Princes persecute me without cause,
But my heart stands in awe of Your words.

I rejoice at Your word,
As one who finds great spoil.

I hate and despise falsehood,
But I love Your law.

Seven times a day I praise You,
Because of Your righteous ordinances.

Those who love Your law have great peace,
And nothing causes them to stumble.

I hope for Your salvation, O Lord,
And do Your commandments.

My soul keeps Your testimonies,
And I love them exceedingly.

I keep Your precepts and Your testimonies,
For all my ways are before You.

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.

Godly dread for the Word of God equips the believer to endure every “pointless” persecution (Ps. 119:161 cf. Prov. 35:19; 69:4; Jn. 15:25). Remember: what we think to be pointless is usually the Lord making His point (Job 2:3).

Falsehood is to be hated and despised in the context of loving the Lord’s law (Ps. 119:163). Shin provides us a love triplet for the final instances of the twelve אָהֵב applications in Psalms (vv.163,165,167).

Great spoil produces a great peace and a protection against stumbling into sin (Ps. 119:165 cf. Isa. 26:3; Jn. 14:27; Phil. 4:7).

Consistent obedience to God’s commandments produces the realization of our living hope (Ps. 119:166 cf. 1st Pet. 1:3,13; 1st Jn. 3:3).

The Psalmist is mindful of the Lord’s immediate presence, and therefore guards the Lord’s testimonies in love (Ps. 119:167-168 cf. Ps. 35:19, 69:4 & Prov. 5:21; Jer. 23:24; Heb. 4:13; Rev. 2:23).

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

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.

2. Godly dread for the Word of God equips the believer to endure every “pointless” persecution (Ps. 119:161 cf. Prov. 35:19; 69:4; Jn. 15:25). Remember: what we think to be pointless is usually the Lord making His point (Job 2:3).

3. The believer who has learned how to rejoice always considers every Bible class the spoils of war (Ps. 119:162 cf. 1st Sam. 30:16; Isa. 9:3). Maher-shalal-hash-baz is the obvious proper-name word association for this strophe!

4. Falsehood is to be hated and despised in the context of loving the Lord’s law (Ps. 119:163). Shin provides us a love triplet for the final instances of the twelve אָהֵב applications in Psalms (vv.163,165,167).

5. The daily walk of righteousness motivates a seven-fold Hallelujah (Ps. 119:164 cf. Ps. 55:17; Dan. 6:10,13; 1st Thess. 5:16-18). The Shin-Tav strophe-pair concludes Psalms in the same way that the entire Psalter is concluded (cf. Ps. 146-150).

6. Great spoil produces a great peace and a protection against stumbling into sin (Ps. 119:165 cf. Isa. 26:3; Jn. 14:27; Phil. 4:7).

7. Consistent obedience to God’s commandments produces the realization of our living hope (Ps. 119:166 cf. 1st Pet. 1:3,13; 1st Jn. 3:3).

8. The Psalmist is mindful of the Lord’s immediate presence, and therefore guards the Lord’s testimonies in love (Ps. 119:167-168 cf. Ps. 35:19, 69:4 & Prov. 5:21; Jer. 23:24; Heb. 4:13; Rev. 2:23).