

## Psalm 119

### Key terms

“Law” (*tora, torah*) – instruction, direction, “the whole Law.” Used 25 times in Psalm 119.

“Word” (*dabar*) – speech or oral communication, especially from God. Used 24 times.

“Ordinances” (*mispatim*) – judicial decisions or decrees. Used 23 times.

“Testimonies” (*edut*) – also “statutes”; primarily focused on the Ten Commandments. Used 23 times.

“Commands” (*mitsvah*) – God’s commands, usually in the plural, referring to the entire collection of God’s law and instruction. Used 22 times.

“Decrees” (*huqqim*) – generally, the decrees, regulations, or customs established by God. Used 21 times.

“Precepts” (*piqqud*) – this term relates to instruction, or teaching. The root word refers to God’s system of ordering things – his “blueprint.” Used 21 times.

“Promise” (*’imra*) – Used primarily in Psalm 119, the sense is God’s “word” in connection with our commitment to **keep** his word. Also related to the concept of “righteousness.” Used 19 times.

#### Other key terms:

“Pure” (*zakah*) – in Psalm 119 talking about being pure or cleansed from sin.

“Hiding” (*sapan*) – to “hide God’s word in our heart”

“Righteousness” – there are many aspects to this concept (and many Hebrew words to express the concept of righteousness), including “justice,” “moral or ethical behavior,” “to put right” or “to be put right,” “to break off from sin,” or “blameless conduct and integrity”

“Love” (in the Psalms, “love” is often used to translate *hesed*)

“Knowledge” – what we would think of as “wisdom” – having both knowledge and insight