

**The ABC's on the Word of God**

גמלי על־עבדה אחיה ואשמרה דברך:  
 על־עני ואביטת נפלאות מותרתך:  
 גר אנכי בארץ אלימסתר ממני מצותיך:  
 זרקה נשתי לתאבה אלימשמרה בכל־עית:  
 גערת זדים אירורים השגים ממעותיך:  
 גל מעלי זרפה ובוז כי עדותיך נאמתי:  
 גם ישובו שרים כי גזברו עבדך נשית בתקוד:  
 גם־עדותיך שעשעני אנשי עמתי:

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➤ This strophe or stanza is comprised of four pairs of verses but these verses also form couplets:  
**The Acts of the LORD Enabling Obedience (vv. 17-18)**  
*The Psalmist an Alien on Earth (vv. 19-20)*  
**The Acts of the LORD Punishing Disobedience and Rewarding Obedience (vv. 21-22)**  
*The Psalmist an Object of Rebuke (vv. 23-24)*

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I. Living a Holy Life – Desired (v. 9)  
 II. Living a Holy Life – Hindrances (vv. 19, 21, 23)  
*A. Our Passions can Make Living the Holy Life Difficult:*  
*B. Our Circumstances can Make Living the Holy Life Difficult (vv. 19, 21, 23)*  
 1. Alien residency:  
 2. Society contains those who go astray morally:  
 - “Arrogant, insolent” (זדים)  
 - They despise God and His people with “scorn and contempt” (זרפה ובוז)  
 3. Personal opposition is encountered – Even disapproval of influential people:

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I. Living a Holy Life – Desired (v. 9)  
 II. Living a Holy Life – Hindrances (vv. 19, 21, 23)  
 III. Living a Holy Life – In the courts of earth (vv. 17-24)  
*A. Realize that Life is More than Just Living (vv. 17-18)*  
 1. Living is not Merely Physical Existence (אחיה ואביטת נפלאות דברך) (v. 17)  
 - Note the two-fold reference to the Psalmist as “servant” – *loyalty and submissiveness* (vv. 17, 23b):  
 - Life is desirable in order to serve God:

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*A. Realize that Life is More than Just Living (vv. 17-18)*  
 1. Living is not Merely Physical Existence (אחיה ואביטת נפלאות דברך) (v. 17)  
 2. Living Aright needs Divine Enlightenment – “Uncover my eyes” (גל־עיני) (v. 18)

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 III. Living a Holy Life – In the courts of earth (vv. 17-24)  
*A. Realize that Life is More than Just Living (vv. 17-18)*  
*B. Recognize the Reality of the Situation and Maintain Proper Priority (vv. 19-20)*  
 1. There is no Abiding Resting-Place (v. 19a)  
 - The psalmist lives the pilgrim (בְּאֶרֶץ גֵּר) existence:

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I. Living a Holy Life – Desired (v. 9)  
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*A. Realize that Life is More than Just Living (vv. 17-18)*  
*B. Recognize the Reality of the Situation and Maintain Proper Priority (vv. 19-20)*  
 1. There is no Abiding Resting-Place (v. 19a)  
 2. There is need for Abiding Consciousness of God's Commands (v. 19b)  
 - The psalmist petitions for the rules of conduct for the journey of life to remain in living consciousness for him (“Do not hide...from me” מִמֶּנִּי):  
 - YHWH's commandments give insight into the meaning of life in order that it may be lived to its fullest significance:

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 1. There is no Abiding Resting-Place (v. 19a)  
 2. There is need for Abiding Consciousness of God's Commands (v. 19b)  
 3. Hence the Intense Longing (נרקה נשתי לתאבה) (v. 20)  
 - “My heart aches with longing” (GNB)  
 - “I wear myself out with desire” (NCV)  
 - “Crushed” (נרקה) the excessive strain of spiritual desire:

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- I. Living a Holy Life – Desired (v. 9)
- II. Living a Holy Life – Hindrances (vv. 19, 21, 23)
- III. Living a Holy Life – In the courts of earth (vv. 17-24)
  - A. *Realize that Life is More than Just Living* (vv. 17-18)
  - B. *Recognize the Reality of the Situation and Maintain Proper Priority* (vv. 19-20)
  - C. *Rest Upon God's Providential Justice* (vv. 21-22)
    - Just as God rebukes those who despise His word, He can deliver His servants from their reproach:
  - D. *Resolve Yourself to the Word* (vv. 23-24)
    - The word of the Lord must dominate –
    - 1) Mind (דַּבָּר):
    - 2) Affections (אֲהַבְתִּי אֶת־דְּבַר־יְהוָה):
    - 3) Practical advice (אֲנִי אֶת־דְּבַר־יְהוָה אֶתְּנֶה לְעַמִּי):