

# The All-Powerful Word of God

## Part 2: Psalm 119

### *Key Scripture:*

*“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”*

*Psalm 119:105*

### *Portion for the Journey:*

This Psalm is said to express the overflowing and glorious passion for the love for the law of God. “It is a meditation on the excellence of the word of God, upon its effects and the strength and happiness it gives to a man in every position.” In Matthew Henry’s “Account of the Life and Death of his father, Philip Henry, he says: “Once pressing the study of the Scriptures, he advised us to take a verse of this Psalm every morning to meditate upon, and so go over the Psalm twice in the year; and that, saith he, will bring you to be in love with all the rest of the Scriptures. He often said, “All grace grows as love to the word of God grows.”

There is no author given for Psalm 119 but it is commonly believed that King David, who expounds upon his love for God’s Word and all of its benefits. This Psalm is imprinted with David’s tone and manner of expression. The person writing this Psalm did not just read the Word, but clearly spent a great deal of time meditating on it. (Ps. 1:1-3; Ps. 27:4)

Psalm 119 it is the longest chapter in the Bible and it is located in the exact center of the Bible! It might really stretch our spiritual muscles to read it all at once, but it is well worth the effort!

*Charles Spurgeon wrote, “[Psalm 119) excels in breadth of thought, depth of meaning, and height of fervor. It is like the celestial city, which lieth foursquare, and the height and breadth of it are equal. Many superficial readers have imagined that it harps upon one string, and abounds in pious repetitions and redundancies; but this arises from the shallowness of the reader’s own mind: those who have studied this divine hymn, and carefully noted each line of it, are amazed at the variety and profundity of the thought. Using only a few words, the writer has produced permutations and combinations of meaning which display his holy familiarity with his subject; and the sanctified ingenuity of his mind. He never repeats himself; for if the same sentiment recurs it is placed in a fresh connection, and so exhibits another interesting shade of meaning. The more one studies it, the fresher it becomes... It contains no idle word; the grapes of this cluster are almost to bursting full with new wine of the kingdom.”*

*~~The Treasury of David, Vol. 2 (An Original Exposition of the Book of Psalms)~~*

This Psalm is divided into 20 segments, with each segment beginning with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Each segment has eight verses. God is referred to in every verse. All but five verses refer to the Word (vs. 84, 90, 121, 122, and 132.)

Hebrew scholars believe that each letter of the Hebrew alphabet has symbolic meaning that is revealed as one meditates on the letter. At the end of this lesson, you will find a useful table that defines the significance of each letter used in this passage. The letter Aleph is described below. For information on the other letters see: <https://www.thelivingword.org.au/grand-design/session4.php>

# א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י כ ל מ נ ס ע פ צ ק ר ש ת

## Aleph: א

First letter of the Hebrew alphabet, this letter is silent in itself, but usually has a vowel associated with it. The Aleph's pictograph that is associated with it is an "Ox" or the head and horns of an ox, signifying power, strength and leadership. It's numerical value is 1 and also 1,000. Unity in oneness.

Preeminent in its order, it alludes to the mysteries of the Oneness of God. Aleph means "master" or "lord." The upper yad points to the divine realm representing the hidden and infinite aspect of Jehovah who was called "without end." The lower yad, pointing downward, represents God's revelation to mankind. The main pole, called "vav" is slanted, shows the connectedness between the two realms. Vav is also thought to represent humanity, humbled from God's mystery and revelation. The two yads show the paradox between a God who is hidden and far away and the God who is close and ever-revealing. Jesus claimed to be the Alpha and the Omega (beginning and the ending). The aleph speaks of his leadership, going ahead as first. Not in order of creation but in order of supremacy. The ox was also a sacrificial animal and one who bore heavy burdens.

**Definitions:** As you read this chapter, you will find that the author uses 7 different words on a recurring basis as he writes about the Word of God. Each word reveals a slightly different aspect of the Holy Scriptures which God has given us. The Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament and The Treasury of David by Spurgeon define and help to differentiate the meaning of these words.

1. **Law** ("Torah" 8451) Teaching, direction or instruction associated with the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The Lord is the teacher, teaching His children the way to live. The Torah is not so much a set of rules but **instructions** from our Father in the way that we should walk. (Jer. 31:33)
2. **Testimonies** (5713,5715) This word means literally, "established in permanence" and carries the idea of continuance, constancy, to repeat or do again. Thus a witness in court, when giving their testimony proves their truthfulness by being able to repeat their testimony accurately.
3. **Precepts** (6490) The essence of this word means "to place in trust" and represents the Word as that which God has entrusted to us, giving us responsibility over it, to attend to it and to take care of it. The specific idea is the responsibility that God gives to His people.
4. **Statutes** (2706,2708) The root of this word means "to engrave or prescribe" and this refers to the definite, prescribed, written law of God, which He has now engraved on the fleshy tablets of our human hearts. The meaning of this word expresses our ability to receive and understand the inmost spiritual apprehension of His Will as expressed through His Word.
5. **Commandments** (4687) This word describes the written terms of a contract or covenant, as well as the Words or instructions of a teacher to his pupil. God's Word is a written covenant with His children, consisting of promises and terms that we need to heed to carefully.
6. **Judgments** (4941) This word is best understood in the context of the Word of God coming to us from the universal reign and rule of our Sovereign God over all of the universe. Thus this word comes from a word meaning to govern, to judge, to determine judicial ordinances and decisions. It is closely related to God's execution of divine justice on behalf of His children. These are the Word spoken by the King of Kings and require our most serious and devoted attention.
7. **Word: Two different Hebrew words are used for Word.** (1697) "dabar" is the Word spoken or revealed by the mouth of God. (565) Where the previous word emphasized the word which was spoken by God's mouth, this word speaks of the thoughts of God as revealed by His Word, often as a command or imperative. This word was used in Genesis 1, "God said, "Let there be light...and there was light." This word shows the creative power of God's Word going forth to cause it to be as He has spoken.

## *Digging Deeper in the Word:*

Read Psalm 119 from start to finish! It is long but try to read through it all at once. It will probably take most of your lesson time but don't rush! Read reflectively and, as you read it, note the instructions, benefits and promises related to the Word of God. We are going to combine our "What is God Speaking to Me" and "Response to God" with our reading today, rather than leave it at the end.

Praying the Scriptures: As you read, respond to the LORD immediately in the verses that really touch your heart. For example, v. 11 "Your Word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You." Your response might be, LORD, "I desire to treasure Your word in my heart, help me to read this word today so that it penetrates and remains treasured in my heart, and thank you for the promise in Your Word that as I treasure your word in my heart, it will keep me from sin."

You may also ask the Lord to bring to your mind the names of others for whom you can pray this Psalm as you read through it. v. 9 "How may a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your Word," becomes an excellent prayer for your son, nephew or the young people at the high school in your community. Many, many years ago, I wrote one name of a family member by each section of Psalm 119, I pray that section for them when I read through the Psalm. Over the years, I have seen how incredibly meaningful that particular section has been for the person for whom I have been praying it.

*What the Lord is Speaking to me through this Psalm*

*My response to the Lord*

Ancient Semitic/Hebrew							Modern Hebrew			Greek		Latin
Early	Middle	Late	Name	Picture	Meaning	Sound	Letter	Name	Sound	Ancient	Modern	
𐤀	𐤁	𐤂	El	Ox head	Strong, Power, Leader	ah, eh	א	Aleph	silent	Α	Α	A
𐤃	𐤄	𐤅	Bet	Tent floorplan	Family, House, In	b, bh(v)	ב	Beyt	b, bh(v)	Β	Β	B
𐤆	𐤇	𐤈	Gam	Foot	Gather, Walk	g	ג	Gimal	g	Γ	Γ	C G
𐤉	𐤊	𐤋	Dal	Door	Move, Hang, Entrance	d	ד	Dalet	d	Δ	Δ	D
𐤌	𐤍	𐤎	Hey	Man with arms raised	Look, Reveal, Breath	h, ah	ה	Hey	h	Ε	Ε	E
𐤏	𐤐	𐤑	Waw	Tent peg	Add, Secure, Hook	w, o, u	ו	Vav	v	Ϝ		F
𐤒	𐤓	𐤔	Zan	Mattock	Food, Cut, Nourish	z	ז	Zayin	z	Ζ	Ζ	Z
𐤕	𐤖	𐤗	Hhet	Tent wall	Outside, Divide, Half	hh	ח	Chet	hh	Η	Η	H
𐤘	𐤙	𐤚	Tet	Basket	Surround, Contain, Mud	t	ט	Tet	t	Θ	Θ	
𐤛	𐤜	𐤝	Yad	Arm and closed hand	Work, Throw, Worship	y, ee	י	Yud	y	Ι	Ι	I J
𐤞	𐤟	𐤠	Kaph	Open palm	Bend, Open, Allow, Tame	k, kh	כ	Kaph	k, kh	Κ	Κ	K
𐤡	𐤢	𐤣	Lam	Shepherd Staff	Teach, Yoke, To, Bind	l	ל	Lamed	l	Λ	Λ	L
𐤤	𐤥	𐤦	Mem	Water	Chaos, Mighty, Blood	m	מ	Mem	m	Μ	Μ	M
𐤧	𐤨	𐤩	Nun	Seed	Continue, Heir, Son	n	נ	Nun	n	Ν	Ν	N
𐤫	𐤬	𐤭	Sin	Thorn	Grab, Hate, Protect	s	ס	Samech	s	Ξ	Ξ	X
𐤮	𐤯	𐤰	Ghah	Eye	Watch, Know, Shade	gh(ng)	ע	Ayin	silent	Ο	Ο	O
𐤳	𐤴	𐤵	Pey	Mouth	Blow, Scatter, Edge	p, ph(f)	פ	Pey	p, ph(f)	Π	Π	P
𐤸	𐤹	𐤺	Tsad	Trail	Journey, chase, hunt	ts	צ	Tsade	ts	Ϟ		
𐤼	𐤽	𐤾	Quph	Sun on the horizon	Condense, Circle, Time	q	ק	Quph	q	Ϙ		Q
𐤿	𐥀	𐥁	Resh	Head of a man	First, Top, Beginning	r	ר	Resh	r	Ρ	Ρ	R
𐥂	𐥃	𐥄	Shin	Two front teeth	Sharp, Press, Eat, Two	sh	ש	Shin Sin	sh, s	Σ	Σ	S
𐥅	𐥆	𐥇	Taw	Crossed sticks	Mark, Sign, Signal, Monument	t	ת	Tav	t	Τ	Τ	T
𐥈			Ghah	Rope	Twist, Dark, Wicked	gh						