

Salvation is by **faith alone**,
in **Christ alone**,
by **grace alone**,
on the authority of **Scripture alone**,
and for the **glory of God alone**.

An abstract painting with a rich, textured background of reds, oranges, and purples. The text is overlaid in the center.

A History of Christianity QUESTIONS?

Painting: "Salt and Light" by Dennis Wright, 2011

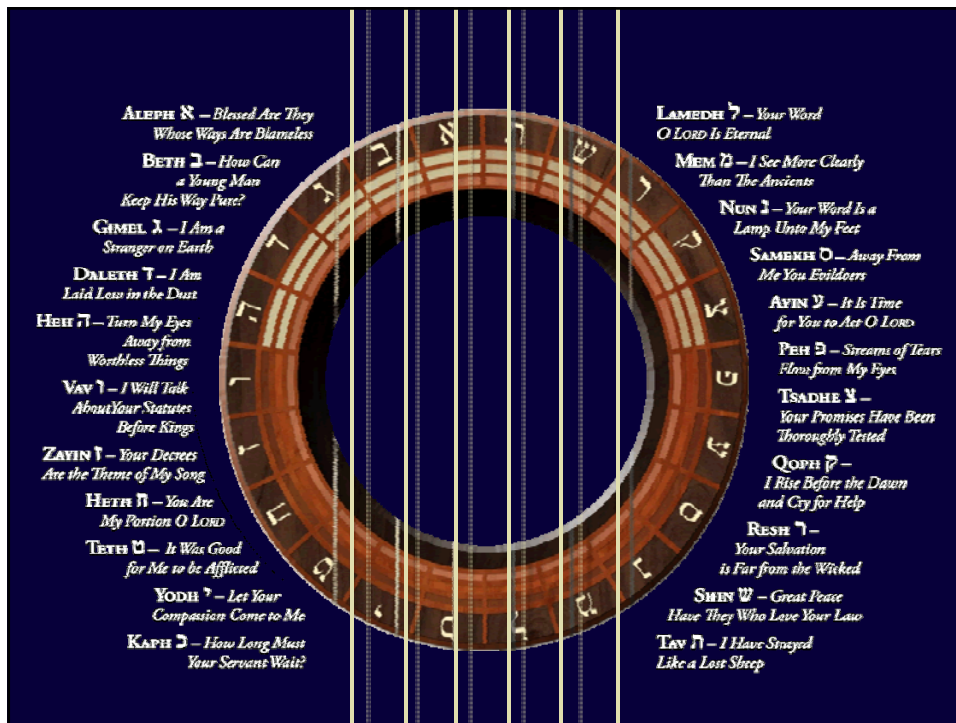
E X P E R I E N C E

P S A L M

1 1 9

About the Psalms

- A “psalm” is a composition set to music. The psalms were written largely with a view to instrumental musical accompaniment.
- They were written over 1,000 years from Moses (1500 BC) to Ezra (450 BC), whom the LXX credited with Psalms 1 and 119.
- "Selah" means a pause (pause to reflect, musical pause); it is not to be spoken.
- There are over four hundred quotations or allusions to the psalms in the New Testament.
- Many were acrostics (initial letter of each succeeding verse is in alphabetical order) such as Psalms 9, 10, 25, 34, 37, 111, 112, 119, 145.



ALEPH א – Blessed Are They
Whose Ways Are Blameless

BETH ב – How Can
a Young Man
Keep His Way Pure?

GAMEL ג – I Am a
Stranger on Earth

DALETH ד – I Am
Laid Low in the Dust

HEH ה – Turn My Eyes
Away from
Worthless Things

VAV ו – I Will Talk
About Your Statutes
Before Kings

ZAYIN ז – Your Decrees
Are the Theme of My Song

HETH ח – You Are
My Portion O LORD

TETH ט – It Was Good
for Me to be Afflicted

YODH י – Let Your
Compassion Come to Me

KAPH כ – How Long Must
Your Servants Wait?

LAMEDH ל – Your Word
O LORD Is Eternal

MEM מ – I See More Clearly
Than The Ancients

NUM נ – Your Word Is a
Lamp Unto My Feet

SAMEKH ס – Away From
Me You Evildoers

AYIN ע – It Is Time
for You to Act O LORD

PEH פ – Streams of Tears
Flow from My Eyes

TSADHE צ –
Your Promises Have Been
Thoroughly Tested

QOPH ק –
I Rise Before the Dawn
and Cry for Help

RESH ר –
Your Salvation
is Far from the Wicked

SHIN ש – Great Peace
Have They Who Love Your Law

TEV ת – I Have Strayed
Like a Lost Sheep

תהילים קיט PSALM 119

א ALEPH

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>אשׁוּרֵי תַמִּיּוּדָךְ הַהֲלָכִים בְּתוֹרַת יְהוָה:
YHWH TORAH</p> <p>אשׁוּרֵי נֶצְרֵי עֲדֹתָי בְּכֻלָּב יִדְרְשׁוּהוּ:
EDAH</p> <p>אֵף לֹא־פָעִלוּ עוֹלָה בְּדַרְכֵי הַלְכוּ:
DEREK</p> <p>אַתָּה צִוִּיתָה פִּקּוּדֶיךָ לְשֹׁמֵר מֵאֹד:
PIQQUWD</p> <p>אַחֲלִי יִכְנוּ דְרָכֵי לְשֹׁמֵר חֻקֶּיךָ:
CHOQ</p> <p>אַזְ לֹא־אֲבוֹשׁ בַּהֲבִיטִי אֶלְכָּל־מִצְוֹתֶיךָ:
MITSVAH</p> <p>אוֹדֶךָ בִּישׁוֹר לִבִּי בְּלִמּוֹד מִשְׁפָּטֶיךָ צְדָקָה:
MISHPAT</p> <p>אַתְחַקֶּךָ אֲשֶׁמֶר אֶלְתַּעֲזֹבֶנִי עַד־מָאֹד:
CHOQ</p> | <p>1 Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to Yahweh's law.</p> <p>2 Blessed are those who keep his statutes, who seek him with their whole heart.</p> <p>3 Yes, they do nothing wrong. They walk in his ways.</p> <p>4 You have commanded your precepts, that we should fully obey them.</p> <p>5 Oh that my ways were steadfast to obey your statutes!</p> <p>6 Then I wouldn't be disappointed, when I consider all of your commandments.</p> <p>7 I will give thanks to you with uprightness of heart, when I learn your righteous judgments.</p> <p>8 I will observe your statutes. Don't utterly forsake me.</p> |
|--|---|

- An important theme is the person and work of Jesus Christ. Many psalms are messianic (2, 8, 9, 16, 22, 24, 31, 41, 45, 46, 67, 69, 72, 89, 93, 110, 118, 132).
- All 26 verses in Psalm 136 end with the same words: *"for his mercy endureth forever."*
- The last five psalms (146-150) are called the "Hallelujah Psalms"; they begin and end with, *"Praise ye the LORD"* or, in the Hebrew, *"Hallelujah!"*

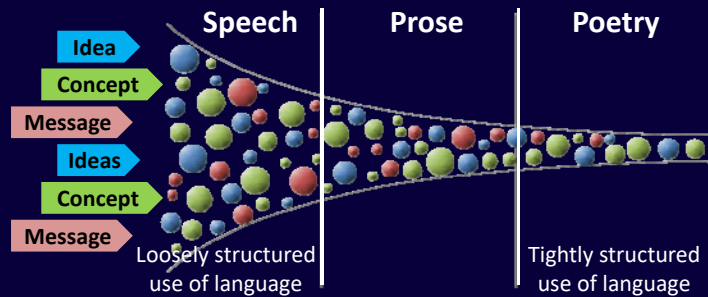
- The five groups of psalms correspond with the five books of Moses.

Book of Moses	Beginning words	Group of Psalms	Psalms
Genesis	"in the beginning"	About Man	1-41
Exodus	"these are the names"	Deliverance	42-72
Leviticus	"He (the LORD) called out"	Sanctuary	73-89
Numbers	"in the wilderness"	Unrest, wandering	90-106
Deuteronomy	"and these are His words."	Word of the Lord	107-150

- Each group of psalms closes with a doxology.

Understanding Psalms

1. The Psalms are written in a poetic style. Some one-third of the Bible is poetic.



Hebrew poetry is characterised by brevity in line length, parallelism and figurative language.

2. Psalms fall into particular literary genres.
 - a. **Laments** are the most common genre.
 - b. **Praise psalms** praise God as Creator for His greatness and goodness.
 - c. **Thanksgiving psalms** joyfully express gratitude.
 - d. **Kinship/covenant psalms** affirm loyalty to God.
 - e. **Songs of trust** in times of danger.
 - f. **Wisdom psalms** focus on the blessings of God's Word.
3. The historical setting of a psalm is important to understand the psalm. But don't overdo it.


4. Lyric poetry like Psalms have a 3-part structure:

- a. The subject is usually set out in the first few verses. The controlling themes are found here.
- b. Development of the subject is the main part of the psalm. Various authors generally develop their subject in four ways:
 - 1) **Contrast** (e.g., between the righteous and the wicked)
 - 2) **Listing** items associated with the subject.
 - 3) Using **relationships** (e.g., the majesty of God).
 - 4) **Repetition**, using various images to develop the theme.
- c. A psalm is rounded off by the conclusion. This might be a summary or a prayer.

5. There's more to structure than just 3-parts:

- a. Descriptive structure describes an event, scene or person.
- b. Expository structure unfolds ideas or emotions.
- c. Narrative structure presents a series of events.
- d. Dramatic structure; a speaker address a listener.
- e. Emotional structure reflects abrupt changes from one subject to another, showing emotions.
- f. Repetitive structures present a theme in differing ways.
- g. Logical structures sequence ideas to a conclusion.
- h. Catalogue structures list various aspects of a subject.

6. Psalm 119, it functions in Book V as a bridge between two well-defined cycles:
- the Egyptian Hallel (113-118) chanted in the temple whilst the Passover lambs were slain.
 - the Songs of Ascents (Degrees) (120-134) sung by captives returning from Babylon, pilgrim caravans, travellers and at feasts.

HALLEL PSALMS (PRAISE)	PSALM 119	PSALM 120
		PSALM 121
PSALM 118		PSALM 122
PSALM 117		PSALM 123
PSALM 116		PSALM 124
PSALM 115		PSALM 125
PSALM 114		PSALM 126
PSALM 113		PSALM 127
		PSALM 128
		PSALM 129
		PSALM 130
		PSALM 131
		PSALM 132
	PSALM 133	
	PSALM 134	

Things to look for

- How many **different names** for the Word of God does Psalm 119 contain?
- How many **word pictures** are used in Psalm 119 for the Word of God?
- As we go through Psalm 119, try to identify the **main theme** (HINT: it is often given at the beginning, the middle, and/or the end of a psalm).

Psalm
119
verse

ALEPH

1. Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the LORD's law.
2. Blessed are those who keep his statutes, who seek him with their whole heart.
3. Yes, they do nothing wrong. They walk in his ways.
4. You have commanded your precepts, that we should fully obey them.
5. Oh that my ways were steadfast to obey your statutes!
6. Then I wouldn't be disappointed, when I consider all of your commandments.
7. I will give thanks to you with uprightness of heart, when I learn your righteous judgments.
8. I will observe your statutes. Don't utterly forsake me.

Psalm
119
verse

BET

9. How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.
10. With my whole heart, I have sought you. Don't let me wander from your commandments.
11. I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.
12. Blessed are you, LORD. Teach me your statutes.
13. With my lips, I have declared all the ordinances of your mouth.
14. I have rejoiced in the way of your testimonies, as much as in all riches.
15. I will meditate on your precepts, and consider your ways.
16. I will delight myself in your statutes. I will not forget your word.

Psalm
119
verse

GIMEL

17. Do good to your servant. I will live and I will obey your word.
18. Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things out of your Word.
19. I am a stranger on the earth. Don't hide your commandments from me.
20. **My soul is consumed with longing for your ordinances at all times.**
21. You have rebuked the proud who are cursed, who wander from your commandments.
22. Take reproach and contempt away from me, for I have kept your statutes.
23. Though princes sit and slander me, your servant will meditate on your statutes.
24. Indeed your statutes are my delight, and my counselors.

Psalm
119
verse

DALET

25. My soul is laid low in the dust. Revive me according to your word!
26. I declared my ways, and you answered me. Teach me your statutes.
27. Let me understand the teaching of your precepts! Then I will meditate on your wondrous works.
28. My soul is weary with sorrow: strengthen me according to your word.
29. Keep me from the way of deceit. Grant me your Word graciously!
30. I have chosen the way of truth. I have set your ordinances before me.
31. I cling to your statutes, LORD. Don't let me be disappointed.
32. I run in the path of your commandments, for you have set my heart free.

Psalm
119
verse

HEY

33. Teach me, LORD, the way of your statutes. I will keep them to the end.
34. Give me understanding, and I will keep your Word. Yes, I will obey it with my whole heart.
35. Direct me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in them.
36. Turn my heart toward your statutes, not toward selfish gain.
37. Turn my eyes away from looking at worthless things. Revive me in your ways.
38. Fulfill your promise to your servant, that you may be feared.
39. Take away my disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good.
40. Behold, I long for your precepts! Revive me in your righteousness.

Psalm
119
verse

WAW

41. Let your loving kindness also come to me, LORD, your salvation, according to your word.
42. So I will have an answer for him who reproaches me, for I trust in your word.
43. Don't snatch the word of truth out of my mouth, for I put my hope in your ordinances.
44. So I will obey your Word continually, forever and ever.
45. I will walk in liberty, for I have sought your precepts.
46. I will also speak of your statutes before kings, and will not be disappointed.
47. I will delight myself in your commandments, because I love them.
48. I reach out my hands for your commandments, which I love. I will meditate on your statutes.

Psalm
119
verse

ZAYIN

49. Remember your word to your servant, because you gave me hope.
50. This is my comfort in my affliction, for your word has revived me.
51. The arrogant mock me excessively, but I don't swerve from your Word.
52. I remember your ordinances of old, LORD, and have comforted myself.
53. Indignation has taken hold on me, because of the wicked who forsake your Word.
54. Your statutes have been my songs in the house where I live.
55. I have remembered your name, LORD, in the night, and I obey your Word.
56. This is my way, that I keep your precepts.

Psalm
119
verse

CHET

57. The LORD is my portion. I promised to obey your words.
58. I sought your favor with my whole heart. Be merciful to me according to your word.
59. I considered my ways, and turned my steps to your statutes.
60. I will hurry, and not delay, to obey your commandments.
61. The ropes of the wicked bind me, but I won't forget your Word.
62. At midnight I will rise to give thanks to you, because of your righteous ordinances.
63. I am a friend of all those who fear you, of those who observe your precepts.
64. The earth is full of your loving kindness, LORD. Teach me your statutes.

Psalm
119
verse

TET

65. Do good to your servant, according to your word, LORD.
66. Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments.
67. Before I was afflicted, I went astray; but now I observe your word.
68. You are good, and do good. Teach me your statutes.
69. The proud have smeared a lie upon me. With my whole heart, I will keep your precepts.
70. Their heart is as callous as the fat, but I delight in your Word.
71. It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn your statutes.
72. **The Word you have spoken is better to me than thousands of pieces of gold and silver.**

Psalm
119
verse

YUD

73. Your hands have made me and formed me. Give me understanding, that I may learn your commandments.
74. Those who fear you will see me and be glad, because I have put my hope in your word.
75. LORD, I know that your judgments are righteous, that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.
76. Please let your loving kindness be for my comfort, according to your word to your servant.
77. Let your tender mercies come to me, that I may live; for your Word is my delight.
78. Let the proud be disappointed, for they have overthrown me wrongfully. I will meditate on your precepts.
79. Let those who fear you turn to me. They will know your statutes.
80. Let my heart be blameless toward your decrees, that I may not be disappointed.

Psalm
119
verse

KAF

81. My soul faints for your salvation. I hope in your word.
82. My eyes fail for your word. I say, "When will you comfort me?"
83. For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke. I don't forget your statutes.
84. How many are the days of your servant? When will you execute judgment on those who persecute me?
85. The proud have dug pits for me, contrary to your Word.
86. All of your commandments are faithful. They persecute me wrongfully. Help me!
87. They had almost wiped me from the earth, but I didn't forsake your precepts.
88. Preserve my life according to your loving kindness, so I will obey the statutes of your mouth.

Psalm
119
verse

LAMED

89. **LORD, your word is settled in heaven forever.**
90. Your faithfulness is to all generations. You have established the earth, and it remains.
91. Your laws remain to this day, for all things serve you.
92. Unless your Word had been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.
93. I will never forget your precepts, for with them, you have revived me.
94. I am yours. Save me, for I have sought your precepts.
95. The wicked have waited for me, to destroy me. I will consider your statutes.
96. I have seen a limit to all perfection, but your commands are boundless.

Psalm
119
verse

MEM

97. How I love your Word! It is my meditation all day.
98. Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, for your commandments are always with me.
99. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation.
100. I understand more than the aged, because I have kept your precepts.
101. I have kept my feet from every evil way, that I might observe your word.
102. I have not turned away from your ordinances, for you have taught me.
103. How sweet are your promises to my taste, more than honey to my mouth!
104. Through your precepts, I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

Psalm
119
verse

NUN

105. Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path.
106. I have sworn, and have confirmed it, that I will obey your righteous ordinances.
107. I am afflicted very much. Revive me, LORD, according to your word.
108. Accept, I beg you, the willing offerings of my mouth. LORD, teach me your ordinances.
109. My soul is continually in my hand, yet I won't forget your Word.
110. The wicked have laid a snare for me, yet I haven't gone astray from your precepts.
111. I have taken your testimonies as a heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart.
112. I have set my heart to perform your statutes forever, even to the end.

Psalm
119
verse

SAMEKH

113. I hate double-minded men, but I love your Word.
114. You are my hiding place and my shield. I hope in your word.
115. Depart from me, you evildoers, that I may keep the commandments of my God.
116. Uphold me according to your word, that I may live. Let me not be ashamed of my hope.
117. Hold me up, and I will be safe, and will have respect for your statutes continually.
118. You reject all those who stray from your statutes, for their deceit is in vain.
119. You put away all the wicked of the earth like dross. Therefore I love your testimonies.
120. My flesh trembles for fear of you. I am afraid of your judgments.

Psalm
119
verse

AYIN

121. I have done what is just and righteous. Don't leave me to my oppressors.
122. Ensure your servant's well-being. Don't let the proud oppress me.
123. My eyes fail looking for your salvation, for your righteous word.
124. Deal with your servant according to your loving kindness. Teach me your statutes.
125. I am your servant. Give me understanding, that I may know your testimonies.
126. It is time to act, LORD, for they break your Word.
127. Therefore I love your commandments more than gold, yes, more than pure gold.
128. Therefore I consider all of your precepts to be right. I hate every false way.

Psalm
119
verse

PEY

129. Your testimonies are wonderful, therefore my soul keeps them.
130. The entrance of your words gives light. It gives understanding to the simple.
131. I opened my mouth wide and panted, for I longed for your commandments.
132. Turn to me, and have mercy on me, as you always do to those who love your name.
133. Establish my footsteps in your word. Don't let any iniquity have dominion over me.
134. Redeem me from the oppression of man, so I will observe your precepts.
135. Make your face shine on your servant. Teach me your statutes.
136. Streams of tears run down my eyes, because they don't observe your Word.

Psalm
119
verse

TZADI

- You are righteous, LORD. Your judgments are upright.
- You have commanded your statutes in righteousness. They are fully trustworthy.
- My zeal wears me out, because my enemies ignore your words.
- Your promises have been thoroughly tested, and your servant loves them.
- I am small and despised. I don't forget your precepts.
- Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness. Your Word is truth.
- Trouble and anguish have taken hold of me. Your commandments are my delight.
- Your testimonies are righteous forever. Give me understanding, that I may live.

Psalm
119
verse

KUF

145. I have called with my whole heart. Answer me, LORD! I will keep your statutes.
146. I have called to you, 'Save me!' I will obey your statutes.
147. I rise before dawn and cry for help. I put my hope in your words.
148. My eyes stay open through the night watches, that I might meditate on your word.
149. Hear my voice according to your loving kindness. Revive me, LORD, according to your ordinances.
150. They draw near who follow after wickedness. They are far from your Word.
151. You are near, LORD. All your commandments are truth.
152. Of old I have known from your testimonies, that you have founded them forever.

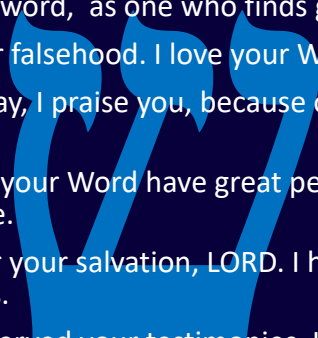
Psalm
119
verse

RESH

153. Consider my affliction, and deliver me, for I don't forget your Word.
154. Plead my cause, and redeem me! Revive me according to your promise.
155. Salvation is far from the wicked, for they don't seek your statutes.
156. Great are your tender mercies, LORD. Revive me according to your ordinances.
157. Many are my persecutors and my adversaries. I haven't swerved from your testimonies.
158. I look at the faithless with loathing, because they don't observe your word.
159. Consider how I love your precepts. Revive me, LORD, according to your loving kindness.
160. All of your words are truth. Every one of your righteous ordinances endures forever.

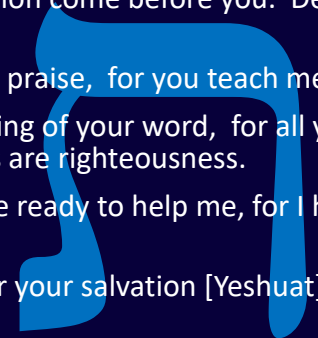
Psalm
119
verse

SIN / SHIN

- 
161. Princes have persecuted me without a cause, but my heart stands in awe of your words.
162. I rejoice at your word, as one who finds great plunder.
163. I hate and abhor falsehood. I love your Word.
164. Seven times a day, I praise you, because of your righteous ordinances.
165. Those who love your Word have great peace. Nothing causes them to stumble.
166. I have hoped for your salvation, LORD. I have done your commandments.
167. My soul has observed your testimonies. I love them exceedingly.
168. I have obeyed your precepts and your testimonies, for all my ways are before you.

Psalm
119
verse

TAV

- 
169. Let my cry come before you, LORD. Give me understanding according to your word.
170. Let my supplication come before you. Deliver me according to your word.
171. Let my lips utter praise, for you teach me your statutes.
172. Let my tongue sing of your word, for all your commandments are righteousness.
173. Let your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts.
174. I have longed for your salvation [Yeshuat], LORD. Your Word is my delight.
175. Let my soul live, that I may praise you. Let your ordinances help me.
176. I have gone astray like a lost sheep. Seek your servant, for I don't forget your commandments.

Answers

2. How many **word pictures** are used in Psalm 119 for the Word of God?

Seven (the Hebrew number for God's fingerprint)

- 1) water (Psalm 119:9)
- 2) treasure (Psalm 119:14, 72, 127, 162)
- 3) companion and counsellor (Psalm 119:24)
- 4) song (Psalm 119:54)
- 5) honey (Psalm 119:103)
- 6) light (Psalm 119:105, 130)
- 7) heritage (Psalm 119:111)

Answers

3. As we go through Psalm 119, try to identify the **main theme** (HINT: it is often given at the beginning, the middle, and/or the end of a psalm).

Some scholars have identified the main theme as God's faithfulness. Others as the immutability of God's Word.

What do **you** think?

Answers

Beginning

1. Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the LORD's law.
2. Blessed are those who keep his statutes, who seek him with their whole heart.

Middle

88. Preserve my life according to your loving kindness, so I will obey the statutes of your mouth.
89. LORD, your word is settled in heaven forever.
90. Your faithfulness is to all generations. You have established the earth, and it remains.

End

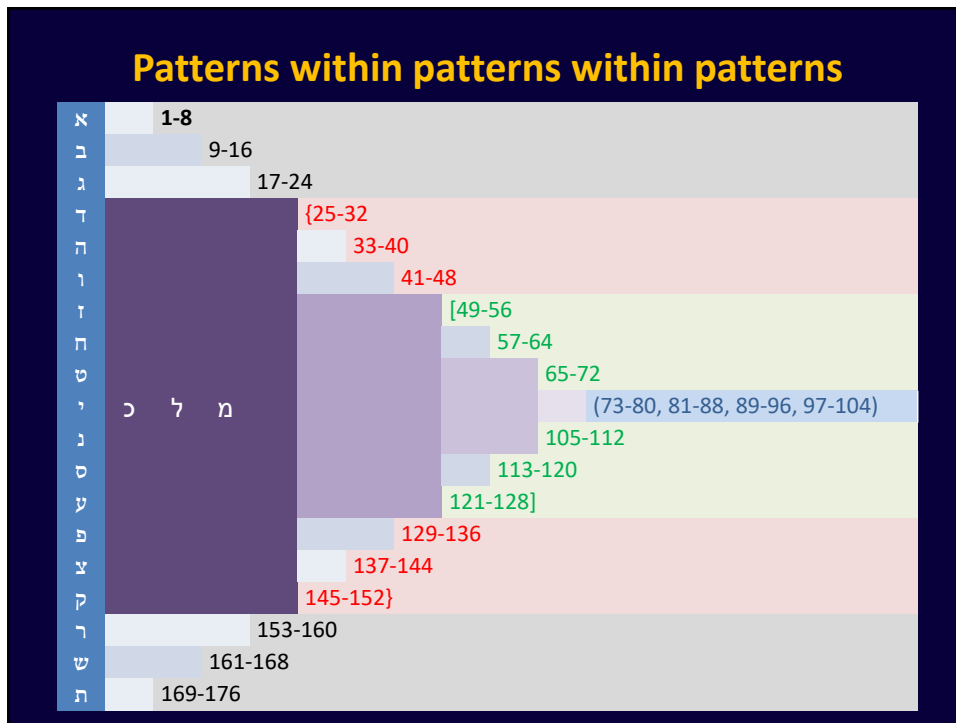
176. I have gone astray like a lost sheep. Seek your servant, for I don't forget your commandments.

The overall structure of Psalm 119

- The main theme of Psalm 119 occurs halfway through, at Psalm 119:89: "LORD, your word is settled in heaven forever."
- Not surprisingly, Psalm 119 is structured in the menorah (chiasma) pattern common to biblical Hebrew poetry.

Wisdom teaching: the way of the Book is the preferred way	1-24
Expressing his lament, the psalmist says, "Keep me alive"	25-48
Prayers to YHWH as master teacher; intensifies interiority	49-72
Privilege of servitude-God's will as moral obedience	73-104
Prayer as free-will offering and fidelity in life or in death	105-128
Trust in God's nearness as our defence attorney (saviour)	129-152
With the agony of torment abated there is hope	153-176

- A bit surprisingly, Psalm 119 is actually organised as well into a menorah within a menorah within a menorah.



Ray's reflections on Psalm 119

א	Blessings will flow when we know and follow God's word. But first, we must sincerely seek the Lord in our hearts, not merely in our heads.	1-8
ב	When we rejoice in God's Word, delight in it and meditate on it, the Word can keep us clean. When we truly delight in the Word, then we will naturally want to meditate on and make it part of our lives.	9-16
ג	We are strangers in this fallen world, and the word was made available by God to show us his way.	17-2
ד	↑ God's Word can revive and strengthen us, it can give us life because it is life, and it imparts and nourishes life.	25-32
ה	We don't need the worthless things in life; they are simply false idols. The truth is in the Bible.	33-40
ו	God's Word is truth and the truth sets us free. We often confuse disobedience with freedom - but it is bondage. We are only free when we love and obey God's Word.	41-48
ז	↑ When times are difficult, we need to take comfort in God's Name and in his promises. The Word will bring us comfort if we let it.	49-56
ח	Who our friends are tell us about ourselves. "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed." (Proverbs 13:20)	57-64
ט	We all face suffering; if the Word is not in us, it can bring out the worst in us. If we have Him, suffering is just another lesson.	65-72
י	The Bible is our owner's manual; don't wait until all else fails before we reading it.	73-80
יא	When things look hopeless, the Word in our hearts can give us strength and pick us up.	81-88
יב	The Word is the only solid foundation, our Rock, in an unsettled and unstable world. .	89-96
יג	We must let God be our teacher, both in Truth and in Spirit - Bible-taught and Spirit-led.	97-104
יד	God's Word lights our heart one step at a time to keep us from the traps and snares of the enemy. "God is light." (1 John 1:5b)	105-112
טו	James 1:8 states, "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." If we fear God and the Word, we will never be ashamed of our hope.	113-120
טז	↓ We are aliens in the enemy's world and only the Word can protect us from the lies of the oppressor. To love the true, we must hate the false.	121-128
יז	Live by the Word! The Word is wonderful, and enables us to meditate on His wonderful works, transforming our minds and shining His light within us so that we can be a light in the dark world.	129-136
יח	No matter how zealous we are for His Truth, to succeed we must struggle with His help to retain our righteousness. We must not lose our integrity or we will lose our rewards.	137-144
יט	↓ God wants a two-way conversation with us; His Word speaks to us and to our hearts, while our prayers speak our hearts to him. Both are critical to effective communication.	145-152
כ	When the enemy accuses us, the Word of God assures us, for His Word is Truth. Jesus Christ is seated on God's throne pleading our cause right now. Praise the LORD.	153-160
כא	The Word of God in our hearts and in our minds is like a buried treasure that we find or a fortune that we inherit. It brings us love, peace and hope - treasures that mere money cannot buy.	161-168
כב	With the Word of God first in my life, my heart will delight in His law, and my lips will declare His praise through spontaneous joy and singing of Psalm. When His Words fill our hearts, our mouths will speak them!	169-176

E X P E R I E N C E

P S A L M

1

A SHOWPIECE OF
BIBLICAL COMPOSITION

¹ Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

² But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

⁴ The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

⁵ Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

⁶ For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Analysis of Psalm 1

- Psalm 1 is a wisdom psalm that introduces the book of Psalms. It points the way to blessing and warns about divine judgment.
- Psalm 1 contrasts a divine view of the godly and the ungodly, with the indentations showing how the godly and ungodly are viewed. Despite the apparent equal focus on the ungodly, they are only used as a foil. The overall message emphasizes that godly living has God's approval.
- Bible history seems to be built around the concept of "two men".

How many examples can you name?



The Biblical concept of “Two Men”

1. The “first Adam” and the “last Adam” (Rom. 5; 1 Cor. 15:45)
2. Cain and Abel
3. Aaron and Moses
4. Ishmael and Isaac
5. Esau (firstborn twin) and Jacob
6. Manasseh and Ephraim
7. David and Saul
8. Solomon and Adonijah (plus 5 other older half-brothers).
9. Rehoboam and Jeroboam (from the tribe of Ephraim)
10. . . . and
11. Bible history culminates in Christ and Antichrist.

Psalm 1 (KJV)

¹Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

²But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

³And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water,
 that bringeth forth his fruit in his season;
 his leaf also shall not wither;
 and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

⁴The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

⁵Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

⁶For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

¹ Blessed is the man	The Israelite hymnal begins with a blessing meaning "happiness" or "blessedness"
that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.	The psalmist describes the godly by what they do not do: walking, standing and sitting are actions! The association gets progressively worse: ungodly are without God, sinners actively miss God's standards, and the scornful deny His existence.
² But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.	The godly person takes inner delight in obediently studying God's Word. He or she joyfully meditates, not with an empty mind, but a mind full of the Bible. We see not only belief in the Word, but acting upon it!
³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season: his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.	The godly will prosper in God's approval. Unlike a tree planted in a field or a wild tree, the tree is planted by spiritual water, so nourishment is ever present in all seasons. The godly will be successful in whatever they do as per the Covenant blessings in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28.
⁴ The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.	Alas, the ungodly are like the worthless chaff which is only good for burning.
⁵ Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.	The term "therefore" is a "signal." Here it is a conclusion from verses 1-4: in God's judgement, they will be unable to stand. Sinners should not lead in congregations now, nor will they in eternity.
⁶ For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.	This use of YHWH emphasizes that He has an intimate knowledge of everything about godly people because He is in a personal relationship with those who trust Him. Rather than an intimate relationship with the Creator God, the ungodly and all that they think their life means will perish.

E X P E R I E N C E

P S A L M

136

THE GREAT HALLEL

1. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good:
for his mercy endureth for ever.
2. O give thanks unto the God of gods:
for his mercy endureth for ever.
3. O give thanks to the Lord of lords:
for his mercy endureth for ever.
4. To him who alone doeth great wonders:
for his mercy endureth for ever.
5. To him that by wisdom made the heavens:
for his mercy endureth for ever.
6. To him that stretched out the earth above the
waters:
for his mercy endureth for ever.

7. To him that made great lights:
for his mercy endureth for ever:
8. The sun to rule by day:
for his mercy endureth for ever:
9. The moon and stars to rule by night:
for his mercy endureth for ever.
10. To him that smote Egypt in their firstborn:
for his mercy endureth for ever:
11. And brought out Israel from among them:
for his mercy endureth for ever:
12. With a strong hand, and with a stretched out
arm:
for his mercy endureth for ever.

13. To him which divided the Red sea into parts:
for his mercy endureth for ever:
14. And made Israel to pass through the midst of
it:
for his mercy endureth for ever:
15. But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the
Red sea:
for his mercy endureth for ever.
16. To him which led his people through the
wilderness:
for his mercy endureth for ever.
17. To him which smote great kings:
for his mercy endureth for ever:

18. And slew famous kings:
for his mercy endureth for ever:
19. Sihon king of the Amorites:
for his mercy endureth for ever:
20. And Og the king of Bashan:
for his mercy endureth for ever:
21. And gave their land for an heritage:
for his mercy endureth for ever:
22. Even an heritage unto Israel his servant:
for his mercy endureth for ever.
23. Who remembered us in our low estate:
for his mercy endureth for ever:

24. And hath redeemed us from our enemies:
for his mercy endureth for ever.
25. Who giveth food to all flesh:
for his mercy endureth for ever.
26. O give thanks unto the God of heaven:
for his mercy endureth for ever.

