

## Lesson 20: Psalm 119:153-160 – Resh

### *Prayer for Preservation Through Persecution*

| <i>ESV</i>  | <i>NKJV</i>   | <i>NASB</i>   | <i>NIV</i>  | <i>NLT</i>   |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <b>153 Look on my affliction and deliver me, for I do not forget your law.</b>  | <b>153 Consider my affliction and deliver me, For I do not forget Your law.</b> | <b>153 Look upon my affliction and rescue me, For I do not forget Your law.</b> | <b>153 Look upon my suffering and deliver me, for I have not forgotten your law.</b>  | <b>153 Look upon my suffering and rescue me, for I have not forgotten your instructions.</b> |
| <b>153 Look upon my suffering (affliction) and deliver (rescue) me, for I do not forget Your law.</b>   |   |   |   |  |
| <p><b>Commentary:</b><br/>           Drawing near to and depending on the Lord for deliverance from suffering inflicted by those who were persecuting him. Not forgetting God and His Word in the midst of suffering.</p>   |   |   |   |  |
| <b>Application:</b> “Lord, please take note of my suffering and deliver me. I need spiritual revival from You.”   |   |   |   |  |
| <b>154 Plead my cause and redeem me; give me life according to your promise!</b>  | <b>154 Plead my cause and redeem me; Revive me according to Your word.</b>      | <b>154 Plead my cause and redeem me; Revive me according to Your word.</b>      | <b>154 Defend my cause and redeem me; preserve my life according to your promise.</b> | <b>154 Argue my case; take my side! Protect my life as you promised.</b>                     |
| <b>154 Plead (argue, defend) my cause and redeem me; give me life (revive me) according to Your promise.</b>  |   |   |   |  |
| <p><b>Commentary:</b><br/> <b>Plead my cause.</b> A request that the Lord would intercede on his behalf.</p> <p><u>Hebrews 7:23-25</u><br/>           23 The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, 24 but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. 25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.</p> <p><u>Romans 8:26-27</u><br/>           26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.</p> |   |   |   |  |

Romans 8:33-34

33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

**Redeem.** To buy back; to free from what distresses or harms; to free from captivity by payment of ransom; to extricate from or help to overcome something that is detrimental; to free from the consequences of sin; repair, restore; to offset the bad effect of. (*Merriam-Webster Dictionary*)

**Give me life according to your promise!** In times of distress the psalmist looked to the Word for promises he could claim that applied to his situation. He placed his hope in those promises and thus in the Lord.

Spiritual revival comes through putting one's hope in the promises of God's Word.

**Application:**

"Thank You, Lord Jesus; thank You, Dear Holy Spirit, that You both intercede on my behalf when I am in distress. Thank You that Your intercessions are effective."

**155 Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek your statutes.**

**155 Salvation is far from the wicked, For they do not seek Your statutes.**

**155 Salvation is far from the wicked, For they do not seek Your statutes.**

**155 Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek out your decrees.**

**155 The wicked are far from rescue, for they do not bother with your decrees.**

**155 Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do no seek Your statutes.**

**Commentary:**

**For they do not seek your statutes.** Note the contrast between the psalmist looking in the Word for promises to claim (vs. 154) and the wicked who **do not seek Your statutes.**

Note the characteristics of the wicked in vss. 155,157,158. They do not seek or desire God or His Word. They do not depend on Him. Therefore, they should have no expectation or hope of His salvation (deliverance).

**Application:** "Please forgive me for behaving like the wicked when I fail to seek Your statutes."

**156 Great is your mercy, O Lord; give me life according to your rules.**

**156 Great are Your tender mercies, O Lord; Revive me according to Your judgments.**

**156 Great are Your mercies, O Lord; Revive me according to Your ordinances.**

**156 Your compassion is great, O Lord; preserve my life according to your laws.**

**156 Lord, how great is your mercy; let me be revived by following your regulations.**

**156 Great is Your mercy (compassion), O Lord; give me life (revive me) according to Your laws.**

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| <b>Commentary:</b><br>God's compassion is revealed in His Word. See above, vs. 154.<br>Note vss. 154, 156, 159 – “Give me life: 1) According to your promise; 2) According to your rules; 3) According to your steadfast love.” The parallelism indicates that God’s love is revealed in His Word. |   |   |  |   |
| <b>Application:</b><br>“Thank You, Lord, for Your great compassion and undeserved mercy! Thank You for the hope and spiritual revival that I find in Your Word.”   |   |   |  |   |
| <b>157 Many are my persecutors and my adversaries, but I do not swerve from your testimonies.</b>  | <b>157 Many are my persecutors and my enemies, Yet I do not turn from Your testimonies.</b> | <b>157 Many are my persecutors and my adversaries, Yet I do not turn aside from Your testimonies.</b> | <b>157 Many are the foes who persecute me, but I have not turned from your statutes.</b> | <b>157 Many persecute and trouble me, yet I have not swerved from your laws.</b>                  |
| <b>157 Many are my persecutors and my adversaries (enemies), but I do not turn from Your testimonies.</b>  |   |   |  |   |
| <b>Commentary:</b><br>The wicked persecute the righteous—this seems to be a timeless truth.<br>Persecution did not shake his loyalty to God or cause him to turn from God’s Word.  |   |   |  |   |
| <b>Application:</b> “Lord, I pray that nothing, either good or ill, would distract me from pursuing You and Your Word.”  |   |   |  |   |
| <b>158 I look at the faithless with disgust, because they do not keep your commands.</b>   | <b>158 I see the treacherous, and am disgusted, Because they do not keep Your word.</b>     | <b>158 I behold the treacherous and loathe them, Because they do not keep Your word.</b>              | <b>158 I look on the faithless with loathing, for they do not obey your word.</b>        | <b>158 Seeing these traitors makes me sick at heart, because they care nothing for your word.</b> |
| <b>158 I look on the faithless with disgust, because they do not obey Your commands (word).</b>  |   |   |  |   |
| <b>Commentary:</b><br>Note how the psalmist contrasts his attitudes and activities regarding God's Word with those of his foes throughout this section.  |   |   |  |   |
| <b>Application:</b><br>Disgust vs. tolerance, acceptance, and even promotion, which is demanded by God’s enemies.<br>“Lord, please help me to have Your attitude toward the faithless who do not keep Your Word.”  |   |   |  |   |
| <b>159 Consider how I love your precepts! Give me</b>  | <b>159 Consider how I love Your precepts; Revive</b>  | <b>159 Consider how I love Your precepts; Revive</b>  | <b>159 See how I love your precepts; preserve my</b>                                     | <b>159 See how I love your commandments, Lord.</b>  |

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| life according to your steadfast love.  | me, O Lord, according to Your lovingkindness.   | me, O Lord, according to Your lovingkindness.  | life, O Lord, according to your love.                                    | Give back my life because of your unfailing love.   |
| <b>159 Consider how I love Your precepts; give me life (revive me) according to Your steadfast (unfailing) love.</b>  |   |  |  |   |
| <b>Commentary:</b><br><b>Consider how I love your precepts!</b> Love for God and His Word produces “disgust” and “loathing” for God’s enemies (vs. 158).<br><b>Give me life according to your steadfast love.</b> Prayer based on the character of God is sure to be heard.   |   |  |  |   |
| <b>Application:</b><br>“Lord, please cause me to love You and Your Word more and more. Help me to totally depend on You for spiritual life and revival. Thank You, so much, for Your steadfast, unfailing love.” (Unfailing love, undeserved mercy, unimaginable grace).  |   |  |  |   |
| <b>160 The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.</b>  | <b>160 The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.</b> | <b>160 The sum of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.</b> | <b>160 All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.</b> | <b>160 The very essence of your words is truth; all your just regulations will stand forever.</b> |
| <b>160 All of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous rules endures forever.</b>  |   |  |  |   |
| <b>Commentary:</b><br><b>The sum of your word is truth.</b> Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” (John 14:6) Jesus’ life and ministry perfectly illustrated the truth in action.<br>Contrast the truth found in God’s Word with the lies that are continually put forth in the world.<br><b>And every one of your righteous rules endures forever.</b> God’s Word is eternal. |   |  |  |   |
| <b>Application:</b><br>“Lord, thank You so much for revealing the truth to me through Your eternal Word. This world is full of lies and deception. But in You and Your Word, I find the truth.”   |   |  |  |   |
| <b>Resh</b>   |   |  |  |   |
| <b>153 Look upon my suffering (affliction) and deliver (rescue) me, for I do not forget Your law.</b>   |   |  |  |   |
| <b>154 Plead (argue, defend) my cause and redeem me; give me life (revive me) according to Your promise.</b>  |   |  |  |   |
| <b>155 Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek Your statutes.</b>  |   |  |  |   |
| <b>156 Great is Your mercy (compassion), O Lord; give me life (revive me) according to Your laws.</b>   |   |  |  |   |

**157 Many are my persecutors and my adversaries (enemies), but I do not turn from Your testimonies.**

**158 I look on the faithless with disgust, because they do not obey Your commands (word).**

**159 Consider how I love Your precepts; give me life (revive me) according to Your steadfast (unfailing) love.**

**160 All of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous rules endures forever.**