**September 15, 2021**

Psalm 119 (NKJV)- The law is good, but is it enough for BINGO?

Other Acrostic Psalms: 9 and 10 (together, no lines for *mem, nun, samek,* or *sade*; *‘ayin* and *pe* lines are reversed), 25 (no *qof* line, two *resh* lines), 34, 37, 111, 112, and 145 (no *nun* line). These are a mix of individual laments, hymns, and wisdom poetry; each of these genres are represented in Psalm 119.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Psalm 119 is like Psalm 1 and 19 in encyclopedic form.[[2]](#footnote-2) There are eight major repeated themes in Psalm 119- law (*torah*), decrees (*‘edut*), statutes (*chof* ), commandments (*mitzvot*), ordinances (*mishpat*), word (*dabar*), precepts (*peqqudim*), and promises (*’imrah*); all lines include one and a few have two of these themes.[[3]](#footnote-3) The goodness of God’s law and its benefits are the dominant themes of Psalms 1 and 19, especially verses 7-14 of Psalm 19. What psalms 1 and 19 touch on as wisdom in theory, Psalm 119 expounds on as wisdom lived and experienced.

Take two minutes and read either all of Psalm 1 or verses 7-14 of Psalm 19.

NKJ **Psalm 119:17-24** GIMEL.

17Deal bountifully with Your servant, *That* I may live and keep Your word.

18 Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law.

19 I *am* a stranger in the earth; Do not hide Your commandments from me.

20 My soul breaks with longing For Your judgments (*mishpat*) at all times.

21 You rebuke the proud-- the cursed, Who stray from Your commandments.

22 Remove from me reproach and contempt, For I have kept Your testimonies (*‘edut*).

23 Princes also sit *and* speak (*dbr*) against me, *But* Your servant meditates on Your statutes.

24 Your testimonies (*‘edut*) also *are* my delight *And* my counselors

NKJ **Psalm 119:25-32** DALETH.

25 My soul clings to the dust; Revive me according to Your word.

26 I have declared my ways, and You answered me; Teach me Your statutes.

27 Make me understand the way of Your precepts; So shall I meditate on Your wondrous works.

28 My soul melts from heaviness; Strengthen me according to Your word.

29 Remove from me the way of lying, And grant me Your law graciously.

30 I have chosen the way of truth; Your judgments I have laid *before me*.

31 I cling to Your testimonies; O LORD, do not put me to shame!

32 I will run the course of Your commandments, For You shall enlarge my heart.

Psfvfalm 119 BINGO

Each time one of the words is mentioned in the text, please select **one**instance below. Let’s see if you can bet to BINGO

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | B | I | N | G | O |
| B | Law (*torah)* | precepts (peqqudim) | word (dabar) | statutes (chof ) | promises (’imrah) |
| I | promises (’imrah) | Law (*torah)* | testimonies (‘edut) | word (dabar) | judgments (mishpat) |
| N | commandments (mitzvot) | judgments (mishpat) | promises (’imrah) | testimonies (‘edut) | precepts (peqqudim) |
| G | statutes (chof ) | word (dabar) | commandments (mitzvot) | promises (’imrah) | Law (*torah)* |
| O | judgments (mishpat) | testimonies (‘edut) | precepts (peqqudim) | commandments (mitzvot) | statutes (chof ) |

How would you characterize the need expressed by the psalmist in verses 17-24?

How do these verses speak to suffering and the life of the faithful person? What are some sources of suffering specifically mentioned?

What do you think the psalmist meant by “My soul breaks with longing, for your judgments at all times”?

Consider vv 25 and 28. How to they speak to the challenges of life and the purpose of God’s word?

Can you see a progression from vv 25-27 and vv 28-30? How do vv 31-32 summarize the progression?

There is the testimony of Psalm 1 and 19:7-14, then there is the experience of Psalm 119:17-32. Highlight the relationship between them.

Allen, Leslie C. *Psalms 101-150*. Vol. 21. *Word Biblical Commentary* edited by Glenn W Barker David A Hubbard. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishing, 2002.

Mays, James L. *Psalms*. *Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching*, edited by Jr. Patrick D. Miller. Louisville: John Knox Press, 1994.

1. Leslie C. Allen, *Psalms 101-150*, vol. 21, *Word Biblical Commentary* ed. Glenn W Barker David A Hubbard (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishing, 2002), 180. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. James L Mays, *Psalms*, *Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching*, ed. Jr. Patrick D. Miller (Louisville: John Knox Press, 1994), 381. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Mays, 381. These are in fact synonyms (see Allen, 180.), should not attempt to parse them too finely. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)