

Sunday Night Message

July 31, 2016



























Psalm 119:89 – 96 *The Word of God is Forever Faithful*

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 119:89 - 96

## Introduction

We are continuing our examination of the longest Psalm as well as the longest chapter of the Bible. As we discussed last week, this psalm is a Hebrew acrostic where every eight verses are separated into sections where the first letter of each verse begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The first eight verses each begin with “Aleph”, the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Verses 9 – 16 all begin with “Beth”; verses 17 – 24 all begin with Gimel; and, so on.

									
Yod (Y)	Tet (T)	Chet (Ch)	Zayin (Z)	Vav (V)	He (H)	Dalet (D)	Gimel (G)	Bet (B/V)	Alef (silent)
									
Ayin (silent)	Samech (S)	Nun (N)	Nun (N)	Mem (M)	Mem (M)	Lamed (L)	Khaf (Kh)	Kaf (K/Kh)	
									
Tav (T)	Shin (Sh/S)	Resh (R)	Qof (Q)	Tsadeh (Ts)	Tsadeh (Ts)	Feh (F)	Peh (P/F)		

We do not know the writer of this psalm, though we think it must have been a “high profile” person, perhaps a king or a priest. Nor do we know the historical context. There is no doubt, however, as to the theme of the psalm. 170 out of the 175 verses in this psalm speak directly regarding the Word of God. The writer to this psalm is expressing his love and devotion to the Word of God, and is encouraging us to do the same.

Phillips has said regarding the anonymity of the writer:

Throughout this psalm we are made aware that the singer is in trouble. We would like to know who he was—David, perhaps, or Daniel, or Hezekiah. But since he has remained

anonymous (making this psalm one of the “orphan psalms” of the Hebrew hymn book) the Holy Spirit intends his sufferings to be of universal significance. Any beleaguered saint of God can put his or her name at the head of this psalm and sing it themselves.<sup>1</sup>

## Introduction

### “LAMED”

“Lamed” is actually the twelfth letter of the Hebrew alphabet, though on our chart above it appears as if it's the thirteenth.

This section of Psalm 119 teaches that the Word of God is forever faithful. It is refreshing to know that in a world that is cataclysmically changing, there is one thing that doesn't change, because the God who wrote it doesn't change. And yet, it is still as applicable and relevant today as it has ever been.

#### I God's Word is Forever Faithful – I Can Trust It

*“For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.”* (Psalm 119:89)

Notice that the Word of God is eternal. It will never change, and it will never fail.

*“The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.”* (Psalm 12:6-7)

*“The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it. And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.”* (Luke 16:16-17)

*“Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever.”* (Psalm 119:152)

*“Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.”* (Psalm 119:160)

*“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”* (Matthew 24:35)

*“For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”* (1 Peter 1:24-25)

Phillips said this regarding this verse:

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<sup>1</sup> Phillips, J. (2012). Exploring Psalms 89–150: An Expository Commentary (Vol. 2, Ps 119:81–88). Kregel Publications; WORDsearch Corp.

“For ever, O LORD, Thy word is settled in heaven.” It is beyond the reach of man. No person, however clever, confident, or confused, will permanently change God’s Word. Foolish is anyone who tampers with God’s Word. Foolish is the one who tries to get rid of God’s Word. As has been said, Diocletian harnessed the resources of the Roman empire to stamp out the Bible; he might as well have tried to stop the blowing of the wind. Voltaire held up a copy of the Bible and said, “In fifty years I’ll have this book in the morgue.” In fifty years he was in the morgue and the Geneva Bible Society owned his house and used it as a place to store Bibles.<sup>2</sup>

*"Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth."* (Psalm 119:90)

God’s word is faithful because God is faithful. He doesn’t change either.

*"For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."* (Malachi 3:6)

Some would argue that verse 90 is one of the few verses from this psalm without a direct reference to the Bible. However, the argument could also be made that the phrase “thy faithfulness” is the direct reference. God’s word is indeed faithful unto all generations just as God Himself is.

*"They continue this day according to thine ordinances: for all are thy servants."* (Psalm 119:91)

The “they” here may refer to God’s creation cumulatively. The bottom line is that everything in the universe is ultimately in submission to the Word of God.

## II God’s Word Has Saved Me in the Past – I Have Trusted It

*"Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction."* (Psalm 119:92)

*"I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me."* (Psalm 119:93)

*"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."* (Hebrews 4:12)

## III God’s Word Will Save Me in the Future – I Will Trust It

*"I am thine, save me; for I have sought thy precepts."* (Psalm 119:94)

*"The wicked have waited for me to destroy me: but I will consider thy testimonies."* (Psalm 119:95)

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<sup>2</sup> Phillips, J. (2012). *Exploring Psalms 89–150: An Expository Commentary* (Vol. 2, Ps 119:89b). Kregel Publications; WORDsearch Corp.

*"I have seen an end of all perfection: but thy commandment is exceeding broad." (Psalm 119:96)*

People say the Word is very narrow, but the truth is the Bible is very broad. It is infinite and unlimited in its scope. All things come to an end, but God, the Word of God, and the people of God are eternal.