

2020

SERIES: WORD AND NAME OF GOD

TEXT: Psalm 119:11,105; John 12:49, 50; Psalm 23

**Rev. 19:13**

*The name by which he is called is the Name of God*

# 5 Truths to Know About Psalm 119

## 1. This Psalm is actually written as an acrostic poem.

The verses of each stanza begin with the same letter of each of the Hebrew alphabet, such as “Aleph,” “Beth,” “Gimel,” and so on. This is only noticeable in looking back at the original text. There are 22 stanzas or sections, equal to 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet, with 8 verses each, and a total of 176 verses.

## 2. The author of this chapter is unknown...

...but some have suggested it may have been Ezra the priest, written at the time that the temple had been rebuilt. Though the life of Ezra may not be the most well known in the Bible, he was extremely important and greatly used by God at a time in history when the Israelites desperately needed a faithful, strong leader. Ezra lived his days out of a deep, personal commitment to God, not simply seeking his own personal gain. He was given much responsibility to lead, sent by the King Artaxerxes, to set up a program of religious education for the people. His life proved faithful to study, follow, and teach God’s Word, and his godly example is still very relevant for our lives today. Others have suggested that Psa. 119 may have been written by David, or possibly Daniel. The author is certainly one who experienced great affliction in life, since persecution of those who hold fast to the Word of God is a theme carried throughout.

### **3. Almost every verse mentions God's Word in some way**

– it may be written as His “word,” “ways,” “statutes,” “decrees,” “law,” “precepts,” “commands,” or “promise” – but it's in some way mentioned through most all of the verses.

### **4. Just as Psalm 119 is the longest chapter of the Bible, two Psalms just before, Psalm 117, is the shortest chapter of all.**

There has been much discussion through history of whether Psalm 117 or 118 is the center chapter of the entire Bible.

- Some have said it's divided as such: 594 chapters up to Psalm 117 and 594 chapters from Psalm 119 on, with chapter 118 being the center, and a total of 1189 chapters in the entire Bible.
- Those that hold to this also believe that Psa. 118:8 is the center verse of the Bible, *“It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man.”*
- Others have said that Psalm 117 seems to be the center point, with these 2 verses, *“Praise the LORD, all nations; Laud Him, all peoples! For His lovingkindness is great toward us, And the truth of the LORD is everlasting. Praise the LORD!”*
- Either way, it's interesting to note that, depending on translation,  $594 + 594 = 1188$ .
- It all points to the truth that God is a God of order and precision. This entire section of God's Word is Sovereignly placed at a significant and pivotal point in the Bible and we would be wise to study it carefully.

### **5. The overall message of Psalm 119 focuses on the truth of God's Word.**

- It encourages us through every generation to stay close and focused on His Word no matter what swirls around us in this world.

- Living in the freedom and knowledge of God's ways, obeying His law above all else, and keeping in step with His commandments is the only way to truly live wise, strong lives.
- God's Word is powerful, living, and active. It never changes, because
  - He never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. His words are breathed straight from His heart to us, a love letter for life, not simply an old-fashioned, outdated book with no relevance for today. His Word is sharper than any two-edged sword.

**Psalm 119** reminds us that God's very character is reflected through His Word, He is Righteous, He is Faithful, He is Unchanging, He is True.

### **Overall statement**

<sup>1</sup> Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,  
who walk according to the law of the LORD.

The opening 2 verses remind us, that we are "blessed" as we walk in His Truth, and seek him with our whole heart.

*"Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord. Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart." v.*

1-2

- We walk according to His Word

### **In your youth**

<sup>9</sup> How can a young person stay on the path of purity?

By living according to your word.

<sup>10</sup> I seek you with all my heart;

do not let me stray from your commands.

<sup>11</sup> I have hidden your word in my heart

that I might not sin against you.

- **The temptations of a young person.**
- **The pressure to give in to societies morals and teachings**
- **Stay in the Word**

## **Be trained**

<sup>33</sup> Teach me, LORD, the way of your decrees,  
that I may follow it to the end.

<sup>34</sup> Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law  
and obey it with all my heart.

<sup>35</sup> Direct me in the path of your commands,  
for there I find delight.

- **Be taught, get understanding, obey it**
- **It will direct your path**
- **You will find delight**

## **My commitment**

<sup>57</sup> You are my portion, LORD;  
I have promised to obey your words.

<sup>58</sup> I have sought your face with all my heart;  
be gracious to me according to your promise.

- **I make a promise**
- **I seek His face**

## **His Word is in me**

<sup>97</sup> Oh, how I love your law!  
I meditate on it all day long.

<sup>98</sup> Your commands are always with me

- **Meditate means to have His word on you mind**
- **Thinking about His word**

## **His Word guides me**

<sup>105</sup> Your word is a lamp for my feet,  
a light on my path.

- **It will shine a light**

- **It will set your path**

### **His Word in times of need**

<sup>123</sup> My eyes fail, looking for your salvation,  
looking for your righteous promise.

<sup>124</sup> Deal with your servant according to your love  
and teach me your decrees.

<sup>125</sup> I am your servant; give me discernment  
that I may understand your statutes.

- **When you cannot see the way ahead**
- **You need salvation**
- **It is according to his teachings that you will gain understanding**

### **His word when I fail**

<sup>136</sup> Streams of tears flow from my eyes,  
for your law is not obeyed.

- **When it is your heart... you recognize when you are not close to God**
- **When you love God you will recognize your sin and cry out to Him**

### **His Word Helps me understand**

<sup>169</sup> May my cry come before you, LORD;  
give me understanding according to your word.

- **You will have understanding**

### **His Word stays with me**

<sup>176</sup> I have strayed like a lost sheep.

Seek your servant,  
for I have not forgotten your commands.

- **The prodigal knows they have left the Lords commands**
- **We all stray .... His word remains.**