

PSALM 119

Why all the Hebrew letters?

- Psalm 119 is written in a very special way, the first word in each verse begins with the same Hebrew letter.
- The first 8 verses begin with Aleph, a The next 8 with Bet, b and this continues throughout the psalm.
- 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet multiplied by 8 verses equals 176 verses in psalm 119
- Each 8 verses contain a type of theme, an overall idea for that section

Stones Tanach describes Psalm 119 this way;
An Alphabetical arrangement – eight verses for each letter – that describes the ceaseless striving to live a Torah-true life regardless of time, place, circumstance or social environment.

Verses 1 – 8

a

- Most English translations begin with the word “Blessed”
- אֲשֶׁר־י is not the Hebrew word for Blessed happy or joyful would be a better translation.

Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord.

אַשְׁרֵי תְּמִימֵי-דֶרֶךְ הַהֲלֻכִים בְּתוֹרַת יְהוָה:
Yehovah in Torah walking way blameless happy

12 Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes.

בְּרֹךְ אֶתְּהָ יְהוָה לְמַדְּנִי חֻקֶיךָ:

This almost reads like the Beatitudes, the sermon on the mount, the theme in this first 8 verses is actually joy. We should be glad to obey His instructions.

Matthew 5; 3 (Isaiah 66; 2) Strongs G3107 Happy.

MAKAPIoI

Matthew 5; 3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Isaiah 66; 2 For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word

Verses 9 – 16

b

- This section stops short of a promise, David is saying “I will do” but knows he shouldn’t make a promise he knows he can’t keep on his own.

Verses 17 – 24

g

- These acknowledge what God will do for us; treating us with compassion.

Verses 25 – 32

d

- Plea for guidance

Verses 33 – 40

h

- Desire for understanding

Verses 41 – 48

W

- Seeking reassurance; wanting God to be pleased that we are following His word

Verses 49 – 56

Z

- We should find comfort in being obedient to God

Verses 57 – 64

j

- Try to do the most you can, not the least you can

Verses 65 – 72

f

- The world might be against me but you are with me

Verses 73 – 80

y

- God is in control, He will deal with my adversaries
- h w h y

Verses 81 – 88

k

- We need God's help to keep us faithful

Verses 89 – 96

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- We can depend on God and His Torah forever
- Notice anything different about verse 90?

Verses 97 – 104

m

- I'm staying faithful to your word
- Verse 98 is an example of a poor translation in most English Bibles, it actually implies that my enemies force me to obey God

Verses 105 – 112

n

- Even though we might be tempted if we continue to obey God we can not be trapped by the world

Verses 113 – 120

O

- There is hope in God's words

Verses 121 – 128

U

- There is safety in God's word

Verses 129 – 136

p

- We depend on God to help us obey His word

Verses 137 – 144

X

- Following God's instructions keeps us right with Him

Verses 145 – 152

q

- God will hear us when we cry out to Him

Verses 153 – 160

r

- God sees our enemies around us and protects us when we remain faithful to His word

Verses 161 – 168

C

- I'm really trying to do the best I can

Verses 169 – 176

t

- Final plea for protection

- Compare the entire Psalm 119 to the teaching of Yeshua as he progresses through His ministry
- There are many similarities to the progression of Psalm and the chronological progression of Yeshua's teaching