

In the Name of the Law

“As everyone knows, the Psalm specially devoted to the Law is Psalm 119, the longest in the whole collection. And everyone has probably noticed that from the literary or technical point of view, it is the most formal and elaborate of them all. The technique consists in taking a series of words which are all, for purposes of this poem, more or less synonyms (word, statues, commandments, testimonies, etc.), and ringing the changes on them through each of its eight verse sections – which themselves correspond to the letters of the [Hebrew] alphabet. ... In other words, this poem is not, and does not pretend to be, a sudden outpouring of the heart like, say, Psalm 18. It is a pattern, a thing done like embroidery, stitch by stitch, through long quiet hours, for love of the subject and for the delight in leisurely, disciplined craftsmanship.”

C.S. Lewis, Reflections on the Psalms

The author of Psalm 119 worshipped God by revering God's law. This week allow the words of Psalm 119 to guide your worship as we study God's law as graciously given us in the 10 Commandments.

Monday – God Alone

“Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the LORD.” Psalm 119:1

1. Please read Psalm 119:1-32 and allow the repeating reverence of God's law to wash over you. Which verse or verses sound most appealing to you? Why? Which concepts are most difficult for you to imagine yourself being able to adopt? Why?
2. Now look at Exodus 20:3. How does Psalm 119:1-16 help you to give God proper place in your life?
3. Consider Exodus 20:4-6. How can the concepts in Psalm 119:17-32 help you to keep other things or people from taking God's place in your life?

Making it Personal: Pray that God will guide you in revering his laws and give you a fresh reverence for his word, and for God's prominence in your life.

Tuesday – God's Name, God's Rest

“Teach me, O LORD, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end.” Psalm 119:33

1. Please read Psalm 119:33-64 and allow the repeating reverence of God's law to wash over you. Which verse or verses sound most appealing to you? Why? Which concepts are most difficult for you to imagine yourself being able to adopt? Why?
2. Now look at Exodus 20:7. How does Psalm 119:33-48 help you to revere God's name?
3. Consider Exodus 20:8-11. How can the concepts of Psalm 119:49-64 guide you in honoring God by keeping a day of rest?

Making it Personal: Pray that God will guide you in revering his laws concerning the mightiness of his name and the blessedness of his rest.

Wednesday – Parents and Murder

“Do good to your servant according to your word, O LORD.” Psalm 119:65

1. Please read Psalm 119:65-96 and allow the repeating reverence of God's law to wash over you. Which verse or verses sound most appealing to you? Why? Which concepts are most difficult for you to imagine yourself being able to adopt? Why?
2. Now look at Exodus 20:12. How does Psalm 119:65-80 help you to honor your parents?
3. Consider Exodus 20:13. How can the concepts of Psalm 119:81-96 guide you in treasuring the lives of those around you?

Making it Personal: Pray that God will guide you in revering his laws concerning your relationships with your family and the people around you.

Thursday – Adultery and Theft

“O, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.” Psalm 119:97

1. Please read Psalm 119:97-136 and allow the repeating reverence of God's law to wash over you. Which verse or verses sound most appealing to you? Why? Which concepts are most difficult for you to imagine yourself being able to adopt? Why?
2. Now look at Exodus 20:14. How does Psalm 119:97-120 help you to honor your intimate relationships?
3. Consider Exodus 20:15. How can the concepts of Psalm 119:121-136 guide you in respecting others?

Making it Personal: Pray that God will guide you in revering his laws concerning your intimate relationships and how you handle those things which belong to others.

Friday – Lying and Lusting

“Righteous are you, O LORD, and your laws are right.” Psalm 119:137

1. Please read Psalm 119:137-176 and allow the repeating reverence of God's law to wash over you. Which verse or verses sound most appealing to you? Why? Which concepts are most difficult for you to imagine yourself being able to adopt? Why?
2. Now look at Exodus 20:16. How does Psalm 119:137-160 help you to honor the truth?
3. Consider Exodus 20:17. How can the concepts of Psalm 119:161-176 guide you in being content with the blessings God has given you, instead of wishing or grasping for more?

Digging Deeper: Read Exodus 1:15-21; Joshua 2:1-16, Hebrews 11:31 & James 2:25; and Acts 4:32-5:11. What do these passages tell you about Exodus 20:16?

For the Weekend: Re-read Exodus 20:1-17. Then select an eight verse stanza from Psalm 119 and use it as a prayer, worshipping God through reverence for his law.