

Psalm 119 STUDENTS

176 verses

The most striking feature is its constant emphasis on God's written Word

Psalm 119 is anonymous (one of the 50 which are anonymous)

I. The amazing numerical structure

- a. God is order and design
- b. Psalm 119 has 22 stanzas each with 8 verses
- c. Each of the 22 stanzas is headed by one of the 22 Hebrew letters
- d. In the Hebrew it is remarkable acrostic with the first letter of each verse consisting of the letter corresponding to its stanza
 - i. Thus each of the 1st eight verses begin with Aleph
 - ii. Thus each of the 2nd eight verses begin with Beth
 - iii. Thus each of the 3rd eight verses begin with Gimel

Note: it is interesting to note how this Psalm which deals with God's written revelation should be so uniquely structured around the Hebrew alphabet.

1. Notice Revelation 1:8 and 22:13 – Jesus said "I am Alpha and Omega." There are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. This claim signifies Him as the very author of all language.
 2. The gift of language is a unique gift of God to man not shared in any degree by animals and is totally inexplicable on any evolutionary basis.
 3. Language was given for the very purpose of 1) enabling God to reveal Himself and His will to men and 2) for men to respond in praise to God.
- e. The number 8
- i. Symbolic of _____ (Christ arose at the end of 7 and at the beginning of 8) and _____.
 1. It is through the written Word that we receive eternal life (Romans 10:13; 1 Peter 1:23)
 2. There are 8 other "resurrections" in the Bible.
 - a. 3 in the ministry of Elijah and Elisha – 1 Kings 17:22; 2 Kings 4:34-35, 13:21
 - b. 3 in Jesus' ministry – Matthew 9:24-25; Luke 7:15; John 11:44
 - c. 2 in the apostle's ministry – Acts 9:40-41, 20:9-12
 3. There are 8 different Hebrew words used in Psalm 119 to describe the scriptures
 - a. Torah = law (25)
 - b. Edah = testimony (23)
 - c. Debar = word (23)
 - d. Chuggah = statute (22)
 - e. Imrah = word (19)
 - f. Mishpat = judgement (21)
 - g. Piquud = precept (21)
 - h. Mitzvah = commandment (22)

Total number of times these occur = 176 (same as verses)

(Note: 6 verses contain no reference and 6 contain 2 references to the written Word.)

II. Purpose

- a. It is interesting to note that a different aspect of the life of a believer can be found in each of the stanzas when Psalm 119 is read as a “spiritual diary.” It is as though one who has experienced many and varied circumstances has found guidance and victory in the Word.
- b. Each stanza seems to have a dominant theme while also containing “overtones” of other themes both past and future which coincides with life where man experiences are repeated to a greater or lesser degree.
- c. Let’s list what appears to be the dominant theme of each.
 - i. Aleph: conviction of sin through the Word
 - ii. Beth: regeneration and victory by the Word
 - iii. Gimel: nurture and growth
 - iv. Daleth: confession of sin and renewed victory
 - v. He: continued instruction in the Word for true character growth
 - vi. Vau: witnessing to others
 - vii. Zain: comfort in suffering
 - viii. Cheth: fellowship of believers
 - ix. Teth: chastisement following disobedience
 - x. Jod: submission to God’s Word under affliction
 - xi. Caph: persecution and deliverance
 - xii. Lamed: security in the Word
 - xiii. Mem: understanding the Word
 - xiv. Nun: guidance by the Word
 - xv. Samech: protection by God’s promises
 - xvi. Ain: settled obedience
 - xvii. Pe: light and victory
 - xviii. Tzaddi: zeal for the truth
 - xix. Koph: increasing faith
 - xx. Resh: deliverance from all evils
 - xxi. Scchin: settled peace
 - xxii. Tau: final salvation

A. **Eight** things the Bible is:

1. Water for cleansing (9) – this section (9-16) deals with victory over sin
2. Wealth and treasure (14, 72, 127, 162) – there is a big difference between price and value. The Bible may not cost you much, but it is a treasure of infinite worth.
3. A companion and friend (24)
4. A song (54)
5. Honey (103)
6. A lamp (105, 130)
7. Great spoil (162)
8. A heritage (111)

B. What the Bible does:

1. It blesses (1-2)
2. It gives life (25, 37, 40, 50, 88, 93) – 1 Peter 1:23
3. It gives strength (28)
4. It gives liberty (45) – John 8:32
5. It imparts wisdom (66, 97-104)
6. It creates friends (63)
7. It gives comfort (76, 92, 50, 82)
8. It gives direction (133) – the Word directs our steps in both walking and running (32). Note prayers 35, 116-117

C. What we should do with the Bible:

1. Love it (97, 159) – “the way you treat your Bible is the way you treat Christ.”
2. Prize it (128, 72)
3. Study it (7, 12, 18, 26-27)
4. Memorize it (11)
5. Meditate on it (15, 23, 48, 78, 148, 97, 99) – to turn over, to examine it. Meditation is to the soul what digestion is to the body.
6. Trust it (42) – about everything (128)
7. Obey it (1-8)
8. Declare it (13, 26)