

Sweeter Than Chocolate: Sweet Words and Real Solutions from Psalms

Psalm 119:1-176

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Psalm 119 is the longest and most complex psalm. Do not let its size intimidate you but try to understand & appreciate this masterpiece to receive a great blessing

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

Psalm 1:1

Literary Form and Structure of Psalm 119

1. Many of the Psalms (like Ps 23) are progressive, the reader is able to experience & identify with the same faith journey as the one who wrote the psalm.
2. Psalm 119 is an acrostic psalm, it has a complex literary structure of 22 refrains of eight verses
3. Psalm 119 is one of three Torah Psalms (1, 19, 119) it expounds on the benefits of studying God's Law

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.

Psalm 19:7 & 10

Promises of Psalm 119

4. *Scripture promises that all who passionately study, understand, and embrace God's law (torah), will be blessed - they will find a contented rest and sense of wholeness, and complete happiness.*

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.

Psalms 119:1-2

4. Each line in the eight line stanza uses one of the eight synonyms for God's Law:

Law (Torah); Word (Dabar) ; Promise (Imrah); Precept (piqqudim); Decree/Ordinance (mishpatim); Commandments (mitzvot); Instruction/Testimony (edoth); & Statutes (huqqim)

May your unfailing love come to me, O LORD, your salvation according to your promise; then I will answer the one who taunts me, for I trust in your word. Do not snatch the word of truth from my mouth, for I have put my hope in your instructions. I will always obey your law, for ever and ever. I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts. I will speak of your statutes before kings and will not be put to shame, for I delight in your commands because I love them. I lift up my hands to your commands, which I love, and I meditate on your decrees.

Psalm 119:41-48

5. If I could only know your Laws.

Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees! Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands.

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Psalm 119:5-6

6. THE Turn comes in vs 97-104: Oh, how I love your Law

Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Psalm 119:97, 102-5

7. THE REWARD: The ultimate reward is Loving God's Law.