

Torah Psalms

(Psalms 19 and 119)

Psalm 119: Celebrating God's Word
















1. INTRODUCING THE PSALM

- Author unknown (some think Jeremiah)
- An intricate, alphabetical acrostic poem, the psalm has 22 sections, one for each of the 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet.
- Each section has 8 verses, each verse starting with the same letter of the alphabet.
- There are 8 words or synonyms used for God's law throughout the psalm: law (torah); statutes (edot); precepts (piqqudim); commands (miswot); laws (mishpatim); decrees (huqqim); word (dabar); promise (himrah)
- The inspiration of Psalm 119 in this form likely signals the value God places on memorization of His Word, and the help He is willing to give.



2. 22 Truths from Psalm 119 in Acrostic Form

1. א Aleph Verses 1-8
Vs. 1: All who live by the word of God are blessed.
2. ב Beth Verses 9-16
Vs. 11: Before young people sin, they can call up the Word from their hearts.
3. ג Gimel Verses 17-24
Vs. 19: God's Word often leaves us feeling strangers in our own culture.
4. ד Daleth Verses 25-32
Vs. 25: Death turns to life and weakness turns to strength by the power of the Word.
5. ה Hay Verses 33-40
Vs. 36: Hearts committed to the Word must turn from other things.
6. ו Waw Verses 41-48
Vs. 45: When we bind ourselves to God's Word, we find true freedom.
7. ז Zayin Verses 49-56
Vs. 52: Zeal for the Word leads us to remember it and to find comfort.

8.  Cheth
Verses 57-64
Vs. 63: **C**haracter rooted in God's Word finds community.
9.  Teth
Verses 65-72
Vs. 71: **T**ough times turn us to the Word.
10.  Yodh
Verses 73-80
Vs. 73: **Y**ahweh, who made us, continues to shape us by His Word.
11.  Kaph
Verses 81-88
Vs. 81: **C**risis has us clinging to God's promises for hope.
12.  Lamedh
Verses 89-96
Vs. 89: **L**asting and unchanging is the word of the LORD.
13.  Mem
Verses 97-104
Vs. 97: **M**editation on the Word flows from love for the Word.
14.  Nun
Verses 105-112
Vs. 105: **N**othing so confirms commitment to the Word as obedience.
15.  Samekh
Verses 113-120
Vs. 116: **S**ustaining us in the crucible of life is knowing God and His promises.
16.  Ayin
Verses 121-128
Vs. 124: I long to be delivered as you teach me in Your Word.
17.  Pe
Verses 129-136
Vs. 133: **P**ointing us in the direction we should go, the Word of God overcomes the inclination to sin.
18.  Tsadhe
Verses 137-144
Vs. 138: **T**ested, true, and righteous are the laws of God.
19.  Qoph
Verses 145-152
Vs. 147: **C**alling before dawn for God's saving action accompanies our remembrance of His Word.
20.  Resh
Verses 153-160
Vs. 153: **R**emembering God's promises leads to hope for rescue.
21.  Shin/Sin
Verses 161-168
Vs. 165: **S**halom peace and confidence come to those who love God's Word.
22.  Taw
Verses 169-176
Vs. 171: **T**eaching from His Word God's grace leads us to praise.