

Appendix A - Synonyms for the Word of God in Psalm 119

| English word used in ESV | Hebrew | Definition |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Law (25x) | <i>tôrâ</i> | The parent verb means to ‘teach’ or ‘direct.’ It can refer to law or instructions, but especially the Decalogue, Pentateuch, or the entire revealed written law of God. |
| Example from Psalm 119 | | Psalm 119:1 Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord! |
| Example outside of Psalm 119 | | Exodus 13:9 And it shall be to you as a sign on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the law of the Lord may be in your mouth. For with a strong hand the Lord has brought you out of Egypt. |
| Testimonies (23x) | <i>‘ēdâ</i> | Related to the word for witness, signifies loyalty to the covenant. It speaks of the trustworthiness and faithfulness of what God says. |
| Example from Psalm 119 | | Psalm 119:2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies , who seek him with their whole heart, |
| Example outside of Psalm 119 | | Genesis 21:30 He said, “These seven ewe lambs you will take from my hand, that this may be a witness for me that I dug this well.” |
| Precepts (21x) | <i>piqqûdîm</i> | Means ‘precept, statute,’ but is drawn from a root that means to attend to, visit, or frequent often as in the sphere of an office or an overseer like a man who is responsible to look closely into the situation and to take action. By implication the word points to the particular instructions of the Lord as one who cares about detail. |
| Example from Psalm 119 | | Psalm 119:4 You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. |
| Example outside of Psalm 119 | | Genesis 39:4 So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. |
| Statues (21x) | <i>hōq</i> | Derived from the root word ‘to engrave’ or ‘to inscribe,’ and carries the idea of the authority of God’s written word it declares the authority and power of giving us laws |
| Example from Psalm 119 | | Psalm 119:5 Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! |
| Example outside of Psalm 119 | | Exodus 12:24 You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever. |

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|---|
| Commandments (22x) | <i>mišvâ</i> | A command, whether human or divine that emphasizes the straight authority of what is said |
| Example from Psalm 119 | | Psalm 119:6 Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments . |
| Example outside of Psalm 119 | | Exodus 20:6 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. |
| Judgment/rule (23x) | <i>mišpāṭ</i> | properly, a verdict (favorable or unfavorable) pronounced judicially, especially a sentence or formal decree, from the Hebrew word to judge, shows how rules are to be regulated cause us to discern to choose |
| Example from Psalm 119 | | Psalm 119:7 I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules . |
| Example outside of Psalm 119 | | Genesis 18:25 Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just ?" |
| Word (24x) | <i>dābār</i> | Spoken or written word; a thing, but in this Psalm speaks of God's revealed written word to mankind |
| Example from Psalm 119 | | Psalm 119:9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word . |
| Example outside of Psalm 119 | | Genesis 11:1 Now the whole earth had one language and the same words . |
| Promises/Wor d (19x) | <i>'imrâ</i> | An utterance, speech, or word; May denote anything that God has spoken commanded or promised, intended to encourage and be the basis for expectation |
| Example from Psalm 119 | | Psalm 119:41 Let your steadfast love come to me, O Lord, your salvation according to your promise |
| Example outside of Psalm 119 | | Genesis 4:23-24 23 Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; you wives of Lamech, listen to what I say : I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me. 24 If Cain's revenge is sevenfold, then Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold." |