = does not cancel faith – it tests it
- Faithful people ask honest questions of God. He want us to. Get real with God. We cannot hide from God, and He loves us regardless of what emotions we are feeling.

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### 119:85 – God as covering and deliverer

“The arrogant have dug pits for me, People who are not in accord with **Your Law.**”

**\*\*torah - In the Law of the Lord – God’s teaching or instruction \*\***



**Imagery:** Palm can **cover, shield, and protect.**

- The suffering is not random; it is targeted.
- Kaph = **protection in danger**, holding the psalmist safely.

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### 119:86 – God’s hand sustains through trials

“All **Your commandments** are faithful; they have persecuted me with a lie; help me!”

**\*\*mitzvot/mitzvah The Commandment of the Lord God’s commands to obey\*\***




**Imagery:** Open hand lifting the believer, providing aid.

- This is a desperate, unfiltered prayer
- God’s Word is contrasted with human deception.

### 119:87 – Clinging to God in overwhelming circumstances

“They have almost destroyed me on earth, but as for me, I did not abandon **Your precepts.**”

**\*\*piqqudim Precepts God’s instructions/directions for daily living\*\***


 **Imagery:** Hands gripping tightly to a rope or support.

- The grip on God’s Word has been tested to the breaking point.
- Kaph = **open hand that both receives and secures the believer.**

### 119:88 – Prayer for revival and protection

“Revive me according to Your faithfulness, so that I may keep **the testimony of Your mouth.**”

**\*\*edot/edut Testimony of the Lord God’s covenant promises\*\***

 **Imagery:** Hands cupped to receive refreshment or rain.

- Revival = **pouring into the open hand.**
- Kaph emphasizes **dependence on God’s provision and mercy.**

### Summary – The Kaf Theme in All Eight Verses

Kaf emphasizes **the perseverance of faith in the face of adversity and being sustained by God.** Feeling as if being consumed by the trials and tribulations of life, but remains steadfast in devotion to God, refusing to abandon faith despite difficult circumstances. This is mature, weathered faith. The psalmist:

- Does not minimize pain
- Does not abandon God’s Word
- Does not take justice into his own hands
- Does not stop praying

Believers are not spared adversity; Scripture never promises a life free from hardship. Yet even in the grip of despair, unlike those without hope, we can turn to our true source of help—our Lord Jesus, who faithfully walks with us through it. This is a good time to remember the poem Footprints in the Sand or Footsteps which describes a believer looking back over life and seeing two sets of footprints—one theirs and one the Lord’s. During the hardest seasons, only one set

appears, leading the believer to question God's presence. Jesus explains that in those moments, when only one set of footprints is visible, He was carrying them. Learning trust in hardship. Faith is refined.

## Grab your Observation Worksheets for Lamed – Psalm 119:89-96.



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# LAMEDH (ל)

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WORDS USED FOR GOD'S WORD:  
WORD, LAW, PRECEPTS,  
TESTIMONIES, COMMANDMENT

---

ANCIENT PICTOGRAPH:   
(STAFF, ROD, GOAD, SHEPHERD'S  
STAFF)

SYMBOLIC MEANING: STAFF  
•GUIDANCE • LEARNING •  
AUTHORITY • DIRECTION •  
INSTRUCTION

---

**How Symbol connects to God's Word:** Lamedh symbolizes a staff for guidance, like a teacher's tool. God's Word teaches and directs the believer. Law and statutes are guides, helping us walk rightly.

Lamedh is the image of a **staff or goad**, symbolizing:

- **Guidance and correction**
- **Teaching and learning**
- **Protection and support during the journey**

This section **teaches that God's Word is not just true – it is what trains us to live rightly across time.**

Lamedh is the only Hebrew letter that rises **above** the line – pointing upward. God's Word is eternal not because it survives time, but because it stands **above** time

## Guidance

### Psalm 119:89–96 – Lamedh Imagery Verse by Verse

#### 119:89 – Eternal guidance

“Forever, LORD, **Your word stands in heaven.**”

**\*\*davar** Word **the spoken word, God’s revealed word to man\*\***

✓ **Imagery:** The staff is fixed and upright.

- God’s Word = **being trained by something that does not change**. God’s Word does not adjust to the times – it instructs us how to live within them
  - “Forever” speaks to **unchanging stability**, not duration alone
- 

### 119:90 – Faithful order in creation

“Your faithfulness continues throughout generations; You established the **earth, and it stands.**”

✓ **Imagery:** Staff holding upright with authority.

- Generations change; **God’s authority does not**
  - This verse is not about God handing authority down over time. It’s about God remaining constant while generations change. The Shepherd does not change – the sheep do.
- 

### 119:91 – Dependable guidance

“**They stand** this day by Your ordinances, for all things are Your servants.”

✓ **Imagery:** Staff guiding animals along a path.

- Everything is led by God’s Word.
- The staff holds order in the flock – nothing moves outside its authority.
- **If all creation** serves God’s Word, believers cannot treat it casually.

Take notice in vs 89-91 the word stand as I have highlighted in red. We see that:

God’s Word stands.

The earth stands.

Creation stands.

The earth “stands” because God established it, just as His word stands because He decreed it. Creation is not self-sustaining; it continues by obedience to God’s ordinances (Genesis 8:22; Jeremiah 33:25). The repeated phrase “they stand” emphasizes faithful endurance—heaven, earth, and all creation remain because they submit to God’s order.

The striking truth is that all things serve God—not only willingly like the believer, but obediently like creation itself (Psalm 148:6; Colossians 1:16–17). If the cosmos responds to God’s word

without wavering, how much more should the servant of that Word trust it when life feels unstable?.

---

### 119:92 – Learning through adversity

“If **Your Law** had not been my delight, I would have perished in my misery.”

**\*\*torah - In the Law of the Lord – God’s teaching or instruction\*\***

✓ **Imagery:** Shepherd uses staff to guide away from danger.

- God’s Word becomes survival when circumstances threaten life – it is life-preserving truth.
- 

### 119:93 – Resolute obedience under authority

“I will never forget **Your precepts**, for by them You have revived me.”

**\*\*piqqudim Precepts God’s instructions/directions for daily living\*\***

✓ **Imagery:** Holding the staff to stay on the right path.

- Forgetting God’s Word leads to drifting and spiritual dullness. Remembering restores clarity, direction, and life.
- 

### 119:94 – Bondage to God’s Word

“I am Yours; save me, for I have sought **Your precepts**.”

**\*\*piqqudim Precepts God’s instructions/directions for daily living\*\***

✓ **Imagery:** Staff connects shepherd and sheep; guidance and belonging.

- Being “Yours” = **under divine direction**. Submission to God’s authority is rooted in belonging, not fear.
  - The sheep stays near the staff, knowing where safety lies.
- 

### 119:95 – Protection from the wayward

“The wicked wait for me to destroy me, but I will diligently consider **Your testimonies**.”

**\*\*edot/edut Testimony of the Lord God’s covenant promises\*\***

✓ **Imagery:** Staff used to ward off danger or redirect the wayward.

- Lamedh = God’s Word **guards and guides against threats**.
- 

### 119:96 – Increasing understanding through reflection

"I have seen a limit to all perfection, **Your commandment** is exceedingly broad."

**\*\*mitsvot/mitzvah** **The Commandment of the Lord** **God's commands to obey\*\***

✓ **Imagery:** Staff pointing the way forward, showing the vast path ahead.

- God's Word = **guiding rod for ongoing learning.**
- I like this simple version from ICB (International Children's Bible) as it strips it down to lived reality. – "Everything I see has its limits. But your commands have none."
  - Our *vision* itself is limited—we can only see so far ahead.
  - God's Word reaches farther than your line of sight.
  - God's commands aren't limited by your current situation, emotions, or understanding. They still apply when you're walking on terrain you've never navigated before.



Why do you think we often treat Scripture as negotiable when creation treats God's word as absolute?

Are you relying on what you can *see*, or on the Shepherd who sees ahead?

✓ **Summary – The Lamedh Theme in All Eight Verses**

Fewer verbs in this stanza; adjectives exalt the permanence of God's word.

Lamedh shows God's Word as the steady authority that trains life across time. Like a shepherd's staff, it stands firm, supports in weakness, protects in danger, and guides beyond human limits. While everything else changes or reaches an end, God's Word remains the lasting guide for every generation. May it guide us beyond our "sight", correct us when we wander and steady our steps each day. God becomes Shepherd and Teacher. Wisdom matures.

**Grab your Observation Worksheets for Mem – Psalm 119:97-104.**



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# MEM (מ)

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WORDS USED FOR GOD'S WORD:

WORD, LAW, PRECEPTS,  
TESTIMONIES, COMMANDMENT

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ANCIENT PICTOGRAPH:   
(WATER, FLOWING WATER, WAVES)  
SYMBOLIC MEANING: WATER •  
DEPTH • LIFE-GIVING • MASSIVE •  
ABUNDANCE • CLEANSING •  
SUSTENANCE

---

**How Symbol connects to God's Word:** Mem symbolizes **water and life**. God's Word **refreshes and sustains** the soul. Law, precepts, and commandments nourish believers spiritually, flowing into daily life.

Mem represents **water**, symbolizing:

- **Flowing abundance**
- **Depth of understanding and meditation**
- **Refreshment for the soul**

God's Word is not meant to sit on the surface—it is meant to **soak in**, be **absorbed**, and **sustain life**. Water does not require intelligence to drink – only thirst. You don't need to understand water chemically to benefit from it—you just need to take it in.


## **Cleansing & Life**

**Psalm 119:97–104 – Mem Imagery Verse by Verse**

**119:97 – Delight in the deep waters of God's Word**

"How I love **Your Law!** It is my meditation all the day."

**\*\*torah - In the Law of the Lord – God's teaching or instruction \*\***

 **Imagery:** Diving into deep waters, fully immersed.

- God's Word = **flowing source of nourishment**.
- God's Word is the hydrating overflowing water of life, not a cup you sip once a day.

## 119:98 – Insight flowing from God’s Word

“Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever mine.”

**\*\*mitzvot/mitzvah** The Commandment of the Lord **God’s commands to obey\*\***


 **Imagery:** Water irrigating fields, giving growth.

- "Ever mine" means ownership—Scripture has become part of who I am.
  - Wisdom does not come from outsmarting others, but from **carrying** God’s Word within.
- 

## 119:99 – Depth of discernment

“I have more insight than all my teachers, for **Your testimonies** are my meditation.”

**\*\*edot/edut** Testimony of the Lord **God’s covenant promises\*\***


 **Imagery:** Plunging into deep waters to gain perspective.

- Insight grows when God’s Word becomes something we live with, not just listen to.
  - Over time, water changes stone. Constant exposure does something that information alone can't do.
- 

## 119:100 – Clarity through God’s Word

“I understand more than those who are old, because I have complied with **Your precepts.**”

**\*\*piqqudim** Precepts **God’s instructions/directions for daily living\*\***

 **Imagery:** Clear, flowing stream revealing the bottom.

- Understanding is tied to practice, not age or status.
  - The Word opens up to those who walk in it. Scripture is for everyone!
- 

## 119:101 – Avoiding the toxic waters

“I have restrained my feet from every evil way, so that I may keep Your word.”

**\*\*davar** Word **the spoken word, God’s revealed word to man\*\***

 **Imagery:** Water flows downhill according to the shape of the land.


- The Word is moving from the inside out. Once you really take the Word to heart, it starts to steer your path effortlessly.
  - Guarded steps implies daily movement, ordinary choices and intentional direction.
-

- Like stepping on rough terrain for example. It's not fear that causes us to watch our step but **awareness**. When the terrain is rough, you don't rush blindly forward but pick your steps by watching where you step so as not to fall or lose balance.

### 119:102 – Following the river of Your Word

"I have not turned aside from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me."

**\*\*mispatim** Judgments of the Lord **God's righteous decisions; His just, wise verdicts\*\***


 **Imagery:** A river that flows and leads the way.

- The verb "taught" here points to instruction that is formed through personal lived experience.
- Deeply personal – God Himself engages with the psalmist on a very personal way. The Word stays the same, but how we understand it changes over time.
- This Verse Guards Against Two Extremes:
  - **Legalism:** "I stay faithful because I follow the rules."
  - **Independence:** "I understand Scripture on my own."
- True biblical maturity is marked by reliance, not self-sufficiency

### 119:103 – Sweetness and refreshment of God's Word

"How sweet are Your words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"

**\*\*imrah** Word **utterance; God's declaration or promise**

 **Imagery:** Fresh water quenches thirst and nourishes.



The Hebrew word for "honey" is **Debash** denotes a sticky, syrupy honey, or honeycomb

- What tastes good draws us back; what tastes bad repels us. Sweetness explains obedience better than discipline ever could
  - Honey is naturally sweet – not manufactured = GOD'S WORD IS GOOD BY NATURE
  - Honey is nourishing and healthy = GOD'S WORD IS SUSTAINING
  - Honey is accessible to everyone = GOD'S WORD IS MEANT FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE
  - Honey lingers in taste = GOD'S WORD STAYS WITH YOU

### 119:104 – Wisdom and understanding like abundant water

"From Your precepts I get understanding; therefore, I hate every false way."

**\*\*piqqudim** Precepts **God's instructions/directions for daily living\*\***



**Imagery:** Abundant water nourishing crops and clearing debris.

- “False way” loses its appeal because of the sweetness of God’s Word.
- People don’t abandon false paths because they are warned enough—but because they’ve tasted something better.



List all the Words used for God’s Word, the main action words (verbs) and descriptive words (adjectives) in this stanza (Mem)

**Major verbs about the Psalmist:** love, understand, complied with, restrained, have not turned aside, hate



How does this stanza challenge the idea that commandments restrict freedom?



**Summary – The Mem Theme in All Eight Verses**

Mem emphasizes **that God’s Word does its deepest work inside us.** Meditation verbs dominate; “sweet” highlights Scripture’s delight. Scripture rarely advises us just to simply “read” God’s Word – but to “study” and “meditate”. There is **Confidence in God’s character and Who He is.**

“MEDITATION IS TO THE SOUL WHAT DIGESTION IS TO THE BODY. TO MEDITATE MEANS TO “TURN OVER” GOD’S WORD IN THE MIND AND HEART, TO EXAMINE IT, TO COMPARE SCRIPTURE WITH SCRIPTURE. BIBLICAL MEDITATION IS NOT MYSTICAL NONSENSE, IT IS CONSCIENCE THOUGHT.”

The letter **Mem** is a reminder that God’s Word is meant to flow into our life like water—not rushed, not forced, but taken in daily. Scripture begins to shape how we think, where we step, and how carefully we move through uneven ground. Over time, God teaches us through lived experience,

and His Word becomes something we don't just obey, but actually enjoy. Mem shows us that when we let God's Word dwell within us, it steadies our walk, sweetly satisfies our soul, and changes what we hunger for. God's Word sustains. Renewal happens.

## Grab your Observation Worksheets for Nun – Psalm 119:105-112.



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# NUN (נ)

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## WORDS USED FOR GOD'S WORD:

WORD, JUDGMENTS, LAW,  
PRECEPTS, TESTMONIES, STATUTES

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## ANCIENT PICTOGRAPH:

(FISH, SEED, LIFE, OFFSPRING)

SYMBOLIC MEANING: FISH • LIFE •  
ACTION • FRUITFULNESS •  
CONTINUITY • GROWTH •  
PERPETUATION

---

**How Symbol connects to God's Word:** Life that survives, moves, and multiplies in hidden, dangerous, or dark environments because it remains oriented to God's Word.

Nun represents a **fish or seed**, symbolizing:

- **Life and vitality**
- **Fruitfulness and multiplication**
- **Endurance and perseverance**
- **Faithfulness to God resulting in growth and blessing**

This section emphasizes **God's Word as life-giving, fruitful, and sustaining for perseverance**, guiding the believer to spiritual abundance.

## Fruitfulness

### Psalm 119:105–112 – Nun Imagery Verse by Verse

#### 119:105 – God's Word as guiding light

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

**\*\*davar** Word the spoken word, God's revealed word to man\*\*



**Imagery:** Fish navigating waters with instinctive guidance.



Lamp (**ner**) Conveys the idea of step-by-step illumination. Not a spotlight for the entire path, but the immediate guidance needed for walking.

And

Light (**or**) Broader illumination, understanding, and insight



What is the difference between guidance for steps (**lamp**) and full understanding (**light**) in our walk?

- Imagine a **seed underground**, responding to light it cannot yet see, instinctively growing toward that light. Living guidance for the next step.
- God's Word does not remove darkness instantly; it **teaches us how to move within it**.

---

#### 119:106 – Perseverance in commitment

"I have sworn and I will confirm it, that I will keep Your righteous judgments."

**\*\*mispatim** Judgments of the Lord **God's righteous decisions; His just, wise verdicts\*\***



**Imagery:** Fish returning faithfully to spawning grounds.

- Sworn commitment = **endurance and steadfastness**.
- Nun = faithfulness produces **fruitfulness over time**.

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#### 119:107 – Life sustained in adversity

"I am exceedingly afflicted; revive me, LORD, according to Your word."

**\*\*imrah** Word **utterance; God's declaration or promise**




**Imagery:** Fish swimming upstream against currents.

- Affliction = challenges requiring **divine sustenance and strength**.
- Nun = God's Word **sustains life and perseverance** through difficulty.

## 119:108 – Prayer as offering life to God

“Be pleased to accept the voluntary offerings of my mouth, LORD, and teach me **Your judgments.**”  
**\*\*mispatim** Judgments of the Lord **God’s righteous decisions; His just, wise verdicts\*\***

 **Imagery:** A seed does not exist for itself. Its purpose is to release what is inside it, even if it costs the seed everything.

- Judgments are used two times in this stanza (106 & j108). Judgments is emphasizing that God's Word is not mere suggestions; it is the system that keeps life going when it's in danger and allows it to thrive. The Nun pictograph makes this point clear: just like seeds carry life and fish follow currents that carry life, a believer's life continues, reproduces, and grows when it is in line with God's judgments.



How do God's laws function like a seed's internal blueprint or a fish's instinct in your spiritual life?

- Praise = active participation in spiritual **fruitfulness and growth.**
- Is not primarily about how life feels – more like about whether life continues. Will faith continue on beyond uncertainty
- Verse 108 is not about expressing faith, but about transmitting it – releasing living words and remaining teachable so life with God does not end here

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## 119:109 – Dependence and endurance

“My life is continually in my hand; yet I do not forget **Your Law.**”

**\*\*torah** - **In the Law of the Lord** – **God’s teaching or instruction** \*\*

 **Imagery:** Fish swim freely. A seed pushes upward even though it does not yet see the light.


- Our lives are vulnerable and exposed. There are no guarantees we will go safely through life
- “I do not forget” is not passive. In Hebrew thought, forgetting is not mental lapse – it is functional neglect.
  - To forget God’s law is to: stop living by it; stop transmitting it; and stop letting it shape decisions

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## 119:110 – Protection amid adversity

“The wicked have set a trap for me, yet I have not wandered from **Your precepts.**”

**\*\*piqqudim Precepts God’s instructions/directions for daily living\*\***

 **Imagery:** Fish avoiding the bait in the water. Seed life continues by growing straight


- God’s Word = **guidance to avoid danger.**
- Snare/traps works by pulling something off its intended path for our harm
- The bait works by mimicking nourishment. The danger is disguised as looking good and helpful
  - The psalmist does not take the bait because he measures it against **what he already knows to be true and recognizes the danger instinctively because of his faithfulness to God’s Word**

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### 119:111 – Fruitful inheritance

“I have inherited **Your testimonies** forever; for they are the joy of my heart.”

**\*\*edot/edut Testimony of the Lord God’s covenant promises\*\***

 **Imagery:** Fish persists through adversity and multiplies. A **seed** planted in good soil doesn’t just survive; it **produces fruit.**



A verse of security. Inheritance Hebrew word origin is *from the denominative verb from **nachalah** which means to get or take as a possession*


- “Inherited Your testimonies” → possesses the spiritual DNA for continued life
- Seeds are power reservoirs of potential. They are not as fragile as we may think. The seed contains all that is need to grow

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### 119:112 – Steadfast living for life and fruitfulness

“I have inclined my heart to perform **Your statutes** forever, even to the end.”

**\*\*huqqim/chukim Statutes of the Lord God’s rules, decrees or ordinances that guide\*\***

 **Imagery:** Fish swimming steadily in the right current.

- Inclined heart = His inner compass is deliberately **orienting his heart towards God’s Word.**
- “Perform” here means taking action based on what you know, not just agreeing in your head.
- God’s statutes functions as a navigation system, allowing him to survive threats and remain faithful.

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## Summary – The Nun Theme in All Eight Verses

The verbs in Nun emphasize perseverance and direction < swear, confirm, suffer, revive, inherit, incline>.

Nun = Fish / Seed → Life continues when oriented toward God, survives danger, and reproduces faithfully.

Life with God is a process, not a moment: it begins with guidance, continues through trials, and culminates in joy and purposeful endurance. The Nun pictograph reminds us that life **persists, reproduces, and bears fruit** when it is aligned with God's Word. Reproduction, legacy, endurance. Faith multiplies.

## Grab your Observation Worksheets for Samekh – Psalm 119:113-120.



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# SAMEKH (ס)

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## WORDS USED FOR GOD'S WORD:

LAW, JUDGMENTS, WORD,  
COMMANDMENTS, TESTMONIES,  
STATUTES

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## ANCIENT PICTOGRAPH:

(PROP, SUPPORT, LEANING POST,  
CIRCLE OF PROTECTION)

SYMBOLIC MEANING: SUPPORT •  
PROP • PROTECTION • STABILITY  
• RELIANCE • ENCIRCLEMENT •  
PIERCE • SHARP • SHIELD

---

**How Symbol connects to God's Word:** Samekh symbolizes support or protection. God's Word supports our faith, keeping us within His protective circle. Precepts and statutes guide and stabilize our life.

Samekh represents a **supporting structure**, symbolizing:

- **God holds us upright when we cannot stand alone**
- **Stability and security under His Word**
- **A protective circle that upholds the faithful**

- **Reliance on divine strength and guidance**

This section emphasizes **the believer leaning on God’s Word for protection, stability, and confidence.**

## Stability

### Psalm 119:113–120 – Samekh Imagery Verse by Verse

#### 119:113 – Leaning away from the wicked

“I hate those who are double-minded, but I love **Your Law.**”

**\*\*torah** - **In the Law of the Lord** – **God’s teaching or instruction** \*\*



**Imagery:** A vine cannot grow on two trellises

- A believer cannot lean on God and the world at the same time
- “Double-mindedness” – not only double-minded but implies a heart that is divided only halfhearted in one’s commitment to God. Also implies a skeptic.

○ Other translations have fickle people, those who are not completely loyal to you, hypocrites, disloyal people, two-faced, those with two ways of thinking

#### 119:114 – God as protective shelter

“You are my hiding place and my shield; I wait for Your word.”

**\*\*davar** Word **the spoken word, God’s revealed word to man**\*\*



**Imagery:** The **supporting wall** behind the vine



“Hiding place” in Hebrew is **seter** = secret place, concealed shelter. It is not a casual shelter.



Cross Reference: **Psalm 32:7 NASB** “**You are my hiding place** : You keep me from trouble: You surround me with <sup>la</sup>songs of deliverance.”

- **Divine protection** in every circumstance.
- “Shield” in Hebrew is **magen** – a large protective shield. In ancient warfare, a shield was held in **front** of you - not over you and you had to stay behind it. A shield won’t protect you if you step away from it.
- God is not just hiding the psalmist. God is standing between him and danger.

#### 119:115 – Confidence in protection

“Leave me, you evildoers, so that I may comply **the commandments of my God.**”

**\*\*mitzvot/mitzvah** **The Commandment of the Lord** **God’s commands to obey\*\***

 **Imagery:** A vine tied to a strong trellis grows upward. A vine tied to rotten wood collapses.


- “Evildoers” are those who ignore God’s Word, mock obedience to God, pressure compromise and normalize disobedience. They make faith harder.
  - They are like rotten posts and weak braces – if you lean on them, you will fall

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### 119:116 – Holding onto life and support

“Sustain me according to Your word, that I may live; and do not let me be ashamed of my hope.”

**\*\*imrah** Word **utterance; God’s declaration or promise**

 **Imagery:** Post or prop bearing weight, sustaining the structure.

- God’s Word = **Holds me in place and keep me from collapsing**
- Remain faithful, continue walking with God and to not give up
- There is hidden fear in this verse -> to not lose heart, to lose credibility
- Scripture is an infrastructure. It holds life together.



Do I try to appear strong instead of asking God for support?

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### 119:117 – Support and security

“Sustain me so that I may be safe, that I may have regard for **Your statutes** continually.”

**\*\*huqqim/chukim** **Statutes of the Lord** **God’s rules, decrees or ordinances that guide\*\***

 **Imagery:** A post set deep stands firm


- God’s Word = **prop keeping the psalmist upright.**

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### 119:118 – Separation through support

“You have rejected all those who stray from **Your statutes**, for their deceitfulness is useless.”

**\*\*huqqim/chukim** **Statutes of the Lord** **God’s rules, decrees or ordinances that guide\*\***

 **Imagery:** A vine not tied to its trellis spreads on the ground. It looks free. But it becomes weak and fruitless

- God sustains and upholds a believer, this verse shows what happens when people reject that support. It is the warning side of Samekh.
  - God removes His sustaining favor
  - God withdraws protective blessing
  - God allows consequences
  - It is similar to Romans 1: “God gave them over...”
  - **God honors human choice.**
- **They are not ignorant. They know God’s Word. But, they walk away from it.**
  - Deception is a weak support.
  - It cannot hold weight.
  - It falls into the dirt.
  - Spiritual collapse
- This verse warns that spiritual drifting always ends in spiritual collapse. When people refuse God’s support, their lives lose stability

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### 119:119 – Stability in the face of adversaries

“You have removed all the wicked of the earth *like* impurities; therefore I love **Your testimonies.**”  
**\*\*edot/edut Testimony of the Lord God’s covenant promises\*\***

 **Imagery:** A pruned supported vine bears more fruit



Impurities or dross as in some Bible versions in Hebrew is the word *sig* = slag, impurity, waste metal). This is rich imagery for in ancient refining metal was heated until impurities rose. Then the refiner skimmed off the waste until only pure metal remained.

So God’s judgment is compared to refining fire:

Spiritual Impurities/Dross here represents hidden sin, mixed motives, hypocrisy, double mindedness, pride, false security, compromise.

The dross makes the metal brittle and sin makes faith fragile.

---

### 119:120 – Reliance under threat

“My flesh trembles from the fear of You, and I am afraid of **Your judgments.**”

**\*\*mispatim** Judgments of the Lord **God's righteous decisions; His just, wise verdicts\*\***



**Imagery:** A trellis anchored deep into rock does not sway.

- Fear, God's Word = **reverent respect, sacred awe, deep submission and willing obedience**  
– **to take God seriously!**



### **Summary – The Samekh Theme in All Eight Verses**

In this stanza for Samekh, there are sharp contrasts—hate/love, uphold/fall.

Samekh emphasizes **support, protection, and stability**. Those who choose to wander from God's Word those whose lives are built on deception, which provides no lasting support. Like vines that reject their trellis, they eventually collapse under their own weight. This verse calls believers to remain humble, dependent, and firmly anchored in God's truth.


The Samekh pictograph reminds us that spiritual life is not self-supported—it requires leaning fully on God, staying aligned with His Word, and responding in reverence. When we do, we are both protected and positioned to grow strong and fruitful. God upholds the mature believer. Confidence grows.

### **Grab your Observation Worksheets for Ayin – Psalm 119:121-128.**



## AYIN (ע)

**WORDS USED FOR GOD'S WORD:**  
STATUTES, TESTIMONIES, LAW,  
COMMANDMENTS, PRECEPTS

**ANCIENT PICTOGRAPH:**   
(EYE, FOUNTAIN, INSIGHT,  
PERCEPTION)  
**SYMBOLIC MEANING:** EYE •  
PERCEPTION • INSIGHT • REVEAL •  
DISCERNMENT • OBSERVATION •  
WATCH

**How Symbol connects to God's Word:** Ayin represents the eye, showing seeing and insight, divine justice, protection, and spiritual discernment.

Ayin represents an **eye**, symbolizing:

- **Spiritual perception and discernment**
- **Seeing clearly the way of God**
- **Watching attentively for God's guidance**

Ayin teaches: Faith is learning to live honestly before God's eyes, while trusting Him to deal with what we cannot. Faithful people get tired too. We are not Super Christians – we are real human beings who experience normal things, dealing with things in life and the pain and suffering that comes from living in a broken world.

## **Discernment**

### **Psalm 119:121–128 – Ayin Imagery Verse by Verse**

#### **119:121 – Upholding justice with discernment**

"I have done justice and righteousness; do not leave me to my oppressors."



**Imagery:** Eye discerning between right and wrong.

- As Christians, we are often open targets, but God is there to protect us and we just don't see or sense Him.
- "Justice" and "Righteousness" form a covenant pair throughout Scripture. This pair reflects the two greatest commandments: Love God (righteousness), Love people (Justice). When the psalmist uses this phrase, he is aligning himself with God's kingdom values. Ultimately, Jesus fulfills this perfectly.



**Cross Reference:** Isaiah 11:4–5 Expanded Bible

<sup>4</sup> But he will judge the poor ·honestly [with justice/righteousness];

he will be ·fair [upright; just; fair] in his decisions for the ·poor [oppressed; meek] people of the ·land [or earth].

·At his command evil people will be punished [<sup>L</sup>He will strike the earth with the rod/scepter of his mouth], and by ·his words the wicked will be put to death [<sup>L</sup>the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked].

<sup>5</sup> ·Goodness [Righteousness; Justice] will be like a belt around his waist, and ·fairness [faithfulness; integrity] like a belt around his ·hips [waist; <sup>T</sup>loins].

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#### **119:122 – Seeking protection through attentive observation**

"Be a guarantor for Your servant for good; do not let the arrogant oppress me."



**Imagery:** Eye watching and interceding for protection.



"For Good" in Hebrew is **tov/tob** – means completely fulfilling the Divine purpose for which it was created. The first place we encounter the word **tov/tob** is in the creation narrative of Bereshith (Genesis) 1. where God repeatedly declares His creation to be good.

### 119:123 – Eyes waiting expectantly for mercy

"My eyes fail *with longing* for Your salvation and for your righteous word."

**\*\*imrah** Word utterance; **God's declaration or promise**



**Imagery:** Eye alert, attentive, focused.

- Another Bible version, the NLT tells us, "...my eyes strain to see Your rescue..."
  - There is a trust in God and knows God will put everything straight - BUT JUST CAN'T SEE IT right now... struggling with my doubt and struggling with my faith!



The Hebrew word for fail is **kalah**. It means straining, especially spiritually, waiting under pressure. Can mean physical exhaustion and emotionally depleted.



**Cross References:**

Ecclesiastes 1:18 "He who increases knowledge increases pain."

Proverbs 13:12 "Hope deferred makes the heart sick."

Psalms 119 gives language to that pain.



Do you struggle with your faith? How many times have you asked God for a "sign" so we can "SEE" God working on our behalf?

### 119:124 – Dependence guided by perception

"Deal with Your servant according to Your graciousness and teach me **Your statutes**."

**\*\*huqqim/chukim** Statutes of the Lord **God's rules, decrees or ordinances that guide\*\***



**Imagery:** Eye seeking a new perspective

- Another Bible version, the NLT tells us, "I am your servant; deal with me in unfailing love..."
  - That is a love you can count on that will not let you down. It's a love that does not abandon. A commitment love.

- Notice that the psalmist is not asking to deal with him according to his own faithfulness – but according to God’s. He is standing on God’s promises. His faith rests in knowing God’s heart.

### 119:125 – Instruction as opening of spiritual eyes

“I am Your servant; give me understanding, so that I may know **Your testimonies.**”

**\*\*edot/edut** **Testimony of the Lord** **God’s covenant promises\*\***



**Imagery:** Eye adjusting spiritual focus

- Understanding isn’t an intellectual grasp but a spiritual insight. A discernment, a inner comprehension and recognition of the deepness in scriptural teachings. A spiritual intelligence.
  - In the Bible, knowledge is seen as information, while understanding is the application of that knowledge to real-life situations.



**Yada**, the Hebrew word meaning “to know,” is used multiple times throughout scripture for a variety of different topics. However, when the term is used to define the **yada**, as the relationship between man and God, it speaks of a deep intimacy that the Father longs to have with His children.

### 119:126 – Deliverance through perceiving God’s intervention

“It is time for the LORD to act, for they have broken **Your Law.**”

**\*\*torah** - **In the Law of the Lord** – **God’s teaching or instruction** \*\*



**Imagery:** Watchman.

- A call to action. It’s time to act. All Bible versions are translated this way except for the CEV version which has “Do something, LORD”! The psalmist is calling for God to act because of the wickedness of these people.
  - We must never tolerate or accept sinful or immoral behavior! Sin must be removed by the action of prayer.
  - Is this a prayer for payback or revenge? I do not see any proof of that. This whole stanza Ayin is all about God’s justice. Whatever God decides and does is always just and fair.



**JOURNAL PROMPT:** Write a prayer about what you are waiting for.

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## 119:127 – Reverence through spiritual vision

“Therefore I love **Your commandments** above gold, yes, above pure gold.”

**\*\*mitzvot/mitzvah** The Commandment of the Lord **God’s commands to obey\*\***



**Imagery:** When God opens your eyes, you see true treasure

- Wealth does not save – only God’s Word does.
  - James 5:3 The Voice *“Your stockpile of silver and gold is tarnished and corroded”*
  - 1 Peter 1:25 (quoting Isaiah 40:8) Expanded Bible: *“...but the word of the Lord ·will live [remains; abides; endures] forever [Is. 40:6–8]...”*
- Matthew Henry in his commentary on Psalm 119:127 we find him telling that the word of God answers all purposes and situations in life... FAR better than money does because he sees that God’s Word is richer than wealth!
- “Therefore” means “For this reason/Because of this/As a result. This connects to Verse 126 in that because God’s law is broken and God must act – “Therefore/for this reason/because of this/as a result” – Scripture becomes precious.

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## 119:128 – Perceiving the excellence of God’s Word

“Therefore I carefully follow all **Your precepts** concerning everything, I hate every false way.”

**\*\*piqqudim** Precepts **God’s instructions/directions for daily living\*\***



**Imagery:** Spiritual 20/20 vision.

- How Truth get’s twisted. People twist Scripture to suit their own ways and desires. The psalmist is rejecting that.
  - Scripture twisting: when people bend the word. ♦ Satan (Matt 4) ♦ False prophets (Jer 23) ♦ Pharisees (Matt 15) ♦ False teachers (2 Pet 2). They don’t reject Scripture. They reshape it.

**We don’t bend Scripture  
to fit our lives.  
We bend our lives  
to fit Scripture.**



**Summary – The Ayin Theme in All Eight Verses**

In this stanza, Ayin, justice terminology stands out.

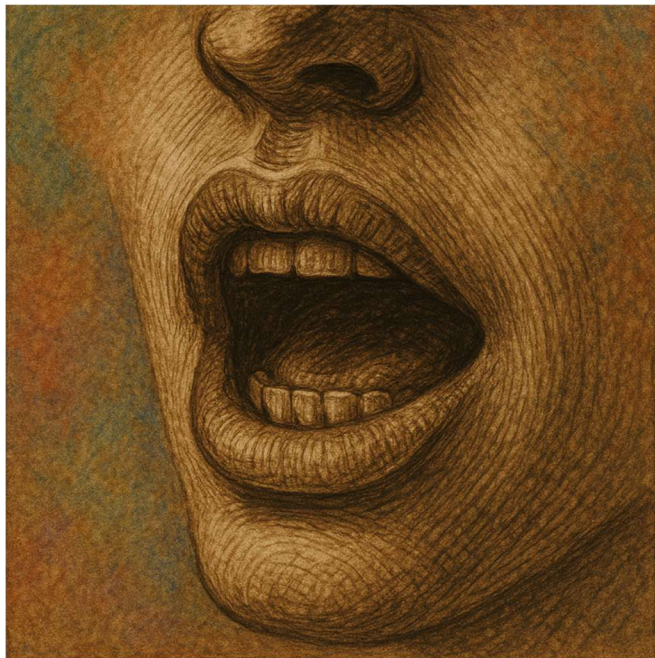
Ayin emphasizes **spiritual “eyesight” through God’s Word**. The psalmist wants us to ask God ““Lord, train my eyes to see justice the way You do.” Justice begins in the heart before it appears in society. It starts at home.

God’s Word is true wealth. We don’t love Scripture because life is easy. We love Scripture because life is hard.

We are not called first to be impressive, but to be teachable.

Ayin calls us to pray: “Lord, sharpen my vision, so I may serve You well.” Seeing clearly, spiritually. Wisdom sharpens.

## Grab your Observation Worksheets for Pe – Psalm 119:129-136.



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PE (פ)

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WORDS USED FOR GOD’S WORD:

TESTIMONIES, WORD,  
COMMANDMENTS, PRECEPTS,  
STATUTES, LAW

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ANCIENT PICTOGRAPH:   
(MOUTH, OPENING, SPEECH,  
DECLARATION)

SYMBOLIC MEANING:  
SPEECH/VOICE • DECLARATION •  
EXPRESSION • PRAISE •  
COMMUNICATION

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**How Symbol connects to God’s Word:** Pe symbolizes the mouth or speech. God’s Word teaches what we should speak. Precepts and testimonies guide our words and confession, reflecting faith in action.

Pe represents a **mouth**, symbolizing:

- **Unlike earlier stanzas with spiritual warfare language (Samekh, Ayin, Nun, etc.), Pe is more spiritual intimacy language, more devotional as it emphasizes: understanding, guidance, mercy, longing and compassion.**

This section emphasizes **using our words to declare, praise, and proclaim God’s Word**, as well as receiving instruction and wisdom through speech.


## Witness

### Psalm 119:129–136 – Pe Imagery Verse by Verse

#### 119:129 – Wonder at God’s Word

“Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul complies with them.”

**\*\*edot/edut** Testimony of the Lord **God’s covenant promises\*\***

 **Imagery:** Mouth opened in awe.

- God’s Word is amazing.
- God’s Word is not about trying harder to behave better. It flows from a heart that has learned to honor and treasure what God has spoken. When His Word is held in that place, obedience becomes sincere and lasting.



The Hebrew for “Wonderful” — is **pele** which means extraordinary, miraculous, beyond human ability, awe-producing. Its root word is connected to God’s supernatural acts.

This is the same word used for God’s miracles in Exodus, for God’s mighty works and for God’s divine intervention.

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#### 119:130 – Illumination through declaration

“The unfolding of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.”

**\*\*davar** Word **the spoken word, God’s revealed word to man\*\***

 **Imagery:** Words flowing from the mouth like light.



As Scripture in ancient times were on scrolls and to read it had to be unrolled. The word for ‘unfolding’ here is the Hebrew word **pay-taackh** which is a masculine noun meaning to reveal. It gives a picture of a doorway or a gateway or entrance into a previously closed chamber. This is the revealing of information unavailable or not understandable before... it is the comprehension of the incomprehensible!

- We are illuminated, not self-illuminating.
  - It is like walking into a dark room and opening the door. Nothing in the room changes, but everything becomes visible.
- Anyone with faith in Jesus can come to understand through the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit... which is great news because it means that anyone can read it and know it.

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“THE SCRIPTURES ARE SHALLOW ENOUGH FOR A BABE TO COME AND DRINK WITHOUT FEAR OF DROWNING AND DEEP ENOUGH FOR A THEOLOGIAN TO SWIM IN WITHOUT EVER TOUCHING THE BOTTOM” ST. JEROME”

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### 119:131 – Humility in receptiveness

“I opened my mouth wide and panted, for I longed for **Your commandments.**”

**\*\*mitsvot/mitzvah** The Commandment of the Lord **God’s commands to obey\*\***

 **Imagery:** Mouth open, panting for what brings life...and refreshes...and sustains...and restores.



#### Cross Reference:

Psalms 42:1 The Voice “...*My soul is dry and thirsts for You, True God, as a deer thirsts (pants) for water*”

John 7:37 Expanded Bible “*On the last and most important [L greatest] day of the feast Jesus stood up and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. [The feast of Shelters/Tabernacles featured a water pouring ritual that may stand in the background of Jesus’ speech.]”*”

- This is more than just liking God’s word – but understanding the VAST NEED for it!

---

### 119:132 – Prayerful petition

“Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is right for those who love Your name.”

 **Imagery:** Mouth petitions.

- Here, the desire is for God’s attention. Almost like that of a child crying out for attention from their father. There is an expressed dependence.



#### Cross Reference:

Moses speaking to God. Exodus 33:13 Expanded Bible “*If I have truly pleased you [L found favor in your eyes], show me your plans [path: way] so that I may know you and continue to please you [L find favor/grace in your eyes]...*”

- “Name” = **God’s revealed character.**



**JOURNAL PROMPT:** What is your spiritual needs right now?

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### 119:133 – Request for guidance in speech

“Establish my footsteps in Your word, and do not let any wrongdoing have power over me.”

**\*\*imrah** Word utterance; **God’s declaration or promise**



**Imagery:** Mouth issuing words that affirm commitment.

- Moving in the right direction/right path in life.



**Cross Reference:**

Psalm 37:23 ICB International Children’s Bible *“When a man’s steps follow the Lord, God is pleased with his ways.”*

- Petition for protection and deliverance from sin

---

### 119:134 – Deliverance through verbal appeal

“Redeem me from oppression of man, so that I may keep Your precepts.”

**\*\*piqqudim** Precepts **God’s instructions/directions for daily living\*\***



**Imagery:** Crying out for help.

- Praying is a useful way to stay spiritually alive. It connects outside situations (like oppression) with following God’s rules on the inside.
- Rescue me from the people or situations that are making it hard to follow You, so I can keep living the way You want.

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### 119:135 – Prayer for divine manifestation

“Make Your face shine upon Your servant, and teach me Your statutes.”

**\*\*huqqim/chukim** Statutes of the Lord **God’s rules, decrees or ordinances that guide\*\***



**Imagery:** Mouth uttering request for God’s presence.

- Like a parent smiling at a child—your life feels recognized, safe, and encouraged.



**Cross Reference:**

Numbers 6:24-26 Expanded Bible *“May the Lord bless you and · keep [guard] you. May the Lord · show you his kindness [make his face shine upon you ] and · have mercy on [be gracious to] you. May the Lord · watch over [lift his face/presence/countenance upon] you and give you peace.”*

## 119:136 – Plea for life and compassion

“My eyes shed streams of water, because they (men/people) do not keep **Your Law.**”

**\*\*torah - In the Law of the Lord – God’s teaching or instruction \*\***



**Imagery:** Mouth expressing lament alongside tears.



The term 'streams' here is the Hebrew word **pehlegg** which represents a canal OR a water channel where tons of water rush thru... (its is a free flow thing)



Amplified Bible, Classic Edition “ Streams of water run down my eyes, because men do not keep Your law [they hear it not, nor receive it, love it, or obey it].



### **Summary – The Pe Theme in All Eight Verses**

Pe stanza talks about God’s Word being wonderful, and in Hebrew, it brings in a touch of the miraculous. God’s word shines bright and helps us get it. Pe creates a craving and eagerness for God’s Word, encouraging us to embrace His testimonies, accept His Words, and have a genuine longing for His commandments while sticking to His precepts. Pe stanza is like a nudge from God, asking us to pay attention, request mercy, and guide our way. Pe stanza asks God to help us escape from any kind of oppression and its harshness, unfairness, and cruelty. Speaking God’s truth. Faith is shared.

**Grab your Observation Worksheets for Tsadhe – Psalm 119:137-144.**



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# TSADHE (צ)

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## WORDS USED FOR GOD'S WORD:

JUDGEMENT, TESTIMONY, WORD,  
PRECEPT, LAW, COMMANDMENT

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## ANCIENT PICTOGRAPH:

 (FISHHOOK, HUNTING, PURSUIT,  
RIGHTEOUSNESS)

## SYMBOLIC MEANING:

RIGHTEOUSNESS • PURSUIT •  
JUSTICE • HOOK/CATCH • SEEKING  
• TRAPPING THE WICKED

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**How Symbol connects to God's Word:** Tsadhe represents righteousness and pursuit. God's Word calls us to pursue righteous living. Statutes and testimonies are the tools to seek and attain it.

Tsadhe represents a **fishhook or hunter's tool**, symbolizing:

- Pursuit of righteousness and justice
- Capturing or removing what is evil

This section emphasizes **active pursuit of God's righteousness – God's righteous character, God's righteous Word and God's righteous ways.**

## Integrity

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"THE WORD OF GOD IS THE FISHHOOK BY WHICH GOD DRAWS OUR HEARTS TO HIMSELF." CHARLES SPURGEON

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### Psalm 119:137–144 – Tsadhe Imagery Verse by Verse

**119:137 – God's righteousness as perfect standard – God is always right and does right.**

"You are righteous, LORD, and Your judgments are right."

**\*\*mispatim** Judgments of the Lord **God's righteous decisions; His just, wise verdicts\*\***

 **Imagery:** Hook securing what is right.

- Begins with **Who God is**. He does not act righteously sometimes. He is righteous always.

- God never: Lies, Cheats, Exploits, Manipulates, Acts unfairly
- God's decisions never bend toward evil. They never twist. They never corrupt. He will always do right, even if from our slanted point of view it does not seem right to us and we need to trust that He always does what is right.


*“The faithful will not be shaken, for God’s Word is immovable and pure.”*

**John Calvin**

### 119:138 – Testimonies reflect justice

“You have commanded **Your testimonies** in righteousness and great faithfulness.”

**\*\*edot/edut Testimony of the Lord God’s covenant promises\*\***


 **Imagery:** A hook that captures the believer’s heart.

- Transitions to **How God communicates His righteousness.**
- God’s Word is absolutely dependable. Nothing can undermine its truth.
- God’s Word is righteous and faithful.
- God’s testimonies are **unchanging anchors** in a shifting culture.
- God’s Word is **not optional**; it is meant to guide life.

### 119:139 – Zeal against evil

“My zeal has consumed me, because my enemies have forgotten Your words.”

**\*\*davar Word the spoken word, God’s revealed word to man\*\***

 **Imagery:** Hunter chasing the target relentlessly.

- Another Bible version, the NLT tells us, *“I am overwhelmed with indignation, for my enemies have disregarded your words.”*
  - Don’t you get angry when people openly defy and rebellion to God? Is your soul disturbed by sin? Do the unrighteous cause you a troubled spirit?
- Passion for God = **intense desire for God’s Word.**



The Hebrew word **Charah** for “consumed” implies **all-encompassing fire** . burning inwardly. not externally destructive



**Cross References:**

Psalm 69:9 — *Zeal for Your house has consumed me*

John 2:17 *Zeal for Your house will consume me* (Jesus quoting Psalm 69)

- “Enemies” often used in Psalm 119 to contrast **faithful vs. faithless**
- God’s Word is the standard; forgetting it leads to moral compromise



Can passion for God exist without knowledge of His Word? Why or why not?

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### 119:140 – Purity of God’s Word

“Your word is very pure, therefore Your servant loves it.”

**\*\*imrah** **Word utterance; God’s declaration or promise**

**Imagery:** The heart is hooked by God’s Word. Jesus says in Matthew 4:19 *“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”*

- Another Bible version, the NLT tells us, **“Your promises have been thoroughly tested; that is why I love them so much.”** And ESV (English Standard Version) also says **“Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it.”**
  - The NLT version and other versions like God’s Word , Expanded Bible and even the paraphrase version The Message provides us with a perspective on understanding this verse. God’s Word is pure and true, and these versions suggests that it is proven, God’s faithfulness, His promises found in the Bible are not just words on a page; they are truths that have stood the test of time.
  - The Wycliffe Bible, which is another version of the Bible, has the following verse: **“Thy speech is set afire (or Thy word is tried by fire)...”** And I absolutely adore this version. The word of God is so powerful, transforming, and dynamic; it is igniting and consuming; it is passionate; it is illuminating and spreading; cleansing and refining; and it has the capacity to transform anything it touches due to the intensity of its power.

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### 119:141 – Humility in the pursuit

“I am small and despised, yet I do not forget **Your precepts.**”

**\*\*piqqudim** **Precepts** **God’s instructions/directions for daily living\*\***

**Imagery:** Captured by God’s truth, not by public opinion

- Jesus lived Psalm 119:141 in its fullest form: Rejected – yet faithful. Humbled – yet obedient. Despised – yet anchored in truth.

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"THE SOUL ANCHORED IN GOD'S WORD DOES NOT NEED THE WORLD'S  
APPLAUSE."

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### 119:142 – Faithfulness of God's law

"Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and **Your Law** is truth."

**\*\*torah - In the Law of the Lord – God's teaching or instruction \*\***

 **Imagery:** captured by God's reality rather than human opinion.

- This verse is all God centered. The shift from verse 141 from "I am..." to verse 142 to "You are..." Focusing on **WHO GOD IS**.
- This verse is pure theological declaration. No emotion. No complaint. No defense. Just truth. **WHAT GOD IS → WHAT GOD SPEAKS**
- "Everlasting" - God's righteousness never evolves, updates, or adapts to culture.
  - God was righteous before creation; God is righteous now; God will be righteous forever



**Cross Reference:**

Romans 3:4b EasyEnglish Bible *... God will always do what he says. He will always say what is true, even if everyone in the world should tell lies. ...*

### 119:143 – Relief in persecution

"Trouble and anguish have come upon me, yet **Your commandments** are my delight."

**\*\*mitzvot/mitzvah The Commandment of the Lord God's commands to obey\*\***

 **Imagery:** Hunter staying focused despite obstacles.


- Another Bible version, the NLT tells us, "As pressure and stress bear down on me, I find joy in your commands.." and the EasyEnglish Bible version has "I have much trouble and it makes me afraid, but your commands make me happy."
- Pain and anguish do not cancel devotion to God and faithfulness does not prevent hardship. God's Word becomes an emotional refuge and even through troubles and anguish, we can experience true joy because God is GOOD!
- "Troubles and anguish" – Trouble has the idea of being squeezed with no escape; Anguish is used for both physical and psychological pain. More Bible versions translate this as:

- Trouble and distress; deep distress; stress and strain; trouble and hardship/suffering; have troubles and hard times; much trouble and makes me afraid; pressure and stress; tribulation and anguish
- “Have come upon me” - trials often come unexpectedly. More Bible versions translate this as:
  - Have discovered me; am afflicted by; have my share of; have taken hold on me; overwhelm/overtaken me; confront me; bear down on me; have found me/caught up with
- “Delight” is a deep spiritual joy, not shallow happiness. It is a deepness of comfort in faith in God’s Word. God’s Word is like “Comfort Food”, it is sustenance for the soul. When life hurts, we reach for what comforts us. God’s Word is our daily bread. It is “chicken” soup for the soul.

### 119:144 – Perfection in understanding

“Your testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.”

**\*\*edot/edut Testimony of the Lord God’s covenant promises\*\***

 **Imagery:** Hook successfully securing the catch.

- Another Bible version, the NLT tells us, “Another Bible version, the NLT tells us, “*Your laws are always right; help me to understand them so I may live.*”
  - It’s not just about going about, living life but about living YOUR life to the fullest because the way God tells us to live is always right.

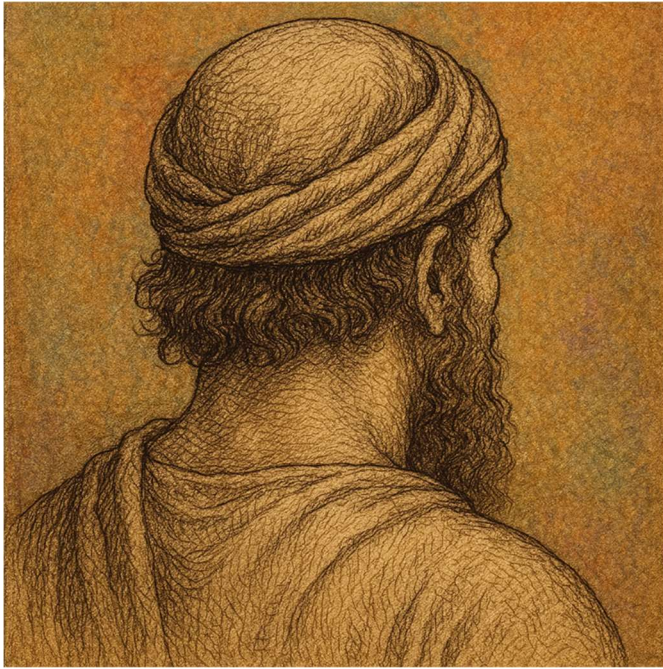


“Live” in Hebrew is **Chayah** which means to live. flourish. be spiritually alive.

### **Summary – The Tsadhe Theme in All Eight Verses**

God’s Word reflects His nature. Just as God Himself is righteous (v.137), His Word is righteous. Throughout the Tsadhe stanza, we see many shades of His righteousness: His judgments are upright and correct (v.137); His commandments are righteous and His testimonies firm and faithful (v.138); His words are pure (v.140); His righteousness is eternal and His law is truth (v.142); His testimonies endure forever (v.144). As we walk in His Word, we experience consistency, stability, and guidance. God’s faithfulness never wavers, and His truth anchors our lives, giving purpose, life, and joy that cannot be separated from Him.

**Grab your Observation Worksheets for Qoph – Psalm 119:145-152.**




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# QOPH (ק)

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**WORDS USED FOR GOD'S WORD:  
STATUTES, TESTIMONIES, WORD,  
JUDGMENTS, LAW,  
COMMANDMENTS**

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**ANCIENT PICTOGRAPH:**   
(BACK OF HEAD, MONKEY, EYE OF  
THE NEEDLE, HOLINESS)  
**SYMBOLIC MEANING: BACK OF  
HEAD • BEHIND • HOLINESS •  
FOCUS • CYCLES • REVERENCE •  
ATTENTION**

---

**How Symbol connects to God's Word:** Qoph symbolizes **holiness and looking back**. God's Word reminds us to **reflect and obey**. Commandments and testimonies keep believers **holy and focused on God**.

Qoph represents the **back of the head**, symbolizing:

- **Holiness and separation**
- **Awareness of God's presence behind us and around us**
- This section emphasizes this is a full **mental and spiritual focus** prayer. This is not a halfhearted, lip service prayer. He repeatedly prays, cries, watches, and waits on God.

## Seeking God Deeply

**Psalm 119:145–152 – Qoph Imagery Verse by Verse**

**119:145 – Prayer with full devotion**

"I cried out with all my heart; answer me, LORD! I will comply with Your statutes."

 **Imagery:** Mind fully turned toward God, attention focused.

- "Cried out" – this stanza is all about prayer and prayer is all about God "hearing" us (refer to verse 149 below). These verses seem to be persistence in prayer. God hears even the unspoken, deep cries of the heart.
- "Answer me": This is not a demand, but an anticipation that God will respond. He is mindful that God is with him, hearing him, and will respond. Unlike others who cried out to

powerless wooden/metal idols and had no response, the psalmist prays to the **real God**, who listens, cares, and responds. People may no longer bow to carved figures, but many nevertheless direct their trust, hopes, anxieties, and prayers to modern existential "idols" like success, security, relationships, control, or self-reliance—things that cannot actually hear, save, or act. His prayer indicates a firm belief that his voice is important to God, and that God is attentive and eager to answer to people who are loyal and obedient to Him. He recognized that ignoring or rebelling against God's Word would result in God not listening to his prayers.... this is a principle we should keep in mind today as well...



#### Cross Reference:

Proverbs 28:9 NLT *...God detests the prayers of a person who ignores the law. ...*


#### OSWALD CHAMBERS:

"WE DO NOT PRAY BECAUSE GOD WILL HEAR US — WE PRAY BECAUSE GOD HAS ALREADY PROMISED TO ANSWER."

#### 119:146 — Pleading for divine attention

"I cried to You; save me, and I shall observe **Your testimonies**."

**\*\*edot/edut** Testimony of the Lord **God's covenant promises\*\***

 **Imagery:** Reverence towards God in submission.



The Hebrew word for "save" in this verse is **yasha**: deliver, rescue, save, set free. This is a personal plea for rescue — spiritual, emotional, relational, and possibly physical.




**JOURNAL PROMPT:** When I call out to God, do I expect Him to shape my life according to His Word? What does obedience look like for me right now?

#### 119:147 — Anticipation with watchfulness

"I **rise before dawn** and cry for help; I wait for Your words."

**\*\*davar** Word **the spoken word, God's revealed word to man\*\***

 **Imagery:** Eye and mind alert, attentive to cycles of time.



#### Cross Reference:

Psalm 5:3 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition "In the morning You hear my voice. O Lord: in the morning I prepare [a prayer, a sacrifice] for You and watch and wait [for You to speak to my heart]."

### 119:148 – Attention spanning all time

"My eyes anticipate the night watches, so that I may meditate on Your word."

**\*\*imrah** Word utterance; God's declaration or promise

— **Imagery:** Back of the head and eyes aligned in observation.

- Another Bible version, the NLT tells us, "I stay awake through the night, thinking about your promise."
- Together, these verses (147 & 148) **bookend the day in watchful prayer:** early morning and late night, creating a rhythm of continual devotion.



#### Cross Reference:

Psalm 63:5-6a Living Bible *"I lie awake at night thinking of you — of how much you have helped me..."*

- There is a persistent expectation in these two verses. Notice this not a pray once and quit type of prayer.

---

### 119:149 – Seeking intervention with complete focus

"Hear my voice according to Your faithfulness; revive me, LORD, according to Your judgments."

**\*\*mispatim** Judgments of the Lord **God's righteous decisions; His just, wise verdicts\*\***

— **Imagery:** Head bowed engaged in prayer.

- "Revive me" is self-preservation. Other Bible versions translate this as: grant/give me life, preserve my life, cause me to live, spare/save my life, renew and refresh
- **Prayer is most effective and faithful when it is aligned with God's will** and not self-gratification or fulfilling our personal agenda or wish list because prayer is not about getting what we want but true prayer considers God's purpose and character first – about participating in God's plan. He is not asking for life apart from God's Word. Here is an example of "self-centered prayer" and "God-centered prayer":
  - **Self-centered prayer:** "Give me what I want, no matter what."
  - **God-centered prayer:** "God, align me with Your plan, preserve me, strengthen me according to Your Word."

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### 119:150 – God's presence perceived everywhere

“Those who follow after wickedness approach, they are far from **Your Law.**”

**\*\*torah - In the Law of the Lord – God’s teaching or instruction \*\***

—🕒 **Imagery:** Awareness of dangers behind and around, with focus forward.

- In verse 149, the psalmist prays for God to preserve his life, revealing that he is under real threat. Verse 150 then shows that this danger comes from those who are wicked by pursuing and practicing lawlessness, making them the source of his distress. Though evil may appear active, powerful, and close at hand, it is spiritually empty and far from God’s truth. This contrast reminds us that what seems strong in the moment is often disconnected from God’s presence and ultimately powerless against His purposes.
- God is our refuge – the place we run to when danger strikes and life feels unsafe. More than a high tower or fortress, He is living, present, and mighty, protecting our bodies, hearts, and minds. In His shelter, we find unshakable safety, fearless courage, and hope that stands firm through every storm in life.

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### 119:151 – God’s holiness as refuge

“You are near, LORD, and all **Your commandments** are truth.”

**\*\*mitzvot/mitzvah The Commandment of the Lord God’s commands to obey\*\***

—🕒 **Imagery:** Mind and heart aligned with divine cycles of mercy.



The Hebrew word for near is **qarov** which means close by, present, within reach and not distant. It is a personal closeness not just physical distance.

From [www.Hebrew4Christians.com](http://www.Hebrew4Christians.com). In Hebrew, the word for truth, **emet** (אֱמֶת), contains the first, middle, and the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet, indicating that truth encompasses all things and endures from the beginning (א) to the end (ת): **Truth Encompasses All.**

**I continue this quote because I find it incredibly fascinating in light of the “wicked” in verse 150.**

But notice that if we remove the letter Aleph from the word, we are left with the word “dead” (i.e., met: מֵת), the opposite of life (i.e., chayim: חַיִּים). The letter Aleph is the ineffable letter that represents oneness and preeminent glory of God. Therefore, if we attempt to ignore or suppress God in our understanding of truth, we end up with death. And since Yeshua told us, “I am the way (הַדֶּרֶךְ), the truth (אֱמֶת), and the life (חַיִּים): no one comes to Father apart from me” (John 14:6), those who deny His reality are in a state of spiritual death... We simply cannot know the meaning of life apart from the Person and Glory of Yeshua our Messiah!



**Cross Reference:**

James 4:8 The Voice “Come close to the one true God, and He will draw close to you...”

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## 119:152 – Perpetual obedience grounded in mindful focus

“From long ago I have known from **Your testimonies**, that You have founded them forever.”

**\*\*edot/edut Testimony of the Lord God’s covenant promises\*\***

—🕉️ **Imagery:** Eye and mind fully fixed on eternal truth.

- Another Bible version, the Voice tells us, “*My words are always true and always here with you. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away*”
- Foundation = This verse serves as the psalm's lynchpin and concludes with the Qoph stanza. The psalmist means this when he says, “You have founded them forever.” God's Word is solid, God's promises are unshakeable, and nothing can ever change or replace God's truth. No power can undo what God has spoken.
  - When life is confusing: → God’s Word is clear.
  - When life is unsafe: → God’s Word is secure.
  - When people fail: → God’s Word remains.

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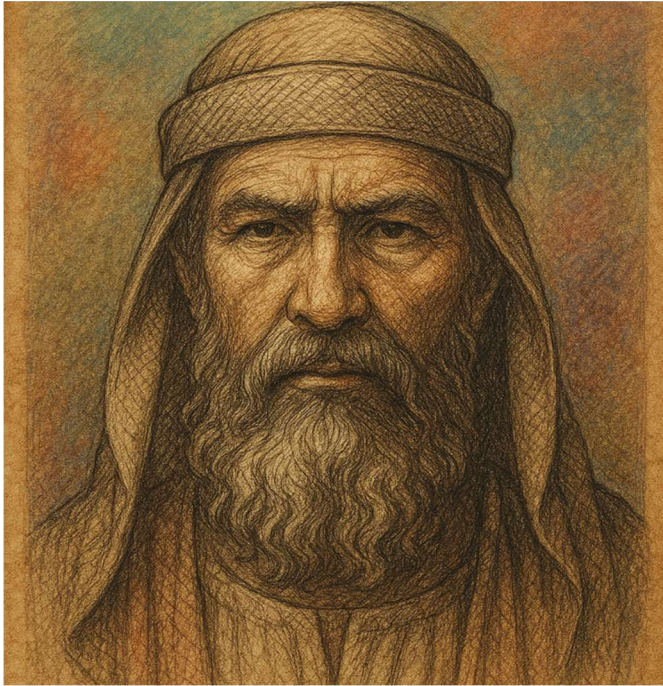
## —🕉️ **Summary – The Qoph Theme in All Eight Verses**

Qoph shows us what faith looks like after years of walking with God. The stanza reflects spiritual maturity that comes through time, discipline, suffering, and faithfulness. The psalmist has grown from simple trust into deep confidence. He no longer depends on circumstances or emotions, but on God’s eternal Word. His faith is no longer fragile – it is firmly rooted.

Psalm 119 is a spiritual life journey moving from childlike faith to mature and rooted trust.

- Early/Beginning Faith – Learning to Walk like a spiritual child: (Aleph–Gimel: Psalm 119:1–24)
- Growing Faith – Forming Habits begins to develop **spiritual habits** (Daleth–Zayin: Psalm 119:25–56)
- Tested Faith – Pressure and Refinement where faith gets refined (Heth–Mem: Psalm 119:57–104)
- Deepening Faith – Stability and Discernment by knowing Scripture, recognizing deception and living with conviction (Nun–Ayin: Psalm 119:105–128)
- **Mature Faith – Qoph Stage spiritual adulthood (Psalm 119:145–152)**
- **And our LAST 3 stanzas in spiritual life journey we all hope to ultimately attain:  
Legacy Faith – Finishing Well with reverential communion with God (Resh–Taw: Psalm 119:153–176)**

**Grab your Observation Worksheets for Resh – Psalm 119:153-160.**



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# RESH (ר)

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## WORDS USED FOR GOD'S WORD:

LAW, WORD, STATUTES,  
JUDGMENTS, TESTIMONIES,  
PRECEPTS

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ANCIENT PICTOGRAPH:   
(HEAD, CHIEF, LEADER,  
BEGINNING)

SYMBOLIC MEANING: HEAD •  
PERSON • LEADERSHIP • INSIGHT  
• BEGINNING •  
AUTHORITY/HIGHEST •  
PERSPECTIVE

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**How Symbol connects to God's Word:** Resh symbolizes **headship and authority**. God's Word is **supreme authority** guiding the believer. The psalmist is placing his whole life under God's authority.

Resh represents a **head**, symbolizing:

- **Leadership and guidance**
- **The authority and perspective that direct life**

This section emphasizes **God as the Head, the source of insight and leadership**, and the believer's call to follow His guidance with understanding and perspective. This stanza contrasts two kinds of people: The faithful who cling to God's Word and the wicked who reject it and therefore remain far from salvation.


## Dependence

### Psalm 119:153–160 – Resh Imagery Verse by Verse

#### 119:153 – Plea for rescue with clear focus

"Look at my affliction and rescue me, for I have not forgotten **Your Law.**"

**\*\*torah - In the Law of the Lord – God's teaching or instruction \*\***

 **Imagery:** Head lifted in appeal; eyes forward.

- Inviting God to exam his life in his suffering; a plea for God to fully comprehend and personally engage in his situation.



Affliction in Hebrew is **onyi**. It signifies personal suffering, distress, misery, oppression, or hardship. It can refer to physical, emotional, or social affliction, emphasizing a low and difficult state. It reflects the deeply personal nature of his struggle.

- “Not forgotten” does not mean lapse of memory but to neglect, abandon or forsake. So amidst his intense suffering, he has not neglected or abandoned or ceased to obey God’s Word.

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### 119:154 – Prayer for intervention and vindication

“Plead my cause and redeem me; revive me according to Your word.”

**\*\*imrah** Word utterance; **God’s declaration or promise**



**Imagery:** Head directing speech and thought toward God’s action.

- Advocate – “stand for me”, “argue my case”, “defend the innocent”
  - Jesus is our Advocate, He is the One who stands in defense of us in the spiritual courtroom! He is our defender and protector... this is His promise! (Romans 8:33-34; 1 John 2:1)
- Redeem – is not only rescue from danger. It is restoration to belonging. To claim him.
- Defense – “protect my life”, make me to live, help me break away from what binds me
- God’s Word is the basis for his defense, redemption and renewal.
- God wants us to bring our “case” to Him. Mature faith places every battle, burden, and weakness under God’s authority, trusting Him to defend, redeem, and renew according to His Word.

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### 119:155 – Recognition of God’s unreachable provision

“Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek **Your statutes**.”

**\*\*huqqim/chukim** **Statutes of the Lord** **God’s rules, decrees or ordinances that guide\*\***



**Imagery:** Head looking clearly at the separation of paths.

- Another Bible version, the NLT tells us, “*The wicked are far from rescue, for they do not bother with your decrees.*”
- Wicked do not “bother” or seek the things of God because the wicked does not believe God is worth seeking after or its foolish to follow after God.



**Cross Reference:**

I Corinthians 1:18 World English Bible **For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are dying, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**

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### 119:156 – Plea for mercy

“Great are Your mercies, LORD; revive me according to Your judgments.”

**\*\*mispatim** Judgments of the Lord **God’s righteous decisions; His just, wise verdicts\*\***

 **Imagery:** Authority rooted in compassion

- Mercy is just one of the wonderful multi-faceted revealed characteristics of God.



#### Cross Reference:

Ephesians 2:4-5 NLT **But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!)**

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### 119:157 – Awareness of opposition

“Many are my persecutors and my enemies, yet I do not turn aside from Your testimonies.”

**\*\*edot/edut** Testimony of the Lord **God’s covenant promises\*\***

 **Imagery:** Head facing challenges boldly. The **cost of faithfulness.**




“Many” is the Hebrew word **rabbim** a plural adjective signifying a large number in an overwhelming scale

- Faith does not remove opposition but remains unmoved & steadfast to God’s Word. “My life is not led by enemies, but by God.”
    - Opposition is often a sign of faithful living
    - God’s Word provides inner stability
    - Endurance reflects spiritual maturity
- 

### 119:158 – Discernment of the faithful

“I see the treacherous and loathe *them*, because they do not keep Your word.”

**\*\*imrah** Word **utterance; God’s declaration or promise**

 **Imagery:** Head observing carefully, discerning falsehood.

- Another Bible version, the NLT tells us, “*Seeing these traitors makes me sick at heart, because they care nothing for your word.*”
-

- Traitors /treacherous– once believers who turned deliberately away from commitment to God. It’s a breach and betrayal within God’s own people.



**Cross Reference:**

**1 John 2:19 NLT “These people left our churches, but they never really belonged with us; otherwise they would have stayed with us. When they left, it proved that they did not belong with us.”**

- Loathing – a righteous indignation. The psalmist recognizes those who once followed God’s Word but persistently neglect and disregard or even defy God’s Word.



*When someone walks away from Jesus, do I grieve—or grow indifferent—and what does that say about my heart?*

**119:159 –Request for Divine Recognition**

“Consider how I love **Your precepts**; revive me, LORD, according to Your faithfulness.”

**\*\*piqqudim Precepts God’s instructions/directions for daily living\*\***



**Imagery:** A Heart and Mind Ruled by God

- In Hebrew prayer, asking God to “see or consider” often means to remember me, claim me and to stand with me
  - He seeks God’s recognition, not public recognition. His concern is not reputation but in his relationship with God.

**LOVE FOR SCRIPTURE IS NOT JUST DEVOTION—IT IS IDENTITY.  
IT IS HOW GOD’S PEOPLE RECOGNIZE THEMSELVES AS HIS OWN.**

- **Leadership of the heart guided by God’s Word.** Love for God’s truth has become his inner authority. The Psalmist is imploring God to see that he is one of His own.
- Revive in the Psalms is a restoration to life, strength and to spiritual vitality. **Renewing a person’s relationship with God.** It carries the idea of **bringing back to life, refreshing, or breathing new life into a weary or lifeless condition which can be both spiritually, emotionally and physically.**

# “Love for Scripture is the truest mark of spiritual life.” — Charles Spurgeon

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## 119:160 – Recognition of the eternal authority of God’s Word

“The sum of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments is everlasting.”

**\*\*davar** Word **the spoken word, God’s revealed word to man\*\***

 **Imagery:** Head acknowledging the ultimate authority.

- God’s Word grows clearer as relationship grows deeper. God is continually revealing to those who keep seeking. “*The sum*” means total, whole, complete account. It implies process, not instant understanding. God’s truth is “gathered” – like adding individual numbers together continually, never ending. It’s gathered line upon line, season by season and experience by experience.
  - Many believers get discouraged because they “don’t understand enough yet.” But Psalm 119:160 encourages to
    - Keep walking.
    - Keep listening.
    - Keep learning.
    - God is still revealing.
    - That growth is part of faith.
- “Everlasting” – God’s Word remains relevant and true in every stage of a believer’s life.
- God’s Word unfolds with time, deepens with obedience, and proves true at every step.

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## **Summary – The Resh Theme in All Eight Verses**

Resh illustrates how **God’s Word governs the believer’s life**. Mature faith remains loyal to God’s truth even when surrounded by opposition, allowing God’s authority—not fear—to govern life.

Within this stanza, the psalmist is humbly requesting that God recognize him as a faithful covenant partner. He is someone whose love for the Word of God demonstrates that he belongs, and whose dependency on grace demonstrates that he trusts this God.

The Resh stanza teaches that when God’s Word rules our thinking and direction, our lives become steady, resilient, and spiritually mature—no matter what we face.

## Grab your Observation Worksheets for Shin – Psalm 119:161-168.



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# SHIN (שׁ)

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### WORDS USED FOR GOD'S WORD:

WORD, LAW, JUDGMENT,  
COMMANDMENTS, TESTIMONY,  
PRECEPTS

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### ANCIENT PICTOGRAPH:

(TOOTH, SHARP, CONSUMING,  
FIRE, WITNESS)

SYMBOLIC MEANING: TOOTH •  
FIRE • CONSUMPTION/DEVOUR •  
TESTIMONY • PURITY • JUSTICE

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**How Symbol connects to God's Word:** Shin symbolizes **sharpness**, like a tooth or sword. God's Word **penetrates the heart**, exposing sin and guiding obedience. Precepts and commandments refine and protect spiritual life.

Shin represents **fire**, symbolizing:

- Consuming or refining power
- Sharpness and discernment
- Testimony and witness of God's Word
- Purification and zeal for righteousness

The Shin stanza comes near the end of Psalm 119, just before Tav (the final letter). This placement is significant: it reflects spiritual maturity, tested faith, and deep-rooted devotion.

## Purification

### Psalm 119:161–168 – Shin Imagery Verse by Verse

#### 119:161 – Spiritual courage

"Rulers persecute me without cause, but my heart stands in awe of Your words."

**\*\*davar** Word **the spoken word, God's revealed word to man\*\***

 **Imagery:** Teeth clenched in reverence and awe.

- “Rulers” in more Bible versions are translated as “Princes, Officials, Powerful leaders/people, Great men, Politicians, The powerful. Justice is being twisted against the righteous by those who ought to defend justice, the wrong is all the more grievous for it.



**Hinnam** is Hebrew for “without cause”. This adverb means gratuitously, undeservedly, or for no legitimate reason. It powerfully underscores the complete injustice and malice of the persecutors’ actions.

- “Without cause”= Jesus directly applies this concept to Himself (John 15:25 NLT “This fulfills what is written in their Scriptures: ‘They hated me without cause.’”



### Cross Reference:

Isaiah 51:12-13 NLT “I, yes I, am the one who comforts you. **So why are you afraid of mere humans, who wither like the grass and disappear** ? Yet you have forgotten the Lord, your Creator.

The one who stretched out the sky like a canopy and laid the foundations of the earth.

Will you remain in constant dread of human oppressors?

Will you continue to fear the anger of your enemies?

Where is their fury and anger now? **It is gone!**

**WHEN HUMAN AUTHORITY CLASHES WITH DIVINE AUTHORITY, MATURE BELIEVERS CHOOSE GOD—WITHOUT HESITATION. WE MUST OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN.**

### 119:162 – God’s Word is Treasure

“I rejoice at Your word like one who finds great plunder.”



**\*\*imrah** Word utterance; **God’s declaration or promise**

**Imagery:** Teeth consuming nourishment with delight.

- Another Bible version, the NLT tells us, “I rejoice in your word like one who discovers a great treasure.”
  - Jesus uses this same metaphor in Matthew 13:44 “God’s kingdom is like a treasure...”
- There is immense value and benefit that God’s word holds for us. Better than any worldly treasures which society often obsesses with in accumulating material wealth. God’s truth is worth everything.

- Notice the psalmist does NOT say: “I rejoice because life is easy.” Or “I rejoice because enemies are gone.” Or “I rejoice because I am successful.” But he rejoices “AT GOD’S WORD” – why?? BECAUSE IT IS STABLE, IT IS PRICELESS AND IT CANNOT BE STOLEN LIKE EARTHLY TREASURE.
  - The famous theologian Charles Spurgeon often called Scripture “the believer’s treasure house”

### 119:163 – Hatred of falsehood

“I hate and loathe falsehood, but I love **Your Law.**”

**\*\*torah** - **In the Law of the Lord** – **God’s teaching or instruction** \*\*

**🗑️ Imagery:** Teeth separating what is good from what is harmful.

- “Falsehood” in other Bible versions have “lies, liars, what is false, lying, deceit, wickedness. It gives an idea of an empty nothingness – no substance.
  - Falsehood as “Anti-Creation”: God speaks truth, and His Word builds real, lasting life. Falsehood does the opposite: it tears down reality, harms relationships, and leaves the soul empty.

### 119:164 – Expression through worship

“Seven times a day I praise You because of **Your righteous judgments.**”

**\*\*mispatim** **Judgments of the Lord** **God’s righteous decisions; His just, wise verdicts\*\***

**🗑️ Imagery:** Teeth and mouth speaking praises, consuming and declaring.

- The psalmist saturates praises to God at least seven times a day. How many times a day do you offer praise to God? Even once?



**Cross Reference:**

Hebrews 13:15 EasyEnglish Bible **“So we should always praise God. because of what Jesus has done for us. We should say clearly that we trust Jesus. That is like our sacrifice which we offer to God all the time.”**

### 119:165 – Stability

“Those who love **Your Law** have great peace and nothing causes them to stumble.”

**\*\*torah** - **In the Law of the Lord** – **God’s teaching or instruction** \*\*

📖 **Imagery:** Teeth aligned, symbolizing harmony and balance.

- Unstoppable Life prevents spiritual collapse. A peace that is not circumstantial. A spiritual resilience that cannot be shaken. Some examples of an unstoppable life are Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and Daniel in Babylon, Joseph in Egypt, Esther in Persia, Ruth in Bethlehem and Jesus' ministry.
- "Nothing causes them to stumble" literally means "they will not totter or slip".



Evaluate your own life: how often do you pause to delight in God's Word rather than simply read it?

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### 119:166 – Prayer for revival and obedience

"I hope for Your salvation, LORD, and do **Your commandments.**"

**\*\*mitzvot/mitzvah** The Commandment of the Lord **God's commands to obey\*\***

📖 **Imagery:** Teeth actively partaking in sustenance, symbolizing vitality.

- "Salvation" – the Hebrew means COMPLETE and TOTAL deliverance... not just from one situation, but for all time!

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### 119:167 – Who I Am Is Shaped by the Word

"My soul keeps **Your testimonies**, and I love them exceedingly."

**\*\*edot/edut** Testimony of the Lord **God's covenant promises\*\***

📖 **Imagery:** Teeth consuming joyfully what sustains life.

- "Soul" – the entire inner being, life itself – the core of who someone is. The "soul" is given life by God and returns to God (Eccl 12:7)
  - At the deepest level of who I am, I live by God's Word.
- "keep" – a diligent and active safeguarding
- "Love...exceedingly" - Spiritual maturity produces **strong love**, not fading interest. Over time, devotion grows deeper, not weaker.

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### 119:168 – Complete obedience

"I keep **Your precepts** and **testimonies**, for all my ways are before You."

**\*\*piqqudim** Precepts **God's instructions/directions for daily living\*\***

**\*\*edot/edut Testimony of the Lord God's covenant promises\*\***

**📖 Imagery:** Teeth and mouth working in coordination to fulfill purpose.

- Verse 167 shows a soul that loves and guards God's Word and verse 168 shows what that love produces: "For all my ways are before You." A life shaped by Scripture becomes a life lived honestly before God.



**JOURNAL PROMPT:** What would change in my daily life if I truly lived as if all my ways were before God?

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**📖 Summary – The Shin Theme in All Eight Verses**

Loving God's Word produces abundant, unshakable peace. Spiritual maturity is revealed when your stability depends on God's truth, not on life's circumstances.

The Shin stanza shows a person whose faith has been **tested like fire** and **built strong from God's Word**. Hard times refine their love for God, and Scripture becomes part of who they are. Their soul finds peace, hope, and joy in obeying God, not out of duty but out of love. They live openly before the Lord, with every thought and action guided by His truth and the end result of spiritually maturing is a steady, wholehearted life that reflects God's Word. This is the stage where a person doesn't just live *by* God's Word—they live *from* it.

God's refining work. Holiness grows.

**Grab your Observation Worksheets for Tav – Psalm 119:169-176.**



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# TAV (ת)

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WORDS USED FOR GOD'S WORD:

WORD, STATUTES,  
COMMANDMENTS, PRECEPTS,  
LAW

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ANCIENT PICTOGRAPH: †  
(MARK, CROSS, COVENANT, SIGN,  
COMPLETION)

SYMBOLIC MEANING: MARK •  
COVENANT (JOINING TWO  
THINGS TOGETHER) • SIGN •  
OWNERSHIP • COMPLETION •  
PERFECTION • FULFILLMENT

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**How Symbol connects to God's Word:** Tau symbolizes a **mark or covenant**, the sign of God's promise. God's Word is a **guarantee of His covenant**, and statutes and commandments are signs of obedience and devotion.

Tav represents a **mark or sign**, symbolizing:

- **God's covenant and promises**
- **Completion and fulfillment of His Word**

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"TORAH – (IN THE LAW OF THE LORD – GOD'S TEACHING OR INSTRUCTION), IS SPELLED WITH THE HEBREW LETTERS **TAV, VAV, REYSH, AND HEY**. ADDING THEIR MEANING WE GET A PICTURE OF THE MESSIAH (JOHN 19:5) "BEHOLD (**HEY**), THE MAN (**REYSH**), THE NAIL (**VAV**), THE CROSS (**TAV**)"

**TAV** WAS ANCIENTLY DRAWN AS A CROSS, SHOWING THE PROPHETIC SIGN THAT YAH (GOD) WOULD COME AND MAKE A NEW COVENANT WITH US (JER 31:31-34)" [WWW.LIGHTEDWAY.ORG](http://WWW.LIGHTEDWAY.ORG) PSALM 119 TAV

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This section emphasizes **completed spiritual maturity** - **belonging to God completely**.

## Completion

## Psalm 119:169–176 – Tav Imagery Verse by Verse

### 119:169 – Prayer as a plea for attention

“Let my cry come before You, LORD; give me understanding according to Your word.”

† **Imagery:** Mark set before the eyes, directing attention.

- Deep prayer – a felt prayer, not lip service. Honest emotions.
  - Cry and plea = aligning the heart with God’s sign and Word.
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### 119:170 – Plea for preservation

“Let my plea come before You; save me according to Your word.”

† **Imagery:** Mark indicating safe path; deliverance follows the sign.

- “Before You” – the idea of “to enter Your presence” – this echoes temple language – approaching God’s throne.



#### Cross Reference:

Hebrews 4:16 EasyEnglish Bible “So we should come near to God and we should not be afraid. God is our King. We can ask him to help us when we need help. We know that he will forgive us and he will be kind to us in whatever way we need”

#### EasyEnglish Bible Footnotes

4:16 Jesus died to save us from our sins. Now he is with God in heaven. So we can come to God and we can pray to him. We do not need to be afraid, because Jesus is there. We can ask God to help us. We can be sure that he will help us when we ask him.

- The psalmist is confident that God is approachable, attentive, and deeply personal. He knows he is not praying to a powerless idol that cannot hear, see, or respond, but to his Creator— a living God who listens and cares.
  - Verses 169 and 170 both end with “according to Your word”. God’s Word is the final authority for thinking, feeling and interpreting life
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### 119:171 – Guard against “dry religion”

“My lips will pour out praise, for You teach me Your statutes.”

† **Imagery:** Mouth proclaiming the covenant; mark as proclamation.



"Lips" is interesting in Hebrew. It is the word **sefatay** which does mean lips but also means the outlet of the heart. The lips represent what flows out of the inner life.

Matthew 12:34 *"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."*

The Hebrew word for "pour out" is **naba** which means to bubble up, to gush forth like a spring and overflow.

This is overflowing worship. Cannot contain so much so even if I was trying to hold it inside – I could not because it cannot be contained – its bubbling out, overflowing out and gushing forth.

- I say this over and over in my Bible Studies as this is true to my heart as I have experienced this. This verse guards against dry religion.
  - When there is knowledge **without praise = pride**
  - When there is knowledge **with praise = humility**
  - **Praise** is fundamental to spiritual maturity

**"Praise is the perfume of a life that has been taught by God." Charles Spurgeon**

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### **119:172 – God's Word produces a new song**

"Let my tongue sing about Your word, for all Your commandments are righteousness."

† **Imagery:** Mark coordinating speech and thought.

- "Sing" is not about singing a composed worship number – but a new and fresh response of praise and thanks to Him. And in the book of Revelation, every tribe, language, people and nations will sing unto the LORD a new song (Revelation 5:9, 14:3)
  - Righteous commandments = guide for all words and actions.
- 

### **119:173 – Guidance and support in walking**

"Let Your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen Your precepts."

† **Imagery:** Mark as directional sign; hand following the path.

- We rely on God. We are dependent on God – that never goes away. We still need His help!

- “Your hand” – God’s “Hand” represents His active involvement. Isn’t this incredible. Our great God will provide us with His personal attention and action.
- Notice where this verse appears. It comes near the end of the psalm. After 170+ verses of devotion, the psalmist still says: “I need help.”

**BIBLICAL FAITH SAYS:  
“I CHOOSE OBEDIENCE, AND GOD SUPPLIES POWER.”**

**119:174 – Zeal and delight in covenant**

“I long for Your salvation, LORD, and Your Law is my delight.”

† **Imagery:** Marked treasure guiding longing and pursuit.

- Can you hear the ache and deep desire in this verse? The yearning , the deep emotional need?
- Salvation is not just “going to heaven”, it means “GOD, SAVE ME IN EVERY WAY.”
- Waiting faith – you pray and obey and trust – but you don’t see any answers yet so you keep going anyway



**Cross Reference:**

Romans 8:22-25 J.B. Phillips New Testament “22-25 It is plain to anyone with eyes to see that at the present time all created life groans in a sort of universal travail. And it is plain, too, that we who have a foretaste of the Spirit are in a state of painful tension, while we wait for that redemption of our bodies which will mean that at last we have realized our full sonship in him. We were saved by this hope, but in our moments of impatience let us remember that hope always means waiting for something that we haven’t yet got. But if we hope for something we cannot see, then we must settle down to wait for it in patience.”

**119:175 – Revival and sustenance**

“Let my soul live that it may praise You and let Your ordinances help me.”

† **Imagery:** Mark indicating nourishment and protection.

- Can you hear the ache and deep desire in this verse? The yearning
- Ordinances = framework of life and spiritual revival.

**119:176 – Completion and return**

“I have wandered about like a lost sheep; search for Your servant, for I do not forget Your commandments.”

† **Imagery:** Mark guiding a lost path back to safety.

- As sheep, we are prone to stray. Jesus is our Shepherd Who Seeks to find His lost sheep. (Matthew 18; Luke 15). Verse 176 anticipates Jesus’ teaching that the sheep wanders and the Shepherd searches. The Shepherd restores the sheep and brings the sheep home. Grace completes the journey.
- Returning = restored alignment with God’s covenant and Word.

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† **Summary – The Tav Theme in All Eight Verses**

Tav emphasizes **covenant, guidance, and completion**. By the end of Psalm 119, the psalmist stands as one who is **marked by God’s Word**. He is not perfect but he is faithful and he is God’s. Spiritual maturity is not about independence but total and continued dependence on God in all aspects of life.

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**MATURE FAITH IS NOT LEARNING HOW TO NEED GOD LESS—IT IS LEARNING HOW TO TRUST HIM MORE. THIS IS FAITH THAT FINISHES WELL.**

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Tav portrays **God’s Word as the ultimate mark and covenant**, guiding the believer’s prayer, praise, obedience, and return to alignment with His promises, completing the spiritual journey of Psalm 119.

The Tav stanza teaches that the goal of spiritual growth is not perfection, but faithful dependence. A believer shaped by God’s Word still wanders at times but always returns to the Shepherd. God’s mark remains on them, and His mercy remains with them.

Belonging fully to God. Life is “sealed” in Him.

**ALL STANZAS Together Form a Whole Life with God**

**As a whole, Psalm 119 becomes ultimately a life shaped completely by God’s Word.**

**An A-to-Z portrait of a life anchored in God’s Word.**

The life portrait of Psalm 119 is a journey: Aleph begins with the ox, the strength to start walking in God's ways. Beth makes the heart a home for His Word. Gimel carries us through the wilderness, Daleth opens doors of revival, He brings revelation, Waw hooks our hearts to God, Zayin fights for us, Heth surrounds and protects, Teth nourishes in trials, Yod equips for obedience, Kaph a life yielded to God's will, Lamed leads us each step on the right path, Mem refreshing and stabilizing, Nun growth and fruitfulness, Samekh our support in weakness, Ayin, our eyes open to insight and discernment, Pe giving voice to God's Word, Tsade pursuit of faithful living, Qoph our eternity, Resh providing perspective and shaping our hearts, Shin nourishing our soul—each pictograph a step toward Tav, the cross, where God's Word finds ultimate perfection in Christ.

Psalm 19, the “mini-me” of Psalm 119, encapsulates this truth: **the heavens declare God's glory, and His Word perfects the soul.** Where the skies point to the Creator, the law of the LORD speaks to the heart. Just as the sun illuminates the earth, God's Word illuminates our lives—guiding, cleansing, strengthening, and ultimately pointing us to the **cross of Christ**, where God's perfect Word became flesh to redeem, restore, and complete all who trust in Him.

hrPsalm 119 is not just a psalm of law; it is a **map of life**, showing that from the beginning of faith to its fulfillment in Christ, every step, every struggle, every delight is **anchored in the Word of God.** And Psalm 19 reminds us that **God's Word, like the sun and the heavens, is perfect, true, and life-giving**, revealing His glory, His love, and His plan for redemption.

#### **Life Portrait Summary:**

- **Aleph → Tav:** A life journey – a map for each believer - from trust, obedience, and devotion to the ultimate fulfillment in Christ.
- **Mini-Me Psalm 19:** The cosmos declares God's glory; His Word declares life.
- **The Cross:** The culmination of all God's Word, where obedience, truth, mercy, and righteousness meet in perfect love.

Psalm 19 declares God's glory, and Psalm 119 a step-by-step life roadmap for every believer to follow from a beginner's journey Aleph to Tav toward spiritual maturity and the Cross, where God's Word becomes flesh and brings us life, hope, and complete obedience and devotion in Christ Jesus Our LORD.

Thank you for joining this journey through the Living Word in Psalms 19 and 119. It's such a gift to walk alongside fellow sojourners, and Psalm 119 reminds us how God's Word guides us to live fully for Him, with all the blessings that flow from wholehearted obedience. I pray you continue steadfast in your journey, delighting in God's Word every day. Blessings to you.

I invite you to pray for Jesus to come into your heart. I included at the end of this chapter the invitation to Jesus and Salvation and TRUE FREEDOM! You can follow the invitation provided below and pray the salvation prayer...

## INVITATION TO JESUS SALVATION PRAYER

*Dear God, I know I'm a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe that He died for my sin and that you raised Him to life. I want to trust Him as my Savior and follow Him as LORD, from this day forward. Guide my life and help me to do your will. I pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen*

**Commit yourself to a relationship with God.** <https://salvationcall.com>

**Study the bible daily:** The Bible is God's word or God's voice. You only begin to hear God's voice when you begin to read the Bible and you would hear God's voice even more and more as you commit yourself to study the Bible more and more.

**Obey the bible:** you should obey the teaching of the Bible, which results in leading a holy life like Christ Jesus. Your obedience to the word of God is your only evidence that identifies you with Christ Jesus that you are a proud follower of His. Obedience also verifies your faith. It verifies that you mean to walk with God, that you meant the prayer you prayed to accept Jesus into your life, and that you were not lying to yourself when you confessed Jesus as your LORD and Savior. In short, a life of obedience verifies that you are a Christian.

**Build a daily prayer life:** Communicate with God, your Father. God, your Father, highly regards your prayer. He loves to hear your voice in prayer so much that He even rewards you for having spent time praying.

**Join a Bible-and-Holy Spirit-believing Church.** Having believed to receive salvation, you have been grafted, absorbed into the family of God. You now belong with all saved people in one big God-family. Jesus never intended for any Christian to remain an island, isolated. We are to fellowship together, loving and being of service to one another, for no single person is self-sufficient.

**I would love if you'd like to share with me your commitment. If you have a moment, let me know all about it on Cleopas face book page! And, welcome to the family of Christ, my brother/sister in Christ!**

