

PSALM 119:152

THE SELF-ATTESTING NATURE OF SCRIPTURE

Psalms 119:152¹

In olden days, I learned² from your testimonies
that you have established them until times to come³.

The Bible is self-authenticating. All who learn this foundational lesson will experience five effects.

I. Steadfastness

II. Humility

III. Faith

IV. Certainty

V. Hope

¹ The following is the preacher's translation of the Hebrew text.

² While most translations choose some derivative of the word *know*, what is in view here is the psalmist's mental grasp of a principle derived from Scripture. Therefore, this act of knowing could also be understood as *learning*, thus capturing both the authoritative teaching of the Scriptures and the commendable humility of the psalmist.

For more on *learn* as a valid translation option, see HALOT, page 390, Qal entry #2.

³ Hamilton observes, "This statement points in two temporal directions: to the past, 'long ago,' and to the future, 'to the age.'" James M. Hamilton Jr., *Psalms: Volume 2* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Academic, 2021), 374.

HEBREW TEXT

קִרְאַתִּי בְּכָל־לֵב עֲנֵנִי יְהוָה חֲקִיךָ אֶצְרָה: 145

קִרְאַתִּיךָ הוֹשִׁיעֵנִי וְאַשְׁמְרָה עֵדְתִיךָ: 146

קִדְמָתִי בַּנֶּשֶׁף וְאַשׁוּעָה לְדַבְרֶיךָ יַחֲלֵתִי: 147

קִדְמוֹ עֵינַי אֲשַׁמְרוֹת לְשִׁיחַ בְּאַמְרֹתֶיךָ: 148

קוֹלִי שָׁמְעָה כַּחֲסֻדְךָ יְהוָה כַּמְשַׁפְּטֶיךָ חַיִּינִי: 149

קִרְבוּ רִדְפֵי זְמָה מִתּוֹרֹתֶיךָ רַחֲקוּ: 150

קִרְוֹב אֶתָּה יְהוָה וְכָל־מִצְוֹתֶיךָ אֱמַת: 151

קִדְּם יִדְעָתִי מֵעֵדְתֶיךָ כִּי לְעוֹלָם יִסְדָּתָם: 152