

Psalm 119 Delight in God's Word

CHARACTERS: Questioner, David, All, Group A & B

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 7 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 119

This Psalm is the longest chapter in the Bible. It is divided into twenty-two parts or stanzas, denoted by the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Each stanza contains eight verses, and the first letter of each verse is that which gives name to the stanza. Its contents are mainly praises of God's Word and reasons to study and obey it.

Alef

V: How happy are those whose way is blameless,

ALL: who live according to the Lord's instruction!

V: Happy are those who keep His decrees and seek Him with all their heart.

GROUP A: They do nothing wrong;

GROUP A: they follow His ways.

V: I will keep Your statutes; never abandon me.

Bet

QUESTIONER: How can a young man keep his way pure?

ALL: By keeping Your word.

V: I have sought You with all my heart;

ALL: don't let me wander from Your commands.

V: I rejoice in the way revealed by Your decrees

ALL: as much as in all riches.

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

ALL: I will not forget Your word.

Gimel

V: Open my eyes so that I may contemplate wonderful things from Your instruction.

GROUP A: I am a stranger on earth;

GROUP B: do not hide Your commands from me.

Dalet

GROUP A: My life is down in the dust;

GROUP B: give me life through Your word.

V: I am weary from grief; strengthen me through Your word.

GROUP A: Keep me from the way of deceit and graciously give me Your instruction.

ALL: I have chosen the way of truth;

He

V: Teach me, Lord, the meaning of Your statutes, and I will always keep them.

ALL: Help me understand Your instruction,

GROUP B: and I will obey it and follow it with all my heart.

V: Help me stay on the path of Your commands, for I take pleasure in it.

GROUP A: Turn my heart to Your decrees and not to material gain.

V: Turn my eyes from looking at what is worthless;

ALL: give me life in Your ways.

Vav

V: Let Your faithful love come to me, Lord,

GROUP B: Your salvation, as You promised.

V: Never take the word of truth from my mouth,

GROUP A: I will walk freely in an open place because I seek Your precepts.

Zayin

V: This is my comfort in my affliction:

ALL: Your promise has given me life.

V: Yahweh, I remember Your name in the night,

GROUP B: and I obey Your instruction.

Khet

V: I have sought Your favor with all my heart;

ALL: be gracious to me according to Your promise.

V: I thought about my ways

ALL: and turned my steps back to Your decrees.

V: I hurried, not hesitating to keep Your commands.

GROUP A: Though the ropes of the wicked were wrapped around me,

GROUP B: I did not forget Your instruction.

V: I rise at midnight to thank You: I am a friend to all who fear You,

ALL: to those who keep Your precepts.

V: Lord, the earth is filled with Your faithful love;

ALL: teach me Your statutes.

Tet

V: The arrogant have smeared me with lies,

ALL: but I obey Your precepts with all my heart.

V: Their hearts are hard and insensitive,

ALL: but I delight in Your instruction.

GROUP A: Instruction from Your lips is better for me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

Yod

V: Your hands made me and formed me;

GROUP B: give me understanding so that I can learn Your commands.

Kaf

V: My eyes grow weary looking for what You have promised;

QUESTIONER: When will You comfort me?

V: Though I have become like a wineskin dried by smoke,

ALL: I do not forget Your statutes.

QUESTIONER: How many days must Your servant wait? When will You execute judgment on my persecutors?

ALL: Give me life in accordance with Your faithful love, and I will obey the decree You have spoken.

Lamed

GROUP A: Lord, Your word is forever; it is firmly fixed in heaven.

GROUP B: Your faithfulness is for all generations;

GROUP A: You established the earth, and it stands firm.

GROUP B: all things are Your servants.

V: I am Yours; save me, for I have sought Your precepts.

Mem

ALL: I have kept my feet from every evil path to follow Your word.

Nun

GROUP A: Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path.

Samek

GROUP B: You are my shelter and my shield; I put my hope in Your word.

Ayin

V: My eyes grow weary looking for Your salvation

GROUP A: Deal with Your servant based on Your faithful love;

GROUP B: I love Your commands more than gold, even the purest gold,

Pe

GROUP A: The revelation of Your words brings light

GROUP B: and gives understanding to the inexperienced.

GROUP A: My eyes pour out streams of tears because people do not follow Your instruction.

Tsade

GROUP B: Your word is completely pure, and Your servant loves it.

GROUP A: Trouble and distress have overtaken me, but Your commands are my delight.

Qof

V: I call with all my heart; answer me, Lord.

ALL: You are near, Lord, and all Your commands are true.

Resh

GROUP B: Consider my affliction and rescue me, for I have not forgotten Your instruction.

GROUP A: Defend my cause and redeem me; give me life as You promised.

GROUP B: The entirety of Your word is truth, and all Your righteous judgments endure forever.

Sin/ ם Shin

V: Princes have persecuted me without cause, but my heart fears only Your word.

ALL: I rejoice over Your promise like one who finds vast treasure.

Tav

GROUP A: May Your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen Your precepts.

V: I wander like a lost sheep;

ALL: seek Your servant, for I do not forget Your commands.