

October 6, 2021

Song of meditation:

Psalm 119 (NKJV) – *Life According to Your Word* - Meditations on the Excellencies of the Word of God. Read vv.65-80

Introduction: Psalm 119 is an example of what is called an “alphabetic acrostic.” Each stanza—made up of 8 verses—begins each line with the same letter of the Hebrew alphabet. For verses 1–8, every line begins with the letter “aleph,” the first letter in the Hebrew alphabet. For verses 9–16, every line begins with the letter “Beth,” the second letter in the Hebrew alphabet. The psalm follows this structure for all twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet. This style of poetry was often utilized to help with effective memorization.

Psalm 119 is a shadow of what has come in the person and work of Jesus Christ. We do not gain the blessed life through works of our own, but through the finished work of Jesus Christ, which is credited to us by faith. A disciplined reading of God’s Word will ultimately lead us to the Word made flesh—Jesus.

In this Psalm there are 8 basic words used to describe the Scriptures, God's written revelation to us:

- **Law** (*torah*, used 25 times in [Psalm 119](#)): "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." (Kidner)
- **Word** (*dabar*, used 24 times): The idea is of the spoken word, God's revealed word to man. "Proceeding from his mouth and revealed by him to us." (Poole)
- **Judgments** (*mispatim*, used 23 times): "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." (Clarke)
- **Testimonies** (*edut/edo*, used 23 times): 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." (VanGemeren)
- **Commandments** (*miswah/miswo*, used 22 times): "This word emphasizes the straight authority of what is said ... the right to give orders." (Kidner)
- **Statutes** (*huqqim*, used 21 times): The noun is derived from the root verb "engrave" or "inscribe"; the idea is of the written word of God and the

ו TETH

65 You have dealt well with Your servant, O LORD, according to Your word.

66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge, For I believe Your commandments.

67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word.

68 You *are* good, and do good; Teach me Your statutes.

69 The proud have forged^[כ] a lie against me, *But* I will keep Your precepts with *my* whole heart.

70 Their heart is ^[ל]as fat as grease, *But* I delight in Your law.

71 *It is* good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.

72 The law of Your mouth *is* better to me Than thousands of *coins of* gold and silver.

י YOD

73 Your hands have made me and fashioned me; Give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments.

74 Those who fear You will be glad when they see me, Because I have hoped in Your word.

75 I know, O LORD, that Your judgments *are* ^[מ]right, And *that* in faithfulness You have afflicted me.

76 Let, I pray, Your merciful kindness be for my comfort, According to Your word to Your servant.

77 Let Your tender mercies come to me, that I may live; For Your law *is* my delight.

78 Let the proud be ashamed, For they treated me wrongfully with falsehood;
But I will meditate on Your precepts.

79 Let those who fear You turn to me, Those who know Your testimonies.

80 Let my heart be blameless regarding Your statutes, That I may not be ashamed.