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July memory verse **Psalm 46:10-11 (NKJV)**

¹⁰ Be still, and know that I *am* God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

¹¹ The LORD of hosts *is* with us; The God of Jacob *is* our refuge. Selah

Commentary on Psalms 119 VERSES 25-56 by Chuck Smith

Background info by Dr. Jack Hyles 7/12/2020

With additional background information on Psalms

Now as we get to [Psalm 119](#), it is an extremely difficult psalm for exposition, because each section seems to be more or less independent of in itself, and each verse, many times, almost independent within itself.

There are many psalms that are called acrostic psalms because the first letter of each line is a succeeding letter of the Hebrew alphabet. And so it's sort of like a crossword puzzle in a sense, wherein writing it, each line that they would write would begin with the successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. So the first line would begin with Aleph, the second line would begin with Beth. The third line with Gimel, and Daleth, and so forth through their alphabet. Usually those psalms had twenty-two verses in them. Many of them had eleven verses, but they had twenty-two lines. So when we divided them we divided, or when men divided them they divided them into verses. But there are twenty-two lines. And so each succeeding line and some with each succeeding verse is successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Now this every eight verses, all of the lines in the first eight verses begin with the Hebrew letter Aleph or A. In the next eight verses, all of the lines begin with the Hebrew letter, Beth, B. All of the verses in the next psalm begin with Gimel, and so on through the whole Hebrew alphabet is here in this psalm, eight verses devoted to each letter. Each verse of the eight beginning with that letter.

Now the Hebrew children in learning their alphabet were required to memorize this one-hundred-and-nineteenth psalm. It would probably be a little easier for them to memorize it because of the fact of it being an acrostic. Because of the A's and the B's and the C's. And it would be extremely difficult for us to memorize it because we would not have the same ability to relate it to the A and the B and the C as they did. But it is, of course, the longest what they call chapter in the Bible. It really... psalms really aren't chapters. They are each one psalms. So with that as a background, let's jump in to [Psalm 119](#).

Moving into the next section, the Daleth.

My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word. I have declared my ways, and you heard me: teach me thy statutes. Make me to understand the way of your precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works. My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen me with thy word ([Psa 119:25-28](#)).

Oh, what strength the Word of God is to our lives. When we're just about ready to give in and roll over and play dead, and the Word comes and just is such strength to us.

Remove me from the way of lying: grant me thy law graciously. I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me. I have stuck unto thy testimonies: O LORD, put me not to shame. I will run the way of the commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart ([Psa 119:29-32](#)).

Now the interesting thing about this is that each of these is talking about the Word of God. Each of them, remember, is beginning with a particular letter of the alphabet. And really, he is not repeating himself. Now it would be an interesting venture on your part to try to write eight verses about the Word of God all beginning with A, and not repeating yourself. And then write eight more beginning with the letter B, about different aspects of the Word of God and not repeat yourself. And going through the alphabet, you'll find that this is indeed quite a remarkable feat of this psalm. As all of these things are written about the Word of God, really no repetitions, saying different things about God's Word and going through the whole alphabet.

In the next section, he speaks of the statutes.

Teach me, LORD, the way of your statutes; I will keep it to the end. Give me understanding, I will keep thy law; I shall observe it with a whole heart. Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein I delight. Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken me according to thy way. Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy reverence. Turn away my reproach which I fear: for thy judgments are good. Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: quicken me in thy righteousness ([Psa 119:33-40](#)).

And then in the next section,

Thy mercies come also unto me, O LORD, even thy salvation, according to thy word ([Psa 119:41](#)).

And so the mercy of God and God's salvation-the knowledge of these things come to us through the Word of God. "How can they hear, how can they believe in whom they have not heard?" ([Romans 10:14](#)) So the necessity of the Word, for me to know the mercy of God and the salvation that God has provided.

So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproaches me: for I trust in thy word ([Psa 119:42](#)).

And so within the Word, the answer to those that bring reproach.

And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgments. So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever. And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts. I will speak of thy testimonies also before the kings, and not be ashamed. And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved. My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes ([Psa 119:43-48](#)).

Thy commandments, Thy statutes, Thy testimonies, Thy precepts, Thy Word, Thy judgments. All of these in the particular letter in the Hebrew alphabet here.

Now the next section. The Word.

Remember the word unto your servant. This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me ([Psa 119:49](#), [50](#)).

So God's Word, the comfort to me when I am afflicted.

The proud had me greatly in derision: yet have I not declined from thy law. I remembered thy judgments of old, O LORD; and have comforted myself. Horror hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked that forsake thy law. Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage. I have remembered thy name, O LORD, in the night, and have kept thy law. This I had, because I kept thy precepts ([Psa 119:51-56](#)).

I kept Your law. I kept Your precepts.

Additional background information on Psalms

Introduction to Psalms

The value of the Old Testament to the Christian is expressed several times in the New Testament:

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. ([Ro 15:4](#))

Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. ([1 Co 10:11](#))

Paul reminded Timothy of the importance of the Old Testament scriptures he had learned as a child:

But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. ([2 Ti 3:14-17](#))

Of the books of the Old Testament, this is especially true of the book of Psalms! The value of the Psalms for the Christian is so great, we should do what we can to become more familiar with them. Allow me to elaborate...

Why Study The Psalms?

As Christians, we are commanded to utilize the Psalms:

Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ([Ep 5:19](#))

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ([Co 3:16](#))

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. ([Ja 5:13](#))

Thus the Psalms are useful for singing praises to God. They are also useful for teaching and confirming that Jesus is the Christ or Messiah. Note the use Jesus made of them ([Lk 24:44-47](#)), and also Peter's use of them in his first gospel sermon ([Ac 2:25-28,34-35](#)).

It has been said that in the Psalms one finds "expressed the eager yearning and longing for God's presence". It certainly contains "prayers and songs of joyous trust and praise." Indeed, every emotion known to man is expressed in beautiful and inspired terms (e.g., joy, anger, praise, repentance, trust, even doubt). Filled with some emotion for which you cannot find the words to express it? It is likely you will find it expressed in the book of Psalms!

I would therefore suggest that the Psalms are capable of serving as:

- **The Christian's "hymnal"** to assist us in our praise to God
- **The Christian's "prayer book"** in which we learn how to approach God in prayer
- **The Christian's "book of evidences"** to strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ

- **The Christian's "training guide"** for living holy and righteous lives before God

The Aim Of This Study

It is my prayer that as we study this book we will accomplish the following goals:

Become more familiar with Old Testament poetry - This is essential to getting more out the Psalms, and important if we are to avoid misinterpreting them

Develop an appreciation and working knowledge of the Psalms - So one may utilize them for his or her own comfort and encouragement, and in counseling and comforting others

Glean a clearer picture of God's character - To better understand His love, mercy and deliverance towards the righteous, but also His wrath and judgment against the wicked

Learn more of the Christ in prophecy - To note descriptions of His suffering and glorious reign found in the Psalms, some of which are not found elsewhere in Scripture

Consider examples of fulfilled prophecies - To see in fulfilled prophecy irrefutable arguments for the inspiration of the Scriptures, and for the claim that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah

These are just a few of the reasons why the Book of Psalms should be read and studied by every Christian, and hopefully this study will help to meet these objectives.