

כ

81 My soul languishes for Your salvation;
I wait for Your word.
82 My eyes fail with longing for Your word,
While I say, "When will You comfort me?"
83 Though I have become like a wineskin in the smoke,
I do not forget Your statutes.
84 How many are the days of Your servant?
When will You execute judgment on those who persecute me?
85 The arrogant have dug pits for me,
Men who are not in accord with Your law.
86 All Your commandments are faithful;
They have persecuted me with a lie; help me!
87 They almost destroyed me on earth,
But as for me, I did not forsake Your precepts.
88 Revive me according to Your lovingkindness,
So that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth.

כָּלֶתְהָ לַתְּשׁוּעָתְךָ נַפְשִׁי לְדַבְרֶךָ יַחֲלֵתִי: 81
 כָּלוּ עֵינַי לְאִמְרֹתֶיךָ לֵאמֹר מָתִי תִנְחַמְנִי: 82
 כִּי־הֵייתִי כְּנֹאד בְּקִיטּוֹר חֲכִיף לֹא שָׁכַחְתִּי: 83
 כַּמָּה יָמֵי־עַבְדְּךָ מָתִי תַעֲשֶׂה בְּרַדְפֵי מִשְׁפָּט: 84
 כְּרוּ־לִי יָדַיִם שִׁיחֹת אֲשֶׁר לֹא כְתוּרְתֶךָ: 85
 כָּל־מִצְוֹתֶיךָ אֱמוּנָה שֶׁקֶר רַדְפוּנִי עֲזַרְנִי: 86
 כִּמְעַט כָּלוּנִי בָאָרֶץ וְאֲנִי לֹא־עֹזְבֵתִי בַּקּוּדִיךָ: 87
 כַּחֲסֻדְךָ חִינִי וְאֲשַׁמְרָה עֲדוֹת פִּיךָ: 88

כ: God’s Word provides us with the proper perspective on time.

- The kaph is an empty, open hand and pictures us with a need that only God can fill. This strophe marks the midpoint of the psalm and expresses the deepest anguish of any strophe.
- This strophe is the fourth of five which contain all eight words for the Word (כ פ י כ פ ו ח י).
- The English reader will not recognize that *languishes* (v.81), fail (v.82), and destroyed (v.87) are all the same word: כָּלַח kalah #3615. Chilion (pinning) provides our proper name word study for this strophe.
- Our soul may appear to us to be on the verge of ending, but the Lord’s salvation must take place on His schedule and not ours (ψ¹¹⁹81 cf. Ps. 90:4). It is waited for and hoped for (Gen. 49:18; Isa. 25:9; 1st Thess. 5:8).
- Our eyes may appear to us to be on the verge of failing, but the Lord’s comfort must take place on His schedule and not ours (ψ¹¹⁹82 cf. Ps. 69:3; 2nd Thess. 2:16-17).
- The wineskin in the smoke (ψ¹¹⁹83) is dried and empty, but ready to be filled. If it remains in the smoke without being filled then it will shrivel and blacken (cf. Job 30:30).
- Our days may appear to be coming to an end but vengeance remains with the Lord (ψ¹¹⁹84; Ps. 7:6; 39:4-5; 89:47-48; 90:12; Job 7:6-8; Rev. 6:10).
- Pitfalls are tools of the adversary we must constantly be on guard against (ψ¹¹⁹85; Ps. 35:7; Jer. 18:20).
- Angelic conflict is the contrast between God’s absolute Truth and the adversary’s diabolical lies (ψ¹¹⁹86; Ps. 35:17-21; 2nd Chr. 14:11-12).
- Every persecution is limited to the realm of earth (ψ¹¹⁹87; Matt. 10:28; 1st Cor. 10:13; 2nd Cor. 4:7-18).
- God’s lovingkindness empowers us to safekeep God’s testimony (ψ¹¹⁹2,88,146; Ps. 25:10; 78:5; 1st Tim. 6:20).