PSALMS 119:97-136

REVIEW…

- Acrostic
  - Psalm
  - For the
  - are 176
- EIGHT
  - LAW
  - the
  - God]
  - 24 –x
  - came God]

Psalm…
119 is the longest chapter in the whole Bible…
each LETTER of Alphabet [Hebrew] – there EIGHT verses – verses in all…
words:
[25 – [תּוֹרָה x – Emphasizes WHAT WORD is [613 commandments of

- WORD [[דָּבָר – Emphasizes WHERE the WORD from [spoke by

- JUDGMENTS [23 – [מִשְׁפָּט]x - Emphasizes the PURPOSE for the Word [judge right from wrong]
- TESTIMONIES [23 – [עֵדָה]x – Emphasizes the EVIDENCE of the power of the WORD
- COMMANDMENTS [22 – [מִצְוָה]x – Emphasizes the INSTRUCTIONS given by the WORD
- STATUTES [21 – [חֹקִים]x – Emphasizes the WORD is UNCHANGING [engraved in stone]
- PRECEPTS [21 – [פִּקּוּדִים]x – Emphasizes the need to pay ATTENTION to details of the WORD
- WORD [19 – [אִמְרָה]x – Emphasizes who God is – He is the Word [λόγος]!

- Twelve letters…
  - We have looked at the first Twelve letters:
  - Aleph [א] – Beth [ב] – Gimel [ג] – Daleth [ד] - He [ה] - Vav [ו] - Zayin [ז] - Heth [ח]…
  - Tet [ט] – Yod [י] – Kaph [כ] – Lamed [ל]
  - We will continue today by going through the next FIVE!

The Word of God

- **13th – Mem [מ] – Love the Word… vs. 97-104**
  - 1st – For Love… vs. 97
    - How I love Your law! It is my meditation all day!
    - The Psalmist wrote how much he LOVED [perfect] the LAW [תּוֹרָה]
    - An easy thing to SAY – but his PROOF was in his actions…
    - He MEDITATED [thought] about the LAW all [כָּל] day…
    - And as he thought about the LAW – the LORD gave to him THREE amazing truths!
    - If I told you that I had a best friend – we were inseparable…
    - But when you asked how often I saw them – I said once a week – for about an hour!
    - A lot of Christians SAY they love the WORD – but there is a problem…
    - They do NOT spend much – or ANY – time in reading it…
    - Then they wonder why the LORD is not speaking to them…
    - The more time we spend in the WORD – the more God can show us from His WORD!
  - 2nd – For Wisdom… vs. 98-100
    - Wisdom…
      - Through Your commandments - make me wiser than my enemies. They are ever with me.
      - FIRST – through the COMMANDS of the Lord the Psalmist became WISE [piel]
      - WISE [חָכַם] – meaning to know how to avoid SIN – live a HOLY life…
      - WISDOM he needed because his ENEMY – was ALWAYS there [SIN – satan]!
    - From the Word…
      - I have more understanding than all my teachers - for Your testimonies are my meditation.
      - I understand more than the ancients - because I keep Your precepts!
      - The question becomes where did the Psalmist find this WISDOM…
      - He did not LEARN [שָׂכַל] it from teachers – instead he mediated [hiphil] on the TESTIMONY…
      - He did not understand [בִּין] because of the ELDERS [old] – instead he kept the PRECEPTS!

- We want to be WISER than our enemy [satan] – so he cannot defeat us…
- But WISDOM does not come from teachers [they can only take as far as they have been]
- And WISDOM does not come from experience [old age]
- Bottom line - WISDOM does NOT come from MEN – it can ONLY be found in God…
- And the way God speaks to us so we can have His WISDOM – is through His WORD!

- 3rd – From God… vs. 101-102
  - I have restrained my feet from every evil way - that I may keep Your word.
  - I have not departed from Your judgments - for You Yourself have taught me!
  - The Psalmist SHUT the door to EVERY evil path he might take…
  - What EVIL path did he have to AVOID – looking to MEN for WISDOM…
  - Because if he listened to MEN – he would DEPART from the JUDGEMENTS of God…
  - He did not need what MEN said – he needed what GOD Himself had taught [hiphil] him!
  - I have a general rule – I call it the FIVE minute check…
  - If I am listening to a PASTOR – and in FIVE minutes do not know where in the Bible he is…
  - Then I stop listening – because we do not need to hear opinion or stories!
  - It is concerning how many Christians quote BOOKS and AUTHORS…
  - There is a tendency to reference and quote TEACHERS – or ELDERS…
  - People are always willing to give us their opinions – their WORDS…
  - They might say GOOD things – but their WORDS are NOT what we need…
  - God does NOT promise to bless the words of men – He says His Word is powerful!
- 4th – For Truth… vs. 103-104
  - How sweet are Your words to my taste - sweeter than honey to my mouth!
  - Through Your precepts I get understanding. Therefore I hate every false way!
  - The Psalmist had tried the WISDOM of the world – and it did not satisfy…
  - But when he TASTED the Word of the LORD – it was better than HONEY [sweet]
  - Because through the PRECEPTS [details] of the Word – he UNDERSTOOD the TRUTH…
  - The WORD taught him to hate every LIE the world put in front of him!
  - **I Peter 2:1-3** – "Lay aside… all deceit… [instead] desire the pure milk of the word - that you may grow thereby - if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good."
  - The WORLD tell us we need THINGS – but possessions get old and break…
  - The WORLD tells us we need MONEY – but there will always be something more to buy…

- But we were NOT created by God to be FULFILLED by the things of this world...
- We were created by God to KNOW Jesus – and WORSHIP Him - **John 17:3**
- And once we have TASTED the WORD of the LORD – seen the TRUTH…
- Nothing in this world will ever be enough for us – nothing else will FULFILL us!

- **14th – Nun [נ] – Light of the Word … vs. 105-112**
  - 1st – The Light… vs. 105
    - Your word is a lamp to my feet - and a light to my path!
    - God is LIGHT – and there is no DARKNESS in Him – **I John 1:5**
    - Jesus is the LIGHT – that came into the world – **John 8:12**
    - And the WORD that comes from God – is His LIGHT that show us where to WALK…
    - But oddly – it is a LIGHT that God shines on our FEET!
    - I am a big believer in the FIVE year plan – I want to know where I am going…
    - But if I knew where I was going – I would NOT be looking to the Lord!
    - When we hold a flashlight - we shine it way out in front so we can see far away…
    - But the Word of God is a lamp to our FEET - it only shows the NEXT step…
    - Only when we take that step - we can then see the next step to take…
    - Because God wants us to be dependent on Him – He wants us to walk by FAITH!
    - **II Corinthians 5:7** – "For we walk by faith - not by sight."
  - 2nd – The Promise… vs. 106-108
    - I have sworn and [stand] that I will keep Your righteous judgments.
    - I am afflicted very much. Revive me - O LORD - according to Your word.
    - Accept - I pray -the freewill offerings of my mouth - O LORD. And teach me Your judgments!
    - Because the Psalmist had seen the LIGHT – he made [niphal] a PROMISE to God…
    - He would STAND up for what was RIGHT [צַדִּיק] – the JUDGMENTS of God…
    - JUDGEMENT that had HUMBLED [עָנָה] him – but the WORD could also give him LIFE…
    - Therefore he asked the LORD to accept the offering of his mouth [his promise]
    - And continue [piel] to teach him the JUDGMENTS of the WORD!
    - If someone was standing under a ROCK that was about to fall…
    - They might NOT like it if we YELLED at them – but it would also SAVE their life!

- The Word of God is not always a FUN thing to read…
- There is a REASON why the WORLD does NOT like it – **John 3:19**
- When they read they WORD – they find out they are going to be JUDGED – **Romans 6:23**
- But ignoring the JUDGMENT does not keep it from happening…
- Therefore we should WARN them – STAND up for the TRUTH…
- Because if they listen – and are HUMBLED – the Word can also give them LIFE!

- 3rd – The Choice… vs. 109-110
  - My life is continually in my hand - yet I do not forget Your law.
  - The wicked have laid a snare for me - yet I have not strayed from Your precepts!
  - The Psalmist understood his SOUL [נֶפֶשׁ] was always in his hand…
  - He had the POWER to decide where he would spend his ETERNITY…
  - Which is why he CHOSE not to FORGET the LAW of God…
  - Even if a wicked WORLD tried to trap him – he would not stray from the any of the PRECEPTS!
  - **Romans 10:16** – "Not everyone welcomes the Good News…" [NLT]
  - NOT everyone is going to be saved – but everyone has a CHOICE…
  - When we share the Gospel – people may reject us – or even mock us…
  - But consider the alternative – there is a VERY real consequence to not accepting Jesus…
  - We do not share Jesus because out of some sense of obligation – or for some reward...
  - We share cause of the very real danger of Hell - the destination for any who reject the Gospel…
  - Hell is not temporary – hell is the SECOND death – eternal separation from God…
  - Keeping people from Hell is worth ridicule - people are worth fighting for!
- 4th – The Reward… vs. 111-112
  - Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever - for they are the rejoicing of my heart.
  - I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes forever - to the very end!
  - The TESTIMONIES of God – was the inheritance of the Psalmist…
  - Hearing how GOD would SAVE sinners – brought JOY to his heart…
  - That is why he set his heart to follow the STATUES [unchanging] Word – to the END!
  - As believers we often talk about how we can take NOTHING with us to heaven…

- That is NOT entirely true – there is something we can bring…
- PEOPLE who have accepted Jesus – those who we get to share the Gospel with…
- I cannot think of a greater JOY – than knowing the people I love – are in HEAVEN…
- That is why – to the very END – we must continue to preach the WORD!
- **Romans 10:17** – "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

- **15th - Samek [ס] – Protected by the Word … vs. 113-120**
  - 1st – Double minded… vs. 113-114
    - I hate the double-minded - but I love Your law.
    - You are my hiding place and my shield. I hope in Your word!
    - The Psalmist hated those who were DIVIDED – cannot decide between the WORD and WORLD…
    - Because the WORLD can do NOTHING to protect us from the JUDGEMENT of God…
    - Therefore the Psalmist only put his HOPE [יָחַל] in the WORD!
    - **James 1:8** – "A double-minded man - unstable in all his ways!"
    - If we are DOUBLE minded – TWO minds – one for God and one for the world…
    - The result of having TWO minds – will be we are unstable in ALL of our ways…
    - UNSTABLE [ἀκατάστατος] – only place in the NT – meaning we cannot even STAND UP!
    - I have met so many believers who are miserable – they are tossed about like waves…
    - The problem is they think the WISDOM of the world has something to offer them…
    - Therefore they are miserable in the Lord – because they are confused by the world…
    - But they are also not happy with the world – because they know too much about the Lord…
    - They are miserable wherever they go – they CANNOT stand - because they are divided!
    - **I Corinthians 5:11** – "[Do] not to keep company with anyone named a brother - who is [caught up in unrepentant sin – do] not even to eat with such a person."
  - 2nd – Unbelievers… vs. 115
    - Depart from me you evildoers - for I will keep the commandments of my God!
    - Those who follow the WISDOM of the WORLD – will end up [hiphil] doing EVIL…
    - The Psalmist told them to DEPART [imperative] from him…
    - Because his desire [cohortative] was to KEEP the commandments of his GOD!
    - If a big man is standing on a chair – even a small girl can pull him off…

- Because he is not just fighting the girl – he is fighting GRAVITY!
- We might not think it is a big deal to hang around with UNBELIEVERS…
- But they will have an INFLUENCE on our lives – **I Corinthians 15:33**
- Although we are called to be a LIGHT in a DARK world…
- We are NOT to have FELLOWSHIP with those who reject Jesus…
- Even if we think we are STRONG in our faith – SIN [gravity] can still pull us down!
- **II Corinthians 6:17** – "Come out from among them and be separate - says the Lord."

o 3rd – The protection… vs. 116-117

- Uphold me according to Your word that I may live - and do not let me be ashamed of my hope.
- Hold me up and I shall be safe - and I shall observe Your statutes continually!
- The Psalmist asked the LORD [imperative] to help him LEAN on the WORD – so he could LIVE…
- Then he would NOT be ashamed when God INSPECTED [שַׁבָּר] him…
- If the Lord supported [imperative] him – he would be SAVED – and always look to His STATUES!
- What will people say when they STAND before God – **Revelation 20:11**
- They might think they will argue – they were a GOOD person…
- Or they might try and justify themselves through their RELIGION…
- But the truth is – when God inspects them – they will be SILENT – **Matthew 22:12**
- The only PROTECTION we can have from the JUDGMENT of God…
- Is to LEAN upon His eternal WORD [statues] – we are SAFE when we put our FAITH in Jesus!

o 4th – The Judgement… vs. 118-120

- You reject all those who stray from Your statutes - for their deceit is falsehood.
- You put away all the wicked of the earth like dross. Therefore I love Your testimonies.
- My flesh trembles for fear of You - and I am afraid of Your judgments!
- God will reject ANYONE [כָּל] who walks away from His Eternal Word [statues]
- Those who believe the LIE [they did not need Jesus] – and were therefore DECEIVED…
- When God purifies the earth – all the wicked will be removed like DROSS [impurities]
- Knowing this caused the Psalmist to TREMBLE and FEAR the JUDGEMENTS of God…
- But he also LOVED the TESTIMONIES of God – knowing there is HOPE!

- The world LIES – and tries to DECEIVE us – that ALL doors lead to heaven…
- Partially true – ALL doors lead to the White Throne Judgement – **Revelation 20:11**
- But there is only ONE way that leads to heaven – and that is through Jesus!
- **John 14:6** – "I am the way - the truth - and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

- **16th – Ayin [ע] – Blessed by the Word … vs. 121-128**
  - 1st – Good servant… vs. 121-122
    - I have done justice and righteousness. Do not leave me to my oppressors.
    - Be surety for Your servant for good. Do not let the proud oppress me!
    - The Psalmist had done his best to live a JUST and RIGHTEOUS [צַדִּיק] life…
    - Therefore [hiphil] - he asked the LORD to NOT leave Him to those who wronged him…
    - Guarantee [surety] God would do him GOOD – and not let the PROUD harm him!
    - Does doing what is GOOD – protect from those who are BAD…
    - The short answer is does HELP – because it means we are not living in SIN…
    - But that does NOT mean we will NEVER go through TRIALS…
    - Job was a GOOD man – but his whole world crumbled around him!
    - When life falls apart – we want to know WHO to blame…
    - Is it a consequence of our SIN – an attack of SATAN – or a trial from GOD…
    - We need to learn NOT to look for the SOURCE – instead look for the SOLUTION…
    - Hard times in life are a guarantee [**John 16:33**] but it does not matter where they come from…
    - What matters is that God uses those hardships to get us to run to Him!
  - 2nd – Blind servant… vs. 123-125
    - My eyes fail from seeking Your salvation and Your righteous word.
    - Deal with Your servant according to Your mercy - and teach me Your statutes.
    - I am Your servant. Give me understanding - that I may know Your testimonies!
    - The Psalmist had a hard time SEEING the SALVATION that came from the WORD of God…
    - But he asked the LORD to deal with him according to His unending LOVE [חֶסֶד]
    - If the Lord taught [piel] His STATUES – the Psalmist would have [hiphil] UNDERSTANDING…
    - And would SEE [יָדַע] his life become one of the TESTIMONIES of the LORD!
    - One of the main complaints about the Bible – is people cannot see Jesus…

- They have a HARD time believing – because they cannot SEE God!
- We might not be able to SEE our salvation – but we can see what He does…
- As God transforms our lives – by His LOVE – we become NEW creations – **II Corinthians 5:17**
- Our lives become the TESTIMONY of the TRUTH of His Word…
- So the next time someone asks us to PROVE Jesus is real – just look at our lives!
- **II Corinthians 3:2** – "You are our epistle written in our hearts - known and read by all men."

- 3rd – Impatient servant… vs. 126
  - It is time for You to act - O LORD - for they have regarded Your law as void!
  - The Psalmist wanted the LORD to act NOW – because men had BROKEN His LAW…
  - HOW long would He allow the WICKED to go unpunished!
  - **I Peter 3:9** – "[God] is longsuffering toward us - not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance!"
  - God WAITS so that men might NOT perish [eternal destruction]
  - This is NOT saying that ALL men will be saved…
  - This is saying by not JUDGING today – God gives us TIME to REPENT and before He JUDGES!
  - If Jesus had come back 30 years ago - how many of us would be in heaven!
  - Just because the VENGEANCE of God has not come – does NOT mean it is not coming...
  - God shows amazing PATIENCE - because He desires for MANY to be saved!
- 4th – Rich servant… vs. 127-128
  - Therefore I love Your commandments more than gold – yes - than fine gold!
  - Therefore all Your precepts concerning all things I consider to be right. I hate every false way!

  - YES [כֵּן] - Psalmist LOVED the commands of God – more than the finest [24k] GOLD…
  - Because YES [כֵּן] – ALL the PRECEPT of the LORD – were always RIGHT…
  - Therefore - he hated EVERY false road that would lead him away from the TRUTH!
  - The INFLUENCE of a MONEY obsessed world has managed to creep into the church…
  - There is a movement in Christianity called the Word of Faith…
  - Teaching if we only have enough FAITH – and SPEAK it - God has to do what we say…
  - This flows into what is called the PROSPERITY Gospel – God wants us to WEALTHY!

- **Philippians 3:18-19** - "They are enemies of the cross of Christ. Their future is eternal destruction. Their god is their appetite... all they think about is this life here on earth."
- The Gospel is NOT about getting rich - a better life here and now...
- If we are looking for MONEY as a reward for our obedience to Christ…
- We will be disappointed – God promises us tribulation here – **John 16:33**
- The rewards for serving Jesus are far greater - they are eternal – it is about heaven!

- **17TH – PE [פ] – WONDERS OF THE WORD … VS. 129-136**
  - 1st – Amazed… vs. 129
    - Your testimonies are wonderful. Therefore my soul keeps them!
    - What God has done [Testimonies] in the past is WONDERFUL [פְּלֶא]
    - Knowing those WONDERS – is what causes the soul to KEEP His WORD!
    - We have a GOD who can part OCEANS – He can raise the DEAD…
    - He is the God who with a WORD created the heaven and the earth…
    - Our God is a God of WONDERS – there is NOTHING impossible for Him!
    - **Mark 10:27 –** "With men it is impossible - but not with God. With God all things are possible."
    - We will ALL have our moments of WEAKNESS – when we DOUBT…
    - The solution is to remember the WONDERS of the LORD – all He has done…
    - Because although we may DOUBT when we look at the PRESENT…
    - If we REMEMBER all God has done for us in the PAST – we will see He is ALWAYS faithful…
    - And our God who NEVER changes – will also take care of us FUTURE – **Hebrews 13:8**
  - 2nd – Thirsty… vs. 130-131
    - The entrance of Your words gives light. It gives understanding to the simple.
    - I opened my mouth and panted - for I longed for Your commandments!
    - Opening the WORD – lights the WAY for the SIMPLE…
    - SIMPLE – from the verb [פָּתָה] – meaning to be on the wide WAY…
    - There are only TWO paths people can walk down – WIDE and NARROW - **Matthew 7:13**
    - Considering where the WIDE path leads [hell] – and how many SIMPLE walk down it…
    - The Psalmist opened his mouth – THIRSTY for the commands of the LORD!
    - If you have every been REALLY thirsty – it is overwhelming craving…

- When we are dehydrated – it is ALL we can think about - we need that WATER to live!
- If people understood the END of the road they were walking down…
- They would have an unquenchable THIRST for the Word of God…
- Because ONLY the WORD can LIGHT the WAY – so we KNOW how to be SAVED!
- **John 7:37-38** – "If anyone thirsts - let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me - as the Scripture has said - out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

○ 3rd – Maturity… vs. 132-135

- Look…
  - Look upon me and be merciful to me - as Your custom is toward those who love Your name!
  - The LIGHT of the WORD – caused the Psalmist to ask for FOUR things from God…
  - FIRST – Look at him through the lens of GRACE [חָנַן]
  - JUDGE him according in way that remembers he LOVED the NAME of the Lord!
  - The FIRST thing we see when we come to the WORD – is we need GRACE…
  - We are NOT good – but God still wants to give us HEAVEN – **Ephesians 2:8**
- Direct…
  - Direct my steps by Your word - and let no iniquity have dominion over me!
  - SECOND – The Psalmist pleaded [imperative] with God to direct [hiphil] his STEPS…
  - Because only with the LORD directing him – could he have VICTORY over ALL [כָּל] sin!
  - We are saved by GRACE – but that does not mean we do not struggle with SIN…
  - The ONLY way to have VICTORY over SIN – is by coming to the WORD…
  - When the LORD is the one DIRECTING our daily WALK…
  - He can give us the GRACE to overcome ANY sin that we struggle with!
  - **Romans 6:14** – "Sin shall not have dominion over you. You are not under law but under grace."
- Redeem…
  - Redeem me from the oppression of man - that I may keep Your precepts!
  - THIRD – the Psalmist asked God to RANSOM him from the mistake of ADAM [אָדָם]
  - Then he would be able to keep all the PRECEPTS of the WORD!
  - When Adam rebelled against the Lord – ate of the Tree of Knowledge…
  - A CURSE fell on mankind – we were all BORN into SIN!
  - **Romans 5:12-15** – "Therefore - just as through [Adam] sin entered the world - and death through sin… much more the grace of God through Jesus Christ abounded to many."
  - We are not SINNERS because we SIN – we SIN because we are SINNERS…
  - But Jesus came to RANSOM us – pay the price for our SIN…
  - So that we could be set from the curse of SIN – set free to live for God!
- Shine…
  - Make Your face shine upon Your servant - and teach me Your statutes!
  - Fourth – the Psalmist asked God to SHINE His face on him…
  - Now that he was forgiven by GRACE – directed by the WORD…
  - REDEEMED from the CURSE of Adam – God could look on at him…
  - Teaching [piel] him the unchanging WORD [statues] – so he would GROW!
  - God does not see us as we were – He sees us as perfect in Jesus…

- And His desire for us is to GROW – mature in our walk with Him!
- **II Peter 3:18** – "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

- 4th – Tears… vs. 136
  - Rivers of water run down from my eyes - because men do not keep Your law!
  - The Psalmist had seen the WONDERS of God…
  - The LIGHT of the WORD had shown him the narrow PATH…
  - And he had experienced the GRACE – DIRECTION – REDEMPTION – of God…
  - Knowing the Lord could now SHINE His face down on His servant…
  - BUT – the Psalmist wept river of tear - KNOWING others were still LOST!
  - It is NOT enough for us to be SAVED – there is a lost WORLD who is still lost…
  - The prayer is the LORD causes our heart to BREAK – for a world that needs Jesus!
  - **Matthew 28:19-20** – "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations - baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you!"