

Psalms 119

A Lamp for Our Feet

(NKJV)

א ALEF

- ¹ Blessed *are* the undefiled in the Derek, who walk in the Torah of HASHEM!
- ² Blessed *are* those who keep His Edut, who seek Him with the whole heart!
- ³ They also do no iniquity; they walk in His Derek
- ⁴ You have commanded *us* to keep Your Pikudim diligently.
- ⁵ Oh, that my Derek were directed to keep Your Chukim!
- ⁶ Then I would not be ashamed, when I look into all Your Mitzvot.
- ⁷ I will praise You with uprightness of heart, when I learn Your righteous Mishpatim.
- ⁸ I will keep Your Chukim; oh, do not forsake me utterly!

ב BET

- ⁹ How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your Davar.
- ¹⁰ With my whole heart I have sought You; oh, let me not wander from Your Mitzvot!
- ¹¹ Your 'Imrah I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.
- ¹² Blessed *are* You, O HASHEM! Teach me Your Chukim.
- ¹³ With my lips I have declared all the Mishpatim of Your mouth.
- ¹⁴ I have rejoiced in the Derek of Your Edut, as *much as* in all riches.
- ¹⁵ I will meditate on Your Pikudim, and contemplate Your ways.
- ¹⁶ I will delight myself in Your Chukim; I will not forget Your Davar.

- **Torah** = instruction; from root "to throw or shoot"
- **Edut** = testimonies, witnesses; from root "to bear witness"
- **Derek** = way; from the root "to tread or bend"
- **Pikudim** = precepts; from root "to number or to visit"
- **Chokim** = statutes; from root "to inscribe by decree"
- **Mitzvot** = commandments, ordinances; from root "to command, give a charge"
- **Mishpatim** = judgments, ordinances; from root "to govern or defend"
- **Davar** = word; from root "to speak"
- **'Imrah** = word; from root "to utter" or "say in the heart"
- **Tzedek** = righteousness; from root "to be righteous"

ג GIMMEL

- ¹⁷ Deal bountifully with Your servant, *that* I may live and keep Your Davar.
- ¹⁸ Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your Torah.
- ¹⁹ I *am* a stranger in the earth; do not hide Your Mitzvot from me.
- ²⁰ My soul breaks with longing for Your Mishpatim at all times.
- ²¹ You rebuke the proud—the cursed, who stray from Your Mitzvot.
- ²² Remove from me reproach and contempt, for I have kept Your Eduṭ.
- ²³ Princes also sit *and* speak against me, *but* Your servant meditates on Your Chukim.
- ²⁴ Your Eduṭ also *are* my delight *and* my counselors.

ד DALET

- ²⁵ My soul clings to the dust; revive me according to Your Davar.
- ²⁶ I have declared my Derek, and You answered me; teach me Your Chukim.
- ²⁷ Make me understand the Derek of Your Pikudim; so shall I meditate on Your wonderful works.
- ²⁸ My soul melts from heaviness; strengthen me according to Your Davar.
- ²⁹ Remove from me the Derek of lying, and grant me Your Torah graciously.
- ³⁰ I have chosen the Derek of truth; Your Mishpatim I have laid *before me*.
- ³¹ I cling to Your Eduṭ; O HASHEM, do not put me to shame!
- ³² I will run the Derek of Your Mitzvot, for You shall enlarge my heart.

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ה HEY

- ³³ Teach me, O HASHEM, the Derek of Your Chukim, and I shall keep it *to* the end.
- ³⁴ Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your Torah; indeed, I shall observe it with *my* whole heart.
- ³⁵ Make me walk in the path of Your Mitzvot, for I delight in it.
- ³⁶ Incline my heart to Your Edut, and not to covetousness.
- ³⁷ Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, *and* revive me in Your Derek.
- ³⁸ Establish Your 'Imrah to Your servant, who *is devoted* to fearing You.
- ³⁹ Turn away my reproach which I dread, for Your Mishpatim *are* good.
- ⁴⁰ Behold, I long for Your Pikudim; revive me in Your Tzedek.

ו VAV

- ⁴¹ Let Your mercies come also to me, O HASHEM— your salvation according to Your 'Imrah.
- ⁴² So shall I have an answer for him who reproaches me, for I trust in Your Davar.
- ⁴³ And take not the Davar of truth utterly out of my mouth, for I have hoped in Your Mishpatim.
- ⁴⁴ So shall I keep Your Torah continually, forever and ever.
- ⁴⁵ And I will walk at liberty, for I seek Your Pikudim.
- ⁴⁶ I will speak of Your Edut also before kings, and will not be ashamed.
- ⁴⁷ And I will delight myself in Your Mitzvot, which I love.
- ⁴⁸ My hands also I will lift up to Your Mitzvot, which I love, and I will meditate on Your Chukim.

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ז ZAYIN

- ⁴⁹ Remember the Davar to Your servant, upon which You have caused me to hope.
- ⁵⁰ This *is* my comfort in my affliction, for Your 'Imrah has given me life.
- ⁵¹ The proud have me in great derision, *yet* I do not turn aside from Your Torah.
- ⁵² I remembered Your Mishpatim of old, O HASHEM, and have comforted myself.
- ⁵³ Indignation has taken hold of me because of the wicked, who forsake Your Torah.
- ⁵⁴ Your Chukim have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage.
- ⁵⁵ I remember Your name in the night, O HASHEM, and I keep Your Torah.
- ⁵⁶ This has become mine, because I kept Your Pikudim.

ח CHET

- ⁵⁷ *You are* my portion, O HASHEM; I have said that I would keep Your Davar.
- ⁵⁸ I entreated Your favor with *my* whole heart; be merciful to me according to Your 'Imrah.
- ⁵⁹ I thought about my Derek, and turned my feet to Your Edut.
- ⁶⁰ I made haste, and did not delay to keep Your Mitzvot.
- ⁶¹ The cords of the wicked have bound me, *but* I have not forgotten Your Torah.
- ⁶² At midnight I will rise to give thanks to You, because of Your righteous Mishpatim.
- ⁶³ I *am* a companion of all who fear You, and of those who keep Your Pikudim.
- ⁶⁴ The earth, O HASHEM, is full of Your mercy; teach me Your Chukim.

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ד TET

- ⁶⁵ You have dealt well with Your servant, O HASHEM, according to Your Davar.
- ⁶⁶ Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe Your Mitzvot.
- ⁶⁷ Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your 'Imrah.
- ⁶⁸ You *are* good, and do good; teach me Your Chukim.
- ⁶⁹ The proud have forged a lie against me, *but* I will keep Your Pikudim with *my* whole heart.
- ⁷⁰ Their heart is as fat as grease, *but* I delight in Your Torah.
- ⁷¹ *It is* good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your Chukim.
- ⁷² The Torah of Your mouth *is* better to me than thousands of *coins of* gold and silver.

י YOD

- ⁷³ Your hands have made me and fashioned me; give me understanding, that I may learn Your Mitzvot.
- ⁷⁴ Those who fear You will be glad when they see me, because I have hoped in Your Davar.
- ⁷⁵ I know, O HASHEM, that Your Mishpatim *are* right, and *that* in faithfulness You have afflicted me.
- ⁷⁶ Let, I pray, Your merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to Your 'Imrah to Your servant.
- ⁷⁷ Let Your tender mercies come to me, that I may live; for Your Torah *is* my delight.
- ⁷⁸ Let the proud be ashamed, for they treated me wrongfully with falsehood; *but* I will meditate on Your Pikudim.
- ⁷⁹ Let those who fear You turn to me, those who know Your Edut.
- ⁸⁰ Let my heart be blameless regarding Your Chukim, that I may not be ashamed.

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כ KAF

- ⁸¹ My soul faints for Your salvation, but I hope in Your Davar.
- ⁸² My eyes fail *from searching* Your 'Imrah, saying, "When will You comfort me?"
- ⁸³ For I have become like a wineskin in smoke, *yet* I do not forget Your Chukim.
- ⁸⁴ How many *are* the days of Your servant? when will You execute Mishpat on those who persecute me?
- ⁸⁵ The proud have dug pits for me, which *is* not according to Your Torah.
- ⁸⁶ All Your Mitzvot *are* faithful; they persecute me wrongfully; Help me!
- ⁸⁷ They almost made an end of me on earth, but I did not forsake Your Pikudim.
- ⁸⁸ Revive me according to Your lovingkindness, so that I may keep the Edut of Your mouth.

ל LAMED

- ⁸⁹ Forever, O HASHEM, Your Davar is settled in heaven.
- ⁹⁰ Your faithfulness *endures* to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides.
- ⁹¹ They continue this day according to Your ordinances, for all *are* Your servants.
- ⁹² Unless Your Torah *had been* my delight, I would then have perished in my affliction.
- ⁹³ I will never forget Your Pikudim, for by them You have given me life.
- ⁹⁴ I *am* Yours, save me; for I have sought Your Pikudim.
- ⁹⁵ The wicked wait for me to destroy me, *but* I will consider Your Edut.
- ⁹⁶ I have seen the consummation of all perfection, *but* Your commandment *is* exceedingly broad.

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מ MEM

- ⁹⁷ Oh, how I love Your Torah! It *is* my meditation all the day.
- ⁹⁸ You, through Your Mitzvot, make me wiser than my enemies; for they *are* ever with me.
- ⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your Edut *are* my meditation.
- ¹⁰⁰ I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your Pikudim.
- ¹⁰¹ I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your Davar.
- ¹⁰² I have not departed from Your Mishpatim, for You Yourself have taught me.
- ¹⁰³ How sweet are Your 'Imrah to my taste, *sweeter* than honey to my mouth!
- ¹⁰⁴ Through Your Pikudim I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

נ NUN

- ¹⁰⁵ Your Davar *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
- ¹⁰⁶ I have sworn and confirmed that I will keep Your righteous Mishpatim.
- ¹⁰⁷ I am afflicted very much; revive me, O HASHEM, according to Your Davar.
- ¹⁰⁸ Accept, I pray, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O HASHEM, and teach me Your Mishpatim.
- ¹⁰⁹ My life *is* continually in my hand, yet I do not forget Your Torah.
- ¹¹⁰ The wicked have laid a snare for me, yet I have not strayed from Your Pikudim.
- ¹¹¹ Your Edut I have taken as a heritage forever, for they *are* the rejoicing of my heart.
- ¹¹² I have inclined my heart to perform Your Chukim forever, to the very end.

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ו SAMECH

- 113 I hate the double-minded, but I love Your Torah.
- 114 You *are* my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your Davar.
- 115 Depart from me, you evildoers, for I will keep the Mitzvot of my G-d!
- 116 Uphold me according to Your 'Imrah, that I may live; and do not let me be ashamed of my hope.
- 117 Hold me up, and I shall be safe, and I shall observe Your Chukim continually.
- 118 You reject all those who stray from Your Chukim, for their deceit *is* falsehood.
- 119 You put away all the wicked of the earth *like* dross; therefore I love Your Eduṭ.
- 120 My flesh trembles for fear of You, and I am afraid of Your Mishpatim.

ו AYIN

- 121 I have done justice and righteousness; do not leave me to my oppressors.
- 122 Be surety for Your servant for good; do not let the proud oppress me.
- 123 My eyes fail *from seeking* Your salvation and Your righteous 'Imrah.
- 124 Deal with Your servant according to Your mercy, and teach me Your Chukim.
- 125 I *am* Your servant; give me understanding, that I may know Your Eduṭ.
- 126 *It is* time for *You* to act, O HASHEM, *for* they have regarded Your Torah as void.
- 127 Therefore I love Your Mitzvot more than gold, yes, than fine gold!
- 128 Therefore all *Your* Pikudim *concerning* all *things* I consider *to be* right; I hate every false way.

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ד PEY

- 129 Your Edut are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.
- 130 The entrance of Your Davar gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.
- 131 I opened my mouth and panted, for I longed for Your Mitzvot.
- 132 Look upon me and be merciful to me, as Your custom *is* toward those who love Your name.
- 133 Direct my steps by Your 'Imrah, and let no iniquity have dominion over me.
- 134 Redeem me from the oppression of man, that I may keep Your Pikudim.
- 135 Make Your face shine upon Your servant, and teach me Your Chukim.
- 136 Rivers of water run down from my eyes, because *men* do not keep Your Torah.

צ TZADI

- 137 Righteous *are* You, O HASHEM, and upright *are* Your Mishpatim.
- 138 Your Edut, *which* You have commanded, *are* righteous and very faithful.
- 139 My zeal has consumed me, because my enemies have forgotten Your Davar.
- 140 Your 'Imrah *is* very pure; therefore Your servant loves it.
- 141 I *am* small and despised, *yet* I do not forget Your Pikudim.
- 142 Your righteousness *is* an everlasting Tzedek, and Your Torah *is* truth.
- 143 Trouble and anguish have overtaken me, *yet* Your Mitzvot *are* my delights.
- 144 The righteousness of Your Edut *is* everlasting; give me understanding, and I shall live.

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ק KOF

- ¹⁴⁵ I cry out with *my* whole heart; hear me, O HASHEM! I will keep Your Chukim.
- ¹⁴⁶ I cry out to You; save me, and I will keep Your Edut.
- ¹⁴⁷ I rise before the dawning of the morning, and cry for help; I hope in Your Davar.
- ¹⁴⁸ My eyes are awake through the *night* watches, that I may meditate on Your 'Imrah.
- ¹⁴⁹ Hear my voice according to Your lovingkindness; O HASHEM, revive me according to Your Mishpatim.
- ¹⁵⁰ They draw near who follow after wickedness; they are far from Your Torah.
- ¹⁵¹ You *are* near, O HASHEM, and all Your Mitzvot *are* truth.
- ¹⁵² Concerning Your Edut, I have known of old that You have founded them forever.

ר RESH

- ¹⁵³ Consider my affliction and deliver me, for I do not forget Your Torah.
- ¹⁵⁴ Plead my cause and redeem me; revive me according to Your 'Imrah.
- ¹⁵⁵ Salvation *is* far from the wicked, for they do not seek Your Chukim.
- ¹⁵⁶ Great *are* Your tender mercies, O HASHEM; revive me according to Your Mishpatim.
- ¹⁵⁷ Many *are* my persecutors and my enemies, *yet* I do not turn from Your Edut.
- ¹⁵⁸ I see the treacherous, and am disgusted, because they do not keep Your 'Imrah.
- ¹⁵⁹ Consider how I love Your Pikudim; revive me, O HASHEM, according to Your lovingkindness.
- ¹⁶⁰ The entirety of Your Davar *is* truth, and every one of Your righteous Mishpatim *endures* forever.

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שׁ SHIN

- 161 Princes persecute me without a cause, but my heart stands in awe of Your Davar.
- 162 I rejoice at Your 'Imrah as one who finds great treasure.
- 163 I hate and abhor lying, *but* I love Your Torah.
- 164 Seven times a day I praise You, because of Your righteous Mishpatim.
- 165 Great peace have those who love Your Torah, and nothing causes them to stumble.
- 166 HASHEM, I hope for Your salvation, and I do Your Mitzvot.
- 167 My soul keeps Your Eduṭ, and I love them exceedingly.
- 168 I keep Your Pikudim and Your Eduṭ, for all my Derek *are* before You.

ת TAV

- 169 Let my cry come before You, O HASHEM; give me understanding according to Your Davar.
- 170 Let my supplication come before You; deliver me according to Your 'Imrah.
- 171 My lips shall utter praise, for You teach me Your Chukim.
- 172 My tongue shall speak of Your 'Imrah, for all Your Mitzvot *are* righteousness.
- 173 Let Your hand become my help, for I have chosen Your Pikudim.
- 174 I long for Your salvation, O HASHEM, and Your Torah *is* my delight.
- 175 Let my soul live, and it shall praise You; and let Your Mishpatim help me.
- 176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, for I do not forget Your Mitzvot.

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Psalm 119 and Psalm 19 - Definitions and Context

- ❖ **torah = instruction**; from root word "**yarah**" "to throw or shoot" – it denotes the principle of our eyes being drawn to that which is thrown (this "flow" as well is signified). The idea is to "aim" His people at His target of righteousness, as an archer aims an arrow. Hence the negative aspect reveals sin as "missing the mark."
- ❖ **Edut = testimonies, witnesses**; from root "to bear witness" or "to repeat". One's analysis and perspective on a matter. In reference to G-d, He testifies as to what He knows to be true. Just as a witness in a court of law, His testimonies reveal the truth of a matter and bring enlightenment. G-d is the ultimate expert witness.
- ❖ **derek = way, footsteps**; from the root "to tread" or "to bend" (as in to step on to bend the bow). Emphasis on where you put your foot. Both the manner of meeting a goal and the goal itself. In the case of humans, the "goal" may be either deliberate or incidental (in other words, all behavior leads somewhere, whether you mean it to or not).
- ❖ **pikudim = precepts**; from root "to number" or "**to visit**". Always plural. This carries an emphasis on the visitation of a superior to "count" or "organize" for the purpose of bringing special good.
- ❖ **chokim = statutes**; from root to "**inscribe** by decree". This denotes instructions given by a Sovereign that are to be obeyed whether understood or not. This word is often used to refer to those commandments which have an unknown or hidden purpose.
- ❖ **mitzvot = commandments, ordinances**; from root "to command, give a charge". These are G-d's instructions for living – the actions G-d requires of His people in order for them to fulfill His standard of righteousness. Good deeds.
- ❖ **mishaptim = judgments, ordinances**; from root "to govern or defend". G-d's principles of what is just, right, good... or not.
- ❖ **davar = word**; from root "**to speak**" – primary focus is the act of G-d speaking. In reference to G-d, his declarations are prophetic and always bring His will to pass
- ❖ **'imrah = word**; from root "to utter", "to promise", or "to make **visible**"
- ❖ **tzedek = righteousness**; from root "to be righteous", "to be just" – by the holy standard of G-d

Psalm 19:7-11

The Torah of HaShem *is* perfect, *shuv*¹-ing the soul;

The Edut of HaShem *is* sure, making wise the simple;

The Pikudim of HaShem *are* right, rejoicing the heart;

The Mitzvah of HaShem *is* pure, enlightening the eyes;

The fear of HaShem *is* clean, enduring forever;

The Mishaptim of HaShem *are* *emet*² and Izedek altogether.

More to be desired *are* *they* than gold, yea, than much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in shamar³-ing them *there is* great reward.

¹ *shuv* = to return, to repent

² *emet* = true, from root verb *aman* – to believe and act upon

³ *shamar* = to treasure, to guard, to keep as precious