

Fact Sheet for “Pe” (פ)

Psalm 119:129-136

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Welcome to 2017! Consider starting today to read through your Bible this year. Reading just 3 or 4 chapters every day will do it. And we have Bible Reading Records at the church to help keep track of what you have read.

This sermon has an odd title. The reason why is that Psalm 119 is an acrostic structured according to the Hebrew alphabet, of which Pe is just one letter. And it is this Hebrew letter that begins every verse in Psalm 119:129-136.

Another thing about this Psalm is that each section contains multiple synonyms for God’s word. Today we will be looking at eight verses, each with one of those synonyms.

ESV 129 **Your testimonies are wonderful;
therefore my soul keeps them.**

“testimony” - עֲדוּת ae-dote'

The idea of a “testimony” is something that warns of danger ahead (KJV Deut. 8:19).

“Wonderful” brings to mind the song Moses and the people sang to the Lord after the crossing of the Red Sea (Ex. 15:11).

130 **The unfolding of your words gives light;
it imparts understanding to the simple.**

“word” - דְּבַר da-var'

The “unfolding” of God’s words that give “light” brings to mind a word used to describe the work of the Holy Spirit in which he makes clear, enlightens and teaches the truth of God’s written word... “illumination”. Read Proverbs 1:1-4 and 1 Corinthians 2:11-14, then consider how the Holy Spirit enlightens you as you let the Word of God unfold as you read it.

131 **I open my mouth and pant,
because I long for your commandments.**

“commandment” - מִצְוָה mits-vah'

“pants” – Like a slave “longing for” the end of the day (Job 7:2-4).

**132 Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is your way with those who love your name.**

“way” - מִשְׁפָּט mish-pat’

This word has a decidedly legal sense about it. Another way you could translate this word is “judgments” or “rules” (Ps. 119:75).

**133 Keep steady my steps according to your promise,
and let no iniquity get dominion over me.**

“promise” - אִמְרָה 'im-rah’

Now God’s Word, in its entirety, is inerrant and infallible. So isn’t everything that God says He will do in reality a promise?

**134 Redeem me from man’s oppression,
that I may keep your precepts.**

“precept” - פִּקּוּד piq-quid’

This is a word drawn from the task of an officer or overseer, one who is responsible to look closely into a situation and take action. So this word refers to the specific instructions of the Lord who cares about detail. Jeremiah 23:1-2 reflects this idea.

**135 Make your face shine upon your servant,
and teach me your statutes.**

“statute” - חֻק khoke

“Make your face shine upon your servant”... Consider the benediction in Numbers 6:24-26.

**136 My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your law.**

“law” - תּוֹרָה to-rah’

This has specific referenced to the Law of Moses, the first five books of the OT, but it can also be used to refer to Scripture as a whole.

This is a perfect passage to start 2017. Reading God’s Word with diligence will bring blessing.

Why not make a New Year’s resolution to read through your Bible this year.