

PSALM 119 LETTERS AND MEANINGS

Psalm 119 contains the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. There are 8 verses per letter describing the meaning of the letter. [Young's concordance provides additional definitions.](#)

א ALEPH

- 1 Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord.
- 2 Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.
- 3 They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways.
- 4 Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently.
- 5 O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!
- 6 Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.
- 7 I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments.
- 8 I will keep thy statutes: O forsake me not **utterly**

[ALEPH ALAPH learn, teach, utter](#)
[ALAPH bring forth thousands](#)
[ALAPH thousand](#)
[ALAPH faint, overlaid, wrap self](#)

ב BETH

- 9 Wherewithal shall a young man **cleanse** his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.
- 10 With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.
- 11 Thy word have I **hid in** my heart, that I might not sin against thee.
- 12 Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes.
- 13 With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth.
- 14 I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.
- 15 I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways.
- 16 I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.

[BETH BETH](#)
[BAYITH house](#)
[BATH company, daughter, town](#)
[BATH bath](#)
[BETHULAH maid, maiden, virgin](#)
[BETHULIM maid, virginity](#)
[BITHAN palace](#)

ג GIMEL

- 17 Deal **bountifully** with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word.
- 18 Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.
- 19 I am a stranger in the earth: hide not thy commandments from me.
- 20 My soul breaketh for the longing that it hath unto thy judgments at all times.
- 21 Thou hast rebuked the proud that are cursed, which do err from thy commandments.
- 22 Remove from me reproach and contempt; for I have kept thy testimonies.
- 23 Princes also did sit and speak against me: but thy servant did meditate in thy statutes.
- 24 Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors.

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GIMEL GAMAL bestow on, deal bountifully, reward, serve, wean, weaned child
GAMAL camel
GEMUL benefit, that which he hath given, recompense, reward

7 DALETH

25 My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word.
26 I have declared my **ways**, and thou heardest me: teach me thy statutes.
27 Make me to understand the **way** of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works.
28 My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word.
29 Remove from me the **way** of lying: and grant me thy law graciously.
30 I have chosen the **way** of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me.
31 I have stuck unto thy testimonies: O Lord, put me not to shame.
32 I will run the **way** of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart.

DALETH
DAL door
DALAH door
DELETH door, gate, lid, leaf
DALIYOTH branches

7 HE

33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.
34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.
35 Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.
36 Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness.
37 Turn away mine eyes from **beholding** vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.
38 Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear.
39 Turn away my reproach which I fear: for thy judgments are good.
40 **Behold**, I have longed after thy precepts: quicken men in thy righteousness.

HE HE behold, lo
HE even
HU he, himself

7 VAU

41 Let thy mercies come also unto me, O Lord, even thy salvation, according to thy word.
42 So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in thy word.
43 **And** take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgments.
44 So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever.
45 **And** I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts.
46 I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, **and** will not be ashamed.
47 **And** I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved.
48 My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; **and** I will meditate in thy statutes.

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VAU
VAU hook
VA, VE and

י ZAIN

49 Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope.
50 This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.
51 The proud have had me greatly in derision: yet have I not declined from thy law.
52 I remembered thy **judgments** of old, O Lord; and have comforted myself.
53 **Horror** hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked that forsake thy law.
54 Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage.
55 I have remembered thy name, O Lord, in the night, and have kept thy law.
56 This I had, because I kept thy precepts.

ZAIN
ZAN divers kinds, kind
ZUN be fed
AZEN weapon
AZAN hear, give ear

כ CHETH

57 Thou art my portion, O Lord: I have said that I would keep thy words.
58 I intreated thy favour with my whole heart: be merciful unto me according to thy word.
59 I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.
60 I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments.
61 The bands of the wicked have robbed me: but I have not forgotten thy law.
62 At **midnight** I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments.
63 I am a companion of all them that **fear** thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.
64 The earth, O Lord, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes.

CHETH
CHATAAH sin, sin offering
CHATH broken, dismayed, dread, fear
CHATHAM mark, seal
CHOTHAM seal up, cover
CHET offence, sin

ט TETH

65 Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O Lord, according unto thy word.
66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy **commandments**.
67 Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.
68 Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes.
69 The proud have a lie forged against me: but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart.
70 Their heart is as fat as grease; but I delight in thy **law**.
71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted: that I might learn thy statutes.

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72 The **law** of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.

TETH

DATH commandment, law, commission, decree

TIT clay, dirt, mire

י JOD

73 Thy **hands** have made me and fashioned me; give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.

74 They that fear thee will be glad when they see me; because I have hoped in thy word.

75 I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.

76 Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant.

77 Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is my delight.

78 Let the proud be ashamed; for they dealt perversely with me without a cause: but I will meditate in thy precepts.

79 Let those that fear thee turn unto me, and those that have known thy testimonies.

80 Let my heart be sound in thy statutes; that I be not ashamed.

YOD

YAD hand, power

YAD border, coast, dominion, parts, order, ordinance, place, power, ministry, service

כ ך KAPH

81 My soul fainteth for thy salvation: but I hope in thy word.

82 Mine eyes fail for thy word, saying, When wilt thou comfort me?

83 For I am become like a bottle **in the smoke**; yet do I not forget thy statutes.

84 How many are the days of thy servant? when wilt thou execute judgment on them that persecute me?

85 The proud have digged pits for me, which are not after thy law.

86 All thy commandments are faithful: they persecute me wrongfully; help thou me.

87 They had almost consumed me upon earth; but I forsook not thy precepts.

88 Quicken me after thy lovingkindness; so shall I keep the testimony of thy mouth.

KAPH

KAPH branch, cloud, handle, middle

KAPHAL double, paralyze, curdle

QAPHA be doubled, be congealed, that are settled

KEPHEL double

KEPHATH be bound

ל LAMED

89 For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.

90 Thy faithfulness is unto all **generations**: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth.

91 They continue this day according to thine **ordinances**: for all are thy **servants**.

92 Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction.

93 I will never forget thy **precepts**: for with them thou hast quickened me.

94 I am thine, save me; for I have sought thy **precepts**.

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95 The wicked have waited for me to destroy me: but I will consider thy testimonies.

96 I have seen an end of all perfection: but thy commandment is exceeding broad.

LAMED

LAMED learn, skilful, instruct, be taught, teach

LIMMUD disciple

LEOM nation, people

מ ך MEM

97 O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.

98 Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me.

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.

100 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.

101 I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy **word**.

102 I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me.

103 How **sweet** are thy **words** unto my taste! yea, **sweeter** than honey to my mouth!

104 Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

MEM

MUM blemish, blot, spot

MIMKAR sale, that was sold, ware

MIMKERETH as

MIMSHACH anointed

MIMSHAL dominion, that ruled

MEMSHALAH dominion, government rule

MEMAR appointment, word

MEMER bitterness

MAMLAKAH kingdom, reign, king's, royal

MAMMEGUROTH barns

MAMOTH death

MAMTAQQIM most sweet

נ ן NUN

105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

106 I have sworn, and I will perform it, that I will keep thy righteous judgments.

107 I am afflicted very much: quicken me, O Lord, according unto thy word.

108 Accept, I beseech thee, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O Lord, and teach me thy judgments.

109 My soul is **continually** in my hand: yet do I not forget thy law.

110 The wicked have laid a snare for me: yet I erred not from thy precepts.

111 Thy testimonies have I taken as an **heritage** for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart.

112 I have inclined mine heart to perform thy statutes always, even unto the end.

NUN NUN be continued

NIN son

ס SAMECH

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113 I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love.
114 Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.
115 Depart from me, ye evildoers: for I will keep the commandments of my God.
116 **Uphold** me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope.
117 **Hold** thou me **up**, and I shall be safe: and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually.
118 Thou hast trodden down all them that err from thy statutes: for their deceit is falsehood.
119 Thou putttest away all the wicked of the earth like dross: therefore I love thy testimonies.
120 My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; and I am afraid of thy judgments.

SAMECH

SAMEACH glad, joyful, merry, rejoice, be glad, be merry, have joy, cheer
SAMAK lie hard, be established, be stayed, lay lean, put, stand fast, sustain, be holden up, rest selves
SAMAL use the left, go to the left
SAMAN appointed
SAMAR tremble, stand up
SAMMIM sweet spices
SIM appoint, bring, call, cast, hold, lay, commit, bring, dispose, ordain, give, take, do

י AYIN

121 I have done judgment and justice: leave me not to mine oppressors.
122 Be surety for thy servant for good: let not the proud oppress me.
123 Mine **eyes** fail for thy salvation, and for the word of thy righteousness.
124 Deal with thy servant according unto thy mercy, and teach me thy statutes.
125 I am thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know thy testimonies.
126 It is time for thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void thy law.
127 Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.
128 Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.

AYIN

AYIN are not, be gone, be no, be without, come to nought, fail, is never, none, neither ware, nowhere, in or, nothing, was no, was not
AYIN colour, conceit, sight eye, face, fountain, resemblance, well, countenance, look, looks, knowledge, outward appearance, presence

פ ך PE

129 Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them.
130 The entrance of thy **words** giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.
131 I opened my **mouth**, and panted: for I longed for thy **commandments**.
132 Look thou upon me, and be merciful unto me, as thou usest to do unto those that love thy name.
133 Order my steps in thy **word**: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.
134 Deliver me from the oppression of man: so will I keep thy precepts.
135 Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; and teach me thy statutes.
136 **Rivers of waters run down mine eyes**, because they keep not thy law.

PE PAAH cry

PEH accord, appointment, command, commandment, edge, entry, hole, mind, mouth, part, on, saying, sentence, skirt, sound, speech, talk, wish, word

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צ ץ TZADDI

- 137 **Righteous** art thou, O Lord, and upright are thy judgments.
138 Thy **testimonies** that thou hast commanded are **righteous** and very faithful.
139 My zeal hath consumed me, because mine enemies have forgotten thy words.
140 Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.
141 I am small and despised: yet do not I forget thy precepts.
142 Thy **righteousness** is an everlasting **righteousness**, and thy law is the truth.
143 Trouble and anguish have taken hold on me: yet thy commandments are my delights.
144 The **righteousness** of thy **testimonies** is everlasting: give me understanding, and I shall live.

TZADDI TSAD side, one side, another, concerning, against
TSADAH hunt, lie in wait, be destroyed
TSADAQ do justice, be just, be righteous
TSADDIQ just, lawful, righteous

ק QOPH

- 145 I cried with my whole heart; hear me, O Lord: I will keep thy statutes.
146 I cried unto thee; save me, and I shall keep thy testimonies.
147 I **prevented** the dawning of the morning, and cried: I hoped in thy word.
148 Mine eyes **prevent** the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word.
149 Hear my voice according unto thy lovingkindness: O Lord, quicken me according to thy judgment.
150 They draw nigh that follow after mischief: they are far from thy law.
151 Thou art near, O Lord; and all thy commandments are truth.
152 Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever.

QOPH KAPHAR purge away, atonement
KOPHER bribe, ransom, satisfaction, sum of money
QAPHAD cut off
QAPHATS shut up, stop, be taken out of the way
QEPHADAH destruction
QOPH ape

ר RESH

- 153 Consider mine affliction, and deliver me: for I do not forget thy law.
154 Plead my cause, and deliver me: quicken me according to thy word.
155 Salvation is far from the **wicked**: for they seek not thy statutes.
156 Great are thy tender mercies, O Lord: quicken me according to thy judgments.
157 Many are my **persecutors** and mine **enemies**; yet do I not decline from thy testimonies.
158 I beheld the transgressors, and was grieved; because they kept not thy word.
159 Consider how I love thy precepts: quicken me, O Lord, according to thy lovingkindness.
160 Thy word is true from the **beginning**: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.

RESH RAASH quake, shake, earthquake, rushing
RESH poverty
RESH chief, head, sum
RESH iniquity, wickedness, wicked

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RESHIPH burning coals, burning heat
RESHITH first part
RASHA be wicked, guilty, ungodly
RISH poverty
RISHAH beginning
ROSH beginning ruler, top, head, forefront
RUSH needy, poor, lack

𐤅 SCHIN

161 Princes have persecuted me **without a cause**: by my heart standeth in awe of thy word.
162 I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.
163 I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love.
164 **Seven times a day** do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments.
165 Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.
166 Lord, I have hoped for thy salvation, and done thy commandments.
167 My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly.
168 I have kept thy precepts and thy testimonies: for all my ways are before thee.

SCHIN CHIN comely
CHINNAM without a cause, for naught, in vain, free, freely
SHINAN angels
SHANA change, be changed
SHANAH do again, be given to change, do the second time, alter, year, yearly
SHEN tooth, sharp
SHENA change
SHENT second time

𐤆 TAU

169 Let my cry come near before thee, O Lord: give me understanding according to thy word.
170 Let my supplication come before thee: deliver me according to thy word.
171 My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast **taught** me thy statutes.
172 My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness.
173 Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy precepts.
174 I have longed for thy salvation, O Lord; and thy law is my delight.
175 Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me.
176 I have **gone astray** like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.

TAU TA chamber, little chamber
TAA deceiver
TAAH pant, seduce, be out of the way
TAALAH curse
TAU desire, lust
TAUAH spin
TAUAH scrabble, limit, set (a mark)
TA