

## The ABC's on the Word of God

- I. The End of Endurance (vv. 81-88)**  
**A. Suffering can Seem Long and Drawn-out:**  
 1. Languishes (v. 81a)  
 2. Fail with Longing (v. 82a)  
 3. How Many? (v. 84)  
**B. Suffering can Come at the Hands of the Disobedient (v. 85a)**  
**C. Disobedience Must be Met by Our Obedience (vv. 87-88b)**  
**D. Suffering Must be Met by Our Obedience (v. 83, cf. 88)**  
 1. **The Trustworthy Word Must be Our Rule for the Present (cf. vv. 83, 87, 88)**  
 2. **The Trustworthy Word Must be Our Hope for the Future (cf. vv. 81-82)**  
 - *I Hope in (v. 81b)*  
 - *Your Promise (v. 82a)*

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**II. The Endless Word (vv. 89-96)**  
**A. The Stability of the Word (vv. 89-91)**  
 ➤ What we find immediately in this stanza is a focus upon stability –  
 1) נָצַב ('settled, being stationed by appointment') (v. 89b)  
 2) אִמּוּנָה ('faithfulness, steadfastness') (v. 90a)  
 3) כִּינְנָה ('set up, established') (v. 90b)  
 4) וַתֵּעַמְדוּ ('to stand, stand still, endure, remain') (v. 90b)  
 5) עָמְדוּ ('to stand, stand still, endure, remain') (v. 91a)

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 ➤ What we find immediately in this stanza is a focus upon stability –  
 ➤ Seemingly facing the end of his endurance he sets the eyes of his heart upon the great certainties in relation to God and His word:  
 1) **Permanence:**  
 2) **Total Dependability:**  
 3) **Consistency:**  
 4) **Reliability:**  
 5) **Constancy:**

- In highlighting these characteristics (*Permanence, Total Dependability, Consistency, Reliability, Constancy*) he is focusing on –  
 1) **The nature of God's word (v. 89)**  
 2) **The nature of the God of the word (v. 89a) and**  
 3) **The nature of the word of God in the created order (v. 91)**  
 ➤ Understanding that the nature of God's word (1) and the nature of the word of God in the created order (3) flow from the very nature of God Himself (2):  
 1) **Special Revelation – The Word (v. 89)**  
 2) **General Revelation – Creation (v. 90b), Preservation (vv. 90a, 90c-91)**  
 - His consistency in undergirding successive generations:  
 - His world-sustaining word:  
 3) **Personal Revelation – YHWH (יהוה) (v. 89a)**  
 - Eternality and Immutability (Enduring Changelessness):

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**B. The Sufficiency of the Word (vv. 92-96)**  
 1. **The Contrast Between that Which Endures and that Which Perishes (v. 96)**  
 a) *The Limitation of the Finite – The Observation (v. 96a)*  
 b) *The Limitlessness of the Infinite – The Confession (v. 96b)*  
 ➤ The psalmist throughout the course of his life has observed the dead end of all (finite, earthly) perfection, but not so the word of God:  
 ➤ In everything finite there is a limiting factor but God's commands are of a limitless nature:

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 1. **The Contrast Between that Which Endures and that Which Perishes (v. 96)**  
 2. **The Longevity of the Word and Personal Experience (vv. 89, 92, 93, 96)**  
 A. *The Word in Heaven (v. 89)*  
 B. *The Word Personally Enjoyed (v. 92)*  
 B. *The Word Personally Enjoyed (v. 93a)*  
 A. *The Word in its Boundless Nature (v. 96)*

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 2. **The Longevity of the Word and Personal Experience (vv. 89, 92, 93, 96)**  
 3. **The Lord's Word and Commitment to the Word (vv. 89, 93)**  
 ➤ Forever (לְעוֹלָם) – Never (לֹא-יִשָּׁכַח) (לְעוֹלָם)

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**II. The Endless Word (vv. 89-96)**  
**III. The Enriching Word (vv. 97-104)**  
 ➤ This stanza is framed by two exclamations –  
 1) **How I Love – Subjective Delightfulness (v. 97)**  
 2) **How Sweet – Objective Delightfulness (v. 103)**  
 3) **The Concluding Summary (v. 104)**

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- II. The Endless Word (vv. 89-96)
- III. The Enriching Word (vv. 97-104)
  - A. *The Delightful Word Gives Discernment* (vv. 97-100)
  - B. *The Delightful Word Grants Direction* (vv. 101-103)
  - C. *The Summation of it All* (v. 104)

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    - A. *The Delightful Word Gives Discernment* (vv. 97-100)
      - 1. The Adoration (v. 97)
        - a) *Confession – I Love* (v. 97a)
        - b) *Confirmation – I Meditate* (v. 97b)
- *Love for the Word Issues Forth in Meditation of the Word:*

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  - A. *The Delightful Word Gives Discernment* (vv. 97-100)
    - 1. The Adoration (v. 97)
    - 2. The Advantages (vv. 98-100)
      - a) *It Gives Prudence* (v. 98)
      - b) *It Multiplies Insight* (v. 99)
      - c) *It Increases Understanding* (v. 100)

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- If Teaches What to Avoid and What to Do or Not to Do:
- 1. It is Preventative (v. 101)
  - 2. It is Prohibitive (v. 102a)
  - 3. It is Intrinsically Divine (v. 102b-103)

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    - 1. It is the Way to a Sound Mind – Understanding:
    - 2. It is the Way to Reliable Affections – Hate:
    - 3. It is the Way to Right Living – Path:

- ☐ There is a Discernable Pattern:

  - ✓ *Consistent Meditation* (vv. 97, 98, 99)
  - ✓ *Leads to Obedience* (v. 100)
  - ✓ *Obedience and Recognition of Divine Authority* (vv. 101-102)
  - ✓ *Leads to Delight* (v. 103)