

161 Princes persecute me without cause,
But my heart stands in awe of Your words.
162 I rejoice at Your word,
As one who finds great spoil.
163 I hate and despise falsehood,
But I love Your law.
164 Seven times a day I praise You,
Because of Your righteous ordinances.
165 Those who love Your law have great peace,
And nothing causes them to stumble.
166 I hope for Your salvation, O Lord,
And do Your commandments.
167 My soul keeps Your testimonies,
And I love them exceedingly.
168 I keep Your precepts and Your testimonies,
For all my ways are before You.

161 שָׂרִים רָדְפוּנִי חֲנָם וּמִדְּבַר־יְהוָה פָּחַד לִבִּי:
162 שֵׁשׁ אָנֹכִי עַל־אֲמַרְתֶּךָ כְּמוֹצֵא שָׁלַל רָב:
163 שָׂקַר שָׂנֵאתִי וְאֶת־עֲבֹה תוֹרַתְךָ אֶהְבֵּתִי:
164 שֶׁבַע בַּיּוֹם הִלְלִיתִךָ עַל מִשְׁפָּטֵי צְדָקָה:
165 שְׁלוֹם רַב לְאֵהָבֵי תוֹרַתְךָ וְאֵין־לָמוּ מִכְשׁוֹל:
166 שְׁבַרְתִּי לִישׁוּעָתֶךָ יְהוָה וּמִצֹּתֶיךָ עָשִׂיתִי:
167 שְׁמֵרָה גִפְשִׁי עֲדֹתֶיךָ וְאֵהֲבֵם מְאֹד:
168 שְׁמַרְתִּי בִּקְוֹדֶיךָ וְעֲדֹתֶיךָ כִּי כָל־דַּרְכֵי נִגְדָה:

ש: The believer who abides in God’s Word can rejoice in any circumstance.

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| <p>1. The Shin is a tooth, or a wide open mouth with a tooth. Feasting on the Word of God provides a rejoicing fellowship opportunity for any believer at any time and under any circumstance.</p> <p>2. Godly dread for the Word of God equips the believer to endure every “pointless” persecution (ψ¹¹⁹161 cf. ט₈ v.120; Ps. 35:19; 69:4; Jn. 15:25). Remember: what we think to be pointless is usually the Lord making His point (Job 2:3).</p> | <p>3. The believer who has learned how to rejoice always considers every Bible class the spoils of war (ψ¹¹⁹162 cf. 1st Sam. 30:16; Isa. 9:3). Maher-shalal-hash-baz is the obvious proper-name word association for this strophe!</p> <p>4. Falsehood is to be hated and despised in the context of loving the Lord’s law (ψ¹¹⁹163). Shin provides us a love triplet for the final instances of the twelve אָהֲבָ applications in ψ¹¹⁹ (vv.163,165,167).</p> | <p>5. The daily walk of righteousness motivates a seven-fold Hallelujah (ψ¹¹⁹164 cf. Ps. 55:17; Dan. 6:10,13; 1st Thess. 5:16-18). The Shin-Tav strophe-pair concludes ψ¹¹⁹ in the same way that the entire Psalter is concluded (cf. Ps. 146-150).</p> <p>6. Great spoil produces a great peace and a protection against stumbling into sin (ψ¹¹⁹165 cf. Isa. 26:3; Jn. 14:27; Phil. 4:7).</p> | <p>7. Consistent obedience to God’s commandments produces the realization of our living hope (ψ¹¹⁹166 cf. 1st Pet. 1:3,13; 1st Jn. 3:3).</p> <p>8. The Psalmist is mindful of the Lord’s immediate presence, and therefore guards the Lord’s testimonies in love (ψ¹¹⁹167-168 cf. ו₁, ר_{3a} & Prov. 5:21; Jer. 23:24; Heb. 4:13; Rev. 2:23).</p> |
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