

(Lamed)

- 89) Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.
- 90) Your faithfulness continues throughout all generations; You established the earth, and it stands.
- 91) They stand this day according to Your ordinances, For all things are Your servants.
- 92) If Your law had not been my delight, Then I would have perished in my affliction.
- 93) I will never forget Your precepts, For by them You have revived me.
- 94) I am Yours, save me; For I have sought Your precepts.
- 95) The wicked wait for me to destroy me; I shall diligently consider Your testimonies.
- 96) I have seen a limit to all perfection; Your commandment is exceedingly broad.

We come now to letter number thirteen in the Hebrew alphabet, the letter “L.” In English the letter “L” is letter twelve. In Greek the letter “L” is letter eleven; but in Hebrew it is letter thirteen.

Each of the eight verses in this twelfth section begins with a word that starts with the letter “L.” For example, the first word in the Hebrew text in **verse 89** is “forever,” which is the word “Liaulam.”

Now the purpose of all of this linguistic and grammatical data is to emphasize the importance of the written Word of God. But I think there is somewhat of a hidden emphasis of this and that is **the Word of God is to be studied systematically, in the same way you study an alphabet.**

The Word of God is the most important thing in this world. It is critical that it is systematically studied. The longer I live and the more I travel, the more I realize this. God’s Word is sacred and it is supernatural. It is interesting, it is important and it is inspired.

When you ask many people about church, very few emphasize the importance of God’s written Word systematically studied. Some will stress their music. Some will stress their fellowship. Some will stress their family. Some will stress their friendship. Very few will stress the Word of God studied systematically.

Psalms 119 makes it very clear that it is the Word of God that is the highest and holiest necessity in a true church. But the sad reality is that a heavy emphasis and dedication to God’s written Word is often neglected.

Now we know from the previous section that the writer was very depressed. Things for him were dark. But he never lost his focus. What we learn is this:

GOD'S WORD IS THE ONLY THING IN EXISTENCE THAT CAN PERFECTLY MINISTER TO US IN TIMES OF TROUBLE AND TRIAL.

God's Word is that which can bring us stability, strength, security and salvation. When things become dark and dismal, when surrounded by threats and intimidations, it is only God's Word that will really and truly work.

There are some key realities to see in this part of the Psalm:

REALITY #1 – God's Word is settled forever in heaven. 119:89

John Phillips tells a story of the God-mocking Voltaire, who lived and wrote in the 1700's. One time he held up a copy of the Bible and said, "In fifty years I'll have this book in a morgue." Well, in 50 years he was in the morgue and the Geneva Bible Society owned his house and stored Bibles in it.

God's Word is settled in heaven forever. That word "settled" means to put something or set something in place so that it cannot be moved. God's Word will always be God's Word and it will always be so in heaven and heaven is beyond the reach of any sinful human or evil angel.

Do you see what is critical in heaven? It is not music; it is not entertainment and it is not seminars. It is God's written Word. This is the one thing that is forever settled in heaven as being significant.

You cannot focus too much on knowing and understanding God's written Word. God's Word brings a settled stability. It is not fickle; it is not irrational and it is not emotional. God's Word is certain, fixed, unchangeable and immovable. The Word of God stands firm forever in the heavens.

A while back I spoke with someone who basically said I don't want to get into serious study of God's Word, I just like something devotional that speaks to my heart. I thought to myself, well a serious study of God's Word is not a real threat to this person, because they were not in a church where they even did that. But you can know this with certainty, no one who studies God's Word seriously and systematically will ever regret it when in heaven.

God's Word stands forever in heaven. One of the things that certainly means is that there is a complete record of God's Word and God's law in heaven. If someone gets before God and thinks he/she has measured up to the righteousness of God, he will be in for a shock. God's law will shut the mouth of all people and show all guilty. That Word is eternal and it is in heaven.

REALITY #2 – God's faithfulness to His Word continues throughout all generations. 119:90

Generations come and go. People come and go. God's Word and God's promises stand forever. No matter what the dispensation of time, God will always be faithful to His Word.

No matter what the generation, God continues to be faithful to His precious Word. The Word of God will always do what it promises to do from one generation to another. Faithfulness is a key part of God's character and God will always be faithful to Himself and His Word.

One of the proofs or evidences of God's faithfulness to His Word is the earth. God powerfully spoke the earth into existence and the existence of the world is a powerful proof that God is faithful to His Word. The heavens and the earth stand and continue to function because God is faithful to His Word.

When we breathe the air of this atmosphere every day and when we look into the sky and see the sun, the moon and the stars, and when we see day and night come and go every twelve hours, what we see is that God is faithful to His world and His Word.

The stabilizing force of this universe is the Word of God and this earth proves God's Word stands firm in the heavens. There will come a day in which God's Word will stand firm in all of the earth.

REALITY #3- God's Word is not only a forever word, it is a sovereign Word. **119:91**

Everything on earth is here by decree of God "all things are God's servants." The Word of God testifies of the sovereignty of God.

When we find ourselves in difficult situations, we need to run to God's Word and as we do we will realize that God is a sovereign God in control of everything. Things are not here by chance or coincidence; they are here controlled by the Sovereign God of the Bible.

One of the wonderful things the Word of God teaches us is that "all things" are controlled by the sovereignty of God. God's eternal Word testifies of this in multiple places.

REALITY #4 – God's Word is the only thing that can bring delight to a world of affliction.
119:92

The writer says had it not been for God's Word, there would have been no joy and no delight and he would have died in his affliction or in his suffering. Think about it. If we did not have the Word of God, we would be sunk under a great burden of despair just by looking at this world.

It is not a coincidence that the German Reformer Martin Luther selected Psalm 119:92 as the motto of his own Bible. First of all, it was the Word of God, specifically Romans, that saved Luther and literally delivered him from eternal damnation. Second, it was the Word of God that continued to strengthen Luther when he was hated by most of the religious world.

Luther said, "Oh! How great and glorious a thing it is to have before one the Word of God! With that we may at all times feel joyous and secure; we need never be in want of consolation, for we see before us, in all of its brightness, the pure and right way.

He who loses sight of the Word of God falls into despair; the voice of heaven no longer sustains him; he follows only the disorderly tendency of his heart, and of world vanity, which lead him on to his destruction” (*Table Talk*, p. 15).

The Word of God will delight you even when suffering various afflictions.

REALITY #5 – God’s Word is the thing that can revive one. **119:93**

The word “never” is the same word translated “forever” in verse 89. The writer is saying that I will never forget Your Word, which is the same as saying I will forever remember Your Word.

No matter who you are and no matter what you have experienced, no matter how low you get, the Word of God can revive you. Remember this and don’t ever forget this.

When you are depressed and discouraged and lonely, the Word of God can revive you. When you sin, the Word of God can revive you. When you are attacked, the Word of God can revive you.

Never forget God’s Word because it does have reviving powers.

REALITY #6 – God’s Word reveals God can save. **119:94**

Now notice how the verse begins “I am yours.” The writer is reminding God that he was the property of God. He was God’s property by virtue of creation, by virtue of redemption and by virtue of selection. So in searching the Scriptures, he came to realize that God protects His people and can save His people.

Even in the New Testament we learn that if you destroy God’s property, you will be destroyed (I Cor. 3:17). God’s Word says Christ will destroy the works of the Devil (I John 3:8). So over and over again we learn in God’s Word that God has delivering power.

God can save His people and this point is seen over and over again in God’s Word. One of the things the writer did was to carefully search out God’s precepts.

In other words, by carefully studying the Scriptures, he came to realize that God is able and will save His people.

REALITY #7 – God’s Word reveals that on which one should meditate. **119:95**

This is fascinating. Wicked people wait and watch, just looking for some opportunity to destroy one who is godly. Wicked people were waiting to destroy one godly. But notice what the godly person was doing, he was not worrying about the wicked people; he was studying and meditating on the Word of God.

It is clear that great comfort and encouragement comes by carefully studying God's Word. This truth is so foreign to the way most think. But God's eternal Word is the best comforting counselor in existence. Here is where we will find our greatest support.

REALITY #8 – God's Word is perfect. **119:96**

There is a limit or lack of perfection to everything, except the written Word of God. No man is perfect, no church is perfect; but God's Word is perfect. Also we learn here that God's Word is beyond our complete comprehension.

If we want perfect comfort, stability and strength, we must run to the Word of God.