

# Studies in the Psalms

Show me Your ways,  
O Lord, teach me  
Your paths; guide me  
in your truth and  
teach me, for you  
are God my Savior,  
and my hope is in  
you all day long.

Psalms 25:4-5

## PSALM 25

### A LESSON IN THE HEBREW LANGUAGE

#### QUICK REVIEW

##### LESSON ONE

- » The 22 Letters of the Hebrew alphabet

##### A NOTE

This psalm is an acrostic, where each verse begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Acrostic psalms are often difficult to outline, because the content is guided more by the alphabetic arrangement than by a logical outline.

#### ABOUT THIS PSALM

Psalms 25, is unique in that it is basically a textbook lesson for the language of Hebrew. It was used by the Hebrew people to educate their children to not only know the letters of the Hebrew alphabet, but to also understand their meanings; and to be able to connect the teachings to God. The lessons contained in this Psalm are quite far reaching in coming to know the Lord.

##### AUTHOR

The author of Psalm 25 is David, the son of Jesse from Bethlehem. There is no information given in this psalm as to when, or where it was given, but the psalm itself declares the purpose and the use that it was given for.

##### THEME

Psalms 25 is primarily about learning the A, B, C's of the Hebrew language. There are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet and each letter is actually a picture that describes the meaning of the letter. When you put the letters (or pictures) together then you can see and understand the meaning of the word. In each of the 22 verses contained in Psalm 25, the first letter (picture) of each word in each sentence is listed in the order of the alphabet down through the Hebrew alphabet. (In English that would be from "A" to "Z") Each verse or sentence also gives a description about how that word (picture) applies to our relationship with God.

EXAMPLE: Take the first two letters of the Hebrew alphabet, "Aleph" and "Beth." By the way, "Aleph" and Beth" are the words used to make our English word "alphabet." When you place the two letters together they spell the word "Ab." The word "Ab" spells the word "Father" in Hebrew. In Aramaic (which is very similar to Hebrew) the word father is "Abba." When you place those letters together you understand that the meaning of the word father is "The superior one, the strength, who houses us or holds us together. The resulting meaning can then be understood that your house is as strong as whomever it is that is holding your house together. If God is your father, then your house is as strong as He is. It means that the more that you make Father God the Lord of your life the stronger you become too.

# PERSONAL APPLICATIONS//PSALM 25

## A LESSON IN THE HEBREW LANGUAGE

Read all of Psalm 25 together.

Many of the psalms David writes are overflowing with praise to his mighty God. This psalm is full of requests to God (Ex: Vs 2 “Don’t let my enemies overcome me”).

### QUESTIONS

Using the chart provided, “A Lesson Plan to Learn the A, B, C’s of the Hebrew Language” find each verse that is a direct request David makes to God (Verses: 2, 4, 5, 7, 11, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22). Examine each of these verses by discussing these two things:

1. Does the Hebrew “Letter Symbol” that correlates to the verse and the “Letter Meaning” help your understanding of the verse?
2. How can we apply this to our lives?

| A LESSON PLAN TO LEARN THE A,B,C.’s OF THE HEBREW LANGUAGE |  |                             |                     |                |               |
|--|--|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|
| VERSE  | THEME OR ESSENCE OF VERSE  | Letter Meaning              | LETTER = PICTURE OF | NAME OF LETTER | LETTER SYMBOL |
| 1  | To You , O LORD, I lift up my soul,  | Superiority, Strength, #1   | Ox head             | Aleph          | א             |
| 2  | In You I put my trust, O my God ... don't let my enemies overcome me         | To house something          | House               | Beth           | ב             |
| 3  | No one whose hope is in You will ever be ashamed ...                         | To be blessed               | Camel               | Gimel          | ג             |
| 4  | Show me Your ways, O LORD, and teach me Your paths                           | To enter into               | Door                | Daleth         | ד             |
| 5  | Guide me and teach me Your truths LORD ... my hope is in Your salvation      | To let in light/wisdom      | Window              | He             | ה             |
| 6  | LORD ... always remember Your enduring great mercy and love                  | To secure                   | Nail or hook        | Waw            | ו             |
| 7  | Forgive the sins of my past, and give me Your mercy ... LORD                 | To carry out plans          | Weapon              | Zayin          | ז             |
| 8  | The LORD is so good and upright, ... He teaches sinners His way              | To surround, protect        | Hedge or Fence      | Cheth          | ח             |
| 9  | God rightly guides the humble and teaches them His way                       | To whisper, enchant         | Serpent             | Teth           | ט             |
| 10   | The LORD is loving and faithful to those who keep His covenant               | The work of man's hand      | Hand                | Yodh           | י             |
| 11   | LORD, for Your name's sake, forgive my great iniquity ...                    | A Hem to cover              | Wing/ Hem           | Kaph           | כ             |
| 12   | Whoever fears the LORD will be instructed in the way God choses ...          | To prod                     | Ox Goad             | Lamed          | ל             |
| 13   | You will live in a prosperity that will be Inherited by your children ...    | Roll from one to another    | Ocean wave          | Mem            | מ             |
| 14   | The LORD will reveal His covenant to those who fear Him.                     | To reproduce                | Fish                | Nun            | נ             |
| 15   | ... Keep your eyes on the LORD, only He can you free ...                     | To support                  | Tent pole           | Samech         | ס             |
| 16   | The LORD will be with you and give you grace ... in your time of afflictions | How you see things          | Eye                 | Ayin           | ע             |
| 17   | Remove from me the heartfelt anxiety of my many troubles ...                 | Mouth speaks from the heart | Mouth               | Pe             | פ             |
| 18   | Look on my pain ... and take away all my sins                                | Signature, decision         | Signet              | Tzade          | צ             |
| 19   | Relieve me from the increasing hatefulness ... of my enemies                 | Cut off in judgment         | Axe                 | Qoph           | ק             |
| 20   | Protect me ... as I keep my trust in You                                     | Leaders choice              | A head              | Resh           | ר             |
| 21   | Give me integrity ... through You  | Sharpen, train              | Teeth               | Shin           | ש             |
| 22   | Redeem us out of all our troubles  | Finish                      | End                 | Tau            | ת             |