

Psalm 119

4. ⁷Then will I praise with upright heart,
and magnify thy name:
When I shall learn of thy judgements just,
and likewise prove the same.
⁸And wholly will I give myself
to keep thy laws most right:
Forsake me not forever, Lord,
but show thy grace and might.
5. ⁹By what means may a young man best,
his life learn to amend?
If that he mark and keep thy word,
and therein his time spend.
¹⁰Unfeinedly I have thee sought,
and thus seeking abide:
Oh, never suffer me, O Lord,
from thy precepts to slide.
6. ¹¹Within mine heart and secret thoughts,
thy words I have hid still:
That I might not at any time
offend thy godly will.
¹²We magnify thy name, O Lord,
and praise thee evermore:
Thy statutes of most worthy fame,
O Lord, teach me therefore.
7. ¹³My lips have never ceased to preach,
and publish day and night:
The judgements all, which did proceed,
from thy mouth full of might.
¹⁴Thy testimonies and thy ways
please me no less indeed:
Then all the treasures of the earth
which worldlings⁶⁷ make their need.
8. ¹⁵Of thy precepts I will still muse,
and thereto frame my talk:
As at a mark, so will I aim,
thy ways how I may walk.
¹⁶Mine only joy shall be so fixed
and on thy laws so set,
That nothing can me so far blind
that I thy words forget.
9. ¹⁷Grant to thy servant now such grace,
as may my life prolong:
Thine holy word then will I keep,
both in mine heart and tongue.
¹⁸Mine eyes which were dim and shut up
so open and make bright:
That of thy law and marvellous works,
I may have the clear sight.
10. ¹⁹I am a stranger in this earth,
wandering now here now there:
Thy word therefore to me disclose,
my footsteps for to clear.
²⁰My soul is ravished with desire,
and never is at rest:
But seeketh to know thy judgements high,
and what may please thee best.
11. ²¹The proud men and malicious
thou hast destroyed each one:
And cursed are such as do not
thine hests⁶⁸ attend upon.
²²Lord, turn from me rebuke and shame,
which wicked men conspire:
For I have kept thy covenants
with zeal as hot as fire.
12. ²³The princes great in counsel sat,
and did against me speak:
But then thy servant thought how he,
thy statutes might not break.
²⁴For why? Thy covenants are my joy,
and my great hearts solace:
They serve instead of counsellors,
my matters for to pass.
13. ²⁵I am, alas, as brought to grave,
and almost turned to dust:
Restore therefore my life again,
as thy promise is just.
²⁶My ways when I acknowledged,
with mercy thou didst hear:
Hear now eftsons,⁶⁹ and me instruct
thy laws to love and fear.

⁶⁷ A worldly person.

⁶⁸ Bidding, command.

⁶⁹ Soon, or afterwards.

14. ²⁷Teach me once thoroughly for to know
thy precepts and thy lore:
Thy works then will I meditate,
and lay them up in store.
²⁸My soul I feel so sore oppressed,
that it melteth for grief:
According to thy word therefore
haste, Lord, to send relief.
15. ²⁹From lying and deceitful lips
let thy grace me defend:
And that I may learn thee to love,
thine holy law me send.
³⁰The way of truth both straight and sure,
I have chosen and found:
I set thy judgements me before,
which keep me safe and sound.
16. ³¹Since then, O Lord, I forced myself
thy covenants to embrace:
Let me therefore have no rebuke,
nor check in any case.
³²Then will I run with joyful cheer,
where thy word doth me call:
When thou hast set mine heart at large,
and rid me out of thrall.
17. ³³Instruct me, Lord, in the right trade
of thy statutes divine:
And it to keep even to the end,
mine heart will I incline.
³⁴Grant me the knowledge of thy law,
and I shall it obey:
With heart and mind and all my might,
I will it keep, I say.
18. ³⁵In the right path of thy precepts
guide me, Lord, I require:
None other pleasure do I wish,
nor greater thing desire.
³⁶Incline mine heart thy laws to keep,
and covenants embrace:
And from all filthy avarice,
Lord shield me with thy grace.
19. ³⁷From vain desire and worldly lusts
turn back mine eyes and sight:
Give me the spirit of life and power,
to walk thy ways aright.
³⁸Confirm thy gracious promise, Lord,
which thou hast made to me:
Which am thy servant, and do love,
and fear nothing but thee.
20. ³⁹Reproach and shame which I so fear,
form me, O Lord, expel:
For thou dost judge with equity,
and therein dost excel.
⁴⁰Behold, mine heart's desire is bent,
thy laws to keep for aye:
Lord, strengthen me so with thy grace,
that it perform I may.
21. ⁴¹Thy mercies great and manifold
let me obtain, O Lord:
Thy saving health let me enjoy,
according to thy word.
⁴²So shall I stop the slanderous mouths
of lewd men and unjust:
For in thy faithful promises
standeth my comfort and trust.
22. ⁴³The word of truth within my mouth
let ever still be pressed:
For in thy judgements wonderful
mine hope doth stand and rest.
⁴⁴And while that breath within my breast
doth natural life preserve:
Yea, till this world shall be dissolved,
thy law will I observe.
23. ⁴⁵So walk will I, as set at large,
and made free from all dread:
Because I sought how for to keep
thy precepts and thy red.⁷⁰
⁴⁶Thy noble acts I will describe,
as things of most great fame:
Even before kings I will them blase,⁷¹
and shrink no wit nor shame.

⁷⁰ Advice, counsel.

⁷¹ To blazon, proclaim, celebrate.

24. ⁴⁷I will rejoice then to obey,
thy worthy hests and will:
Which evermore I have loved best,
and so will love them still.
⁴⁸Mine hands will I lift to thy laws,
which I have dearly sought:
And practice thy commandements⁷²
I will in deed and thought.
25. ⁴⁹Thy promise which thou madest to me
thy servant, Lord, remember:
For therein have I put my trust,
and confidence forever.
⁵⁰It is my comfort and my joy,
when troubles me assail:
For were my life not by thy word,
my life would soon me fail.
26. ⁵¹The proud and such as God contemn,
still made of me a scorn:
Yet would I not thy law forsake,
as he that were forlorn.
⁵²But called to mind, Lord, thy great works
showed to our fathers old:
Whereby I felt the joy surmount
my grief an hundredth fold.
27. ⁵³But yet, alas, for fear I quaked,
seeing how wicked men:
Thy law forsook, and did procure
thy judgement: who knoweth when?
⁵⁴And as for me, I framed my songs
thy statutes to exalt:
When I among the strangers dwelt,
and thoughts gan⁷³ me assault.
28. ⁵⁵I thought upon thy name, O Lord,
by night when others sleep:
As for thy law also I keep,
and ever will it keep.
⁵⁶This grace I did obtain, because
thy covenants sweet and dear
I did embrace, and also keep
with reverence and with fear.
29. ⁵⁷O God, which art my part and lot,
my comfort and my stay:
I have decreed and promised
thy law to keep always.
⁵⁸Mine earnest heart did humbly sue
in presence of thy face:
As thou therefore hast promised,
Lord, grant me of thy grace.
30. ⁵⁹My life I have examined,
and tried my secret heart:
Which to thy statutes caused me
my feet straight to convert.
⁶⁰I did not stay nor linger long,
as they that slothful are:
But hastily thy laws to keep
I did myself beware.
31. ⁶¹The cruel bands of wicked men
have made of me, their prey:
Yet would I not thy law forget,
nor from thee go astray.
⁶²Thy righteous judgement to ward me
so great is and so high:
That even at midnight will I rise
thy name to magnify.
32. ⁶³Companion am I to all them
which fear thee in their heart:
And neither will for love nor dread
from thy commandements start.
⁶⁴Thy mercies, Lord, most plenteously
do all the world fulfil:
Oh, teach me how I may obey
thy statutes and thy will.
33. ⁶⁵According to thy promise, Lord,
so haste thou with me dealt:
For of thy grace in sundry sorts
have I thy servant felt.
⁶⁶Teach me to judge always aright,
and give me knowledge sure:
For certainly believe I do
that thy precepts are pure.

⁷² Commandments.

⁷³ Uncertain meaning: Began? To go? Stand against, resist, or oppose?

34. ⁶⁷Yet thou didst touch me with thy rod,
I erred and went astray:
But now I keep thine holy word,
and make it all my stay.
⁶⁸Thou art both good and gracious,
and givest most liberally:
Thine ordinances how to keep
therefore, O Lord, teach me.
35. ⁶⁹The proud and wicked men have forged,
against me many a lie:
Yet thy commandements still observe
with all mine heart will I.
⁷⁰Their hearts are swollen with worldly wealth
as grease so are they fat:
But in thy law do I delight,
and nothing seek but that.
36. ⁷¹Oh, happy time, may I well say,
when thou didst me correct:
For as a guide to learn thy laws
thy rods did me direct.
⁷²So that to me thy word and law,
is dearer manifold:
Then thousands great of silver and gold,
or ought that can be told.
37. ⁷³Seeing thine hands have made me, Lord,
to be thy creature:
Grant knowledge likewise how to learn
to put thy laws in use.
⁷⁴So they that fear thee, shall rejoice,
whenever they me see:
Because I have learned by thy word
to put my trust in thee.
38. ⁷⁵When with thy rods the world is plagued
I know the cause is just:
So when thou didst correct me, Lord,
the cause just needs be must.
⁷⁶Now of thy goodness, I thee pray,
some comfort to me send:
As thou to me thy servant hetst,⁷⁴
so from all ill me shend.⁷⁵
39. ⁷⁷Thy tender mercies pour on me:
and I shall surely live:
For joy and consolation both,
thy law to me doth give.
⁷⁸Confound the proud, whose false pretence
is me for to destroy:
But as for me thine hests to know
I will myself employ.
40. ⁷⁹Whoso with reverence do thee fear,
to me let them retire:
And such as do thy covenants know,
and them alone desire.
⁸⁰Mine heart without all wavering
let on thy laws be bent:
That no confusion come to me,
whereby I should be shent.
41. ⁸¹My soul doth faint and ceaseth not
thy saving health to crave:
And for thy word's sake still I trust
mine heart's desire to have.
⁸²Mine eyes do fail with looking for
thy word: and thus, I say,
Oh, when wilt thou me comfort, Lord?
why dost thou thus delay?
42. ⁸³As a skin bottle in the smoke,
so am I parched and dried:
Yet will I not out of mine heart
let thy commandement slide.
⁸⁴Alas, how long shall I yet live,
before I see the hour:
That on my foes, which me torment,
thy vengeance thou wilt power?
43. ⁸⁵Presumptuous men have digged pits,
thinking to make me sure:
Thus contrary against thy law
mine hurt they do procure.
⁸⁶But thy commandements are all true,
and causeless they me grieve:
To thee therefore I do complain,
that thou mightiest me relieve.

⁷⁴ Promised, prophesied.

⁷⁵ Uncertain meaning: To put to shame, reproach or scold, destroy or injure, or damage?

44. ⁸⁷Almost they had me clean destroyed,
and brought me quite to ground:
Yet by thy statutes I abode,
and therein succour found.
⁸⁸Restore me, Lord, again to life,
(for thy mercies excel)
And so shall I thy covenants keep
till death my life expel.
45. ⁸⁹In heavens, Lord, where thou dost dwell,
thy word is 'stablished sure:
And shall for all eternity
fast graven there endure.
⁹⁰From age to age thy truth abideth,
as doth the earth witness:
Whose ground work thou hast laid so sure,
as no tongue can express.
46. ⁹¹Even to this day we may well see,
how all things persevere
According to thine ordinance,
for all things thee revere.
⁹²Had it not been that in thy law,
my soul had comfort sought:
Long time, ere now in my distress
I had been brought to nought.
47. ⁹³Therefore will I thy precepts aye
in memory keep fast:
By them thou hast my life restored,
when I was at last cast.
⁹⁴No wight⁷⁶ to me can title make,
for I am only thine:
Save me therefore: for to thy laws
mine ears and heart incline.
48. ⁹⁵The wicked men do seek my bane,
and thereto lie in wait:
But I the while considered
thy noble acts and great.
⁹⁶I see nothing in this wide world,
at length which hath not end:
But thy commandment and thy word,
beyond all end extend.
49. ⁹⁷What great desire and servant love
do I bear to thy law?
All the day long my whole devise
is only on thy law.
⁹⁸Thy word hath taught me far to pass,
my foes in policy:
For still I keep it as a thing
of most excellency.
50. ⁹⁹My teachers which did me instruct
in knowledge I excel:
Because I do thy covenants keep
and them to others tell.
¹⁰⁰In wisdom I do pass also
the ancient men indeed:
And all because to keep thy laws
I held it aye best reed.
51. ¹⁰¹My feet I have refrained eke
from every evil way:
Because that I continually
thy word might keep, I say.
¹⁰²I have not swerved from thy judgements,
nor yet shrunk any del:⁷⁷
For why? Thou hast taught me thereby,
to live godly and well.
52. ¹⁰³Oh, Lord, how sweet unto my taste,
find I thy words alway?
Doubtless no honey in my mouth,
feel ought so sweet I may.
¹⁰⁴Thy laws have me much wisdom learned,
that utterly I hate
All wicked and ungodly ways
in every kind or rate.
53. ¹⁰⁵Even as a lantern to my feet,
so doth thy word shine bright:
And to my paths, wherever I go,
it is a flaming light.
¹⁰⁶I have both sworn, and will perform
most certainly doubtless:
That I will keep thy judgments just,
and them in life express.

⁷⁶ A human being.

⁷⁷ Uncertain meaning: 'Del' was used in mild imprecations, so perhaps 'any del' means 'at all' or something similar.

54. ¹⁰⁷Affliction hath me sore oppressed,
and brought me to death's door:
O Lord, as thou hast promised,
so me to life restore.
¹⁰⁸The offerings which with heart and voice,
most frankly I thee give,
Accept, and teach me how I may
after thy judgements live.
55. ¹⁰⁹My soul is aye so in mine hand,
that dangers it assail:
Yet do I not thy law forget,
nor it to keep will fail.
¹¹⁰Although the wicked laid their nets
to catch me at a bray:
Yet did I not from thy precepts,
once swerve or go astray.
56. ¹¹¹Thy law I have so claimed alway,
as mine own heritage:
And why? For therein I delight
and set my whole courage.
¹¹²For evermore I have been bent,
thy statutes to fulfil:
Even so likewise unto the end,
I will continue still.
57. ¹¹³The crafty thoughts and double heart,
I do always detest:
But as for thy law and precepts
I loved them ever best.
¹¹⁴Thou art mine hide and secret place,
my shield of strong defence:
Therefore have I thy promises,
looked for with patience.
58. ¹¹⁵Go to therefore ye wicked men,
depart from me anon:
For the commandments will I keep,
of God my Lord alone.
¹¹⁶As thou hast promised, so perform,
that death me not assail:
Nor let my hope abuse me so,
that through distrust I quail.
59. ¹¹⁷Uphold me, and I shall be safe
for ought they do or say:
And in thy statutes pleasure take,
will I both night and day.
¹¹⁸Thou hast trod such under thy feet,
as do thy statutes break:
For nought availeth their subtlety:
their counsel is but weak.
60. ¹¹⁹Like dross thou cast the wicked out,
wherever they be, or dwell:
Therefore can I, as thy statutes,
love nothing half so well.
¹²⁰My flesh, alas, is taken with fear,
as though it were benumbed:
For when I see thy judgements strict,
I am as one astoned.⁷⁸
61. ¹²¹I do the thing that lawful is,
and give to all men right:
Resign me not to them that would
oppress me with their might.
¹²²But for thy servant surety be
in that thing that is good:
That proud men give me not the foil,
which rage as they were wood.
62. ¹²³Mine eyes with waiting are now blind
thine health so much I crave:
And eke thy righteous promise, Lord,
whereby thou wilt me save.
¹²⁴Entreat thy servant lovingly,
and savour to him show:
Thy statutes of most excellency,
teach me also to know.
63. ¹²⁵Thine humble servant, Lord, I am:
oh, grant me t' understand:
How by thy statutes I may know,
best what to take in hand.
¹²⁶It is now time, Lord, to begin,
for truth is quite decayed:
Thy law likewise they have transgressed,
and none against them said.
64. ¹²⁷This is the cause wherefore I love,
thy laws better than gold:
Or jewels fine which are esteemed
most costly to be sold.
¹²⁸I thought thy precepts all most just,
and so them laid in store:
All crafty and malicious ways
I do abhor therefore.
65. ¹²⁹Thy covenants are most wonderful,
and full of things profound:
My soul therefore doth keep them sure,
when they are tried and found.
¹³⁰When men first enter into thy words,
they find a light most clear:
And very idiots understand,
when they it read or hear.

⁷⁸ Astonished.

66. ¹³¹For joy I have both gaped and breathed,
to know thy commandment:
That I might guide my life thereby,
I sought what thing it meant.
¹³²With mercy and compassion, Lord,
behold me from above:
As thou art wont to behold such
as thy name fear and love.
67. ¹³³Direct my footsteps by thy word,
that I thy will may know:
And never let iniquity
thy servant overthrow.
¹³⁴From slanderous tongues and deadly harms
preserve and keep me sure:
Thy precepts then will I observe,
and put them eke in ure.⁷⁹
68. ¹³⁵Thy countenance which doth surmount,
the sun in his bright hue:
Let shine on me, and by thy law
teach me what to eschew.
¹³⁶Out of mine eyes great floods gush out,
of dreary tears and fell:
When I behold how wicked men
thy law keep never a del.⁸⁰
69. ¹³⁷In every point, Lord, thou art just,
the wicked though they grudge:
And when thou dost sentence pronounce,
thou art a righteous judge.
¹³⁸To render right and flee from guile,
are two chief points and high:
And such as thou hast in thy law
command us strictly.
70. ¹³⁹With zeal and wrath I am consumed,
and even pined away:
To see my foes thy words forget,
for ought that I do may.
¹⁴⁰So pure and perfect is thy word,
as any heart can deem:
And I thy servant nothing more,
do love or yet esteem.
71. ¹⁴¹And though I be nothing set by,
as one of base degree:
Yet do I not thine hests forget,
nor shrink away from thee.
¹⁴²Thy righteousness, Lord, is most just,
forever to endure:
Also thy law is truth itself,
most constant and most pure.
72. ¹⁴³Trouble and grief have seized on me,
and brought me wondrous low:
Yet do I still of thy precepts,
delight to hear and know.
¹⁴⁴The righteousness of thy judgements
do last forevermore:
Then teach them me, for even in them,
my life lyeth up in store.
73. ¹⁴⁵With servant heart I called and cried,
now answer me, O Lord,
That thy commandments to observe,
I may fully accord.
¹⁴⁶To thee, my God, I make my suit,
with most humble request:
Save me therefore, and I will keep,
thy precept and thine hest.
74. ¹⁴⁷To thee I cry, even in the morn,
before the day wax light:
Because that I have in thy word,
my confidence whole plight.
¹⁴⁸Mine eyes prevent the watch by night,
and yet they call, I wake:
That by devising of thy word
I might some comfort take.
75. ¹⁴⁹Encline thine ears to hear my voice,
and pity on me take:
As thou was wont, so judge me, Lord,
lest life me should forsake.
¹⁵⁰My foes draw near, and do procure,
my death maliciously:
Which form thy law are far gone back,
and strayed from it lewdly.

⁷⁹ 'Put in ure' is to put in action or process.

⁸⁰ Uncertain meaning: 'Del' was used in mild imprecations, so perhaps 'keep never a del' means 'keep without exception' or something similar.

76. ¹⁵¹Therefore, O Lord, approach thou near,
for need doth so require:
And all thy precepts true they are,
then help I thee desire.
¹⁵²By thy commandments I have learned,
not now, but long ago:
That they remain forevermore,
thou hast them grounded so.
77. ¹⁵³My trouble and affliction,
consider and behold:
Deliver me, for of thy law
I ever take fast hold.
¹⁵⁴Defend my good and righteous cause,
with speed me succour send:
From death, as thou hast promised,
Lord, keep me, and defend.
78. ¹⁵⁵As for the wicked, far they are
from having health and grace:
Whereby they bight thy statutes know,
they enter not the trace.
¹⁵⁶Great are thy mercies, Lord, I grant:
what tongue can them attain?
And as thou hast me judged ere now,
so let me life obtain.
79. ¹⁵⁷Though many men did trouble me,
and persecute most sore:
Yet from thy laws I never shrunk,
nor went awry therefore.
¹⁵⁸And truth it is: for grief I die,
when I these traitors see:
Because they keep no wit nor word,
nor yet seek to know thee.
80. ¹⁵⁹Behold, for I do love thy laws,
with heart most glad and fane:
As thou art good and gracious, Lord,
restore my life again.
¹⁶⁰What thy word doth decree, must be,
and so it hath been ever:
Thy righteous judgements are also
most true, and decay never.
81. ¹⁶¹Princes have fought by cruelty
causeless to make me crouch:
But all in vain: for of thy word
the fear did mine heart touch.
¹⁶²And certainly even of thy word
I was more merry and glad,
Then he that of rich spoils and prey,
great store and plenty had.
82. ¹⁶³As for all lies and falsity,
I hate most and detest:
For why? Thine holy law do I
above all things love best.
¹⁶⁴Seven times a day I praise thee, Lord,
singing with heart and voice:
Thy righteous acts and wonderful
so cause me to rejoice.
83. ¹⁶⁵Great peace and rest shall all such have,
which do thy statutes love:
No danger shall their quiet state,
impair or once remove.
¹⁶⁶Mine only health and comfort, Lord,
I look for at thy hand:
And therefore have I done those things,
which thou didst me command.
84. ¹⁶⁷Thy laws have been mine exercise,
which my soul most desired:
So much my love to them was bent,
that nought else I required.
¹⁶⁸Thy statutes and commandments,
I kept, thou knowest, aright:
For all the things that I have done,
are present in thy sight.
85. ¹⁶⁹O Lord, let my complaint cry,
before thy face appear:
And as thou hast me promise made,
so teach me thee to fear.
¹⁷⁰Mine humble supplication,
toward thee let find access:
And grant me, Lord, deliverance:
for so is thy promise.
86. ¹⁷¹Then shall my lips thy praises speak,
after most ample sort:
When thou thy statutes hast me taught,
wherein standeth all comfort.
¹⁷²My tongue shall sing and preach thy word
and on this wise say shall:
God's famous acts and noble laws,
are just and perfect all.
87. ¹⁷³Stretch out thine hand, I thee beseech,
and speedily me save:
For thy commandments to observe,
chosen, O Lord, I have.
¹⁷⁴Of thee alone, Lord, I crave health:
for other I know none:
And in thy law, and nothing else
I do delight alone.

88. ¹⁷⁵Grant me therefore long days to live,
thy name to magnify:
And of thy judgements merciful
let me the favour try.
¹⁷⁶For I was lost, and went astray,
much like a wandering sheep:
Oh, seek me, for I have not failed,
thy commandments to keep,