

THE MEANING OF TORAH

PSALM 119



INTRODUCTION

- Longest Psalm collection
- 22 Sections (8 verses each) that begin with subsequent letters-- אAleph, בBeth, גGimel, etc.
- Vast dimensions of Torah explored
- Most famous text--Psalm 119:105
- [נNun] “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.”
- Guiding & interpretive metaphor



DIVERSE VOCABULARY FOR TORAH

- 119:1—Law of the Lord
- 119:2,14 —Statutes
- 119:4,15 —Precepts
- 119:5, 8, 12—decrees
- 119:6, 10—commands
- 119:7, 13—righteous laws
- 119:9, 11,16 —Your word



POINTS TO CONSIDER

1. Verses 1 & 2 start off with
“Blessed”

2. This state tied to Torah

3. Verse 1—“ways are blameless”
is equivalent to ...

“walk acc. to law of the Lord.”



POINTS TO CONSIDER

4. Positive statement—Via Positiva, instead of Via Negativa of Psalm 1:1

5. 119:2—**Keep** equals “seek him with all their heart”

Keep=Psalm 19:11; 25:10; 37:34; 78:7, 10, 56—Israel’s history of NOT keeping



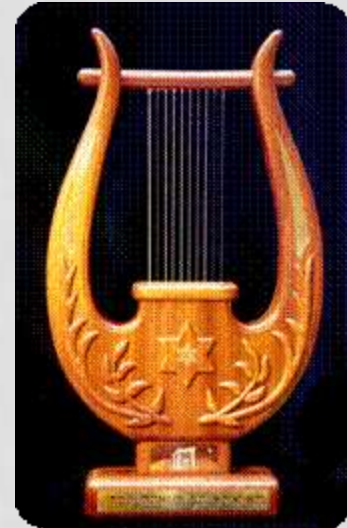
POINTS TO CONSIDER

- Emphasis on **“heart”** in relationship to Torah
- 14 of 127x occur in 119
- Look at the emphasis in just first 16 verses...



PSALM 119:2

- **Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart**



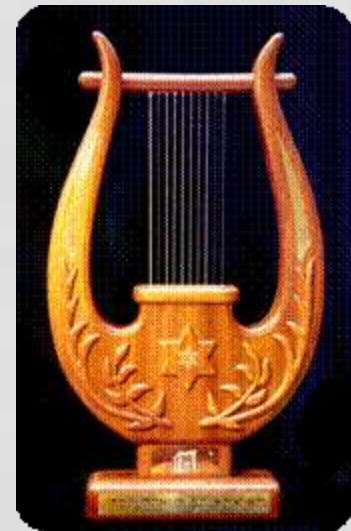
PSALM 119:7

- I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws



PSALM 119:10

- I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.



PSALM 119:11

- I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.



POINTS TO CONSIDER

- Verses 5 and 6 seem to be connected to the question in verse 9.—Moral quandry
- “How can a young person stay on the path of purity?”

FOUNDATION FOR IMPLORING

- **Torah provides basis for the Psalmist to make 3 pleas:**

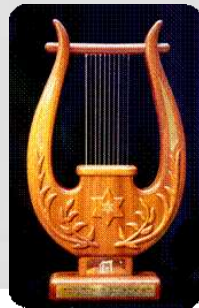


1. v.8—Do not utterly forsake me
2. V.10—Do not let me stray from your commands
3. V.12—Teach me your decrees

TORAH MOTIVATES PROMISES

What the Psalmist says he will do

- 1. v.7—I will praise you as I learn
- 2. v.8—I will obey your decrees
- 3. v.16—I will not neglect your word



COVENANT ASSUMPTIONS



- **V.4**--You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed.
- **V.11**--I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you
- **V.14**--I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches

CONCLUSION



- **diverse vocabulary**
- **emphasis on heart**
- **moral quandry**
- **foundation for imploring**
- **motivates promises**
- **covenant assumptions**