

137 Righteous are You, O Lord,
And upright are Your judgments.
138 You have commanded Your testimonies in righteousness
And exceeding faithfulness.
139 My zeal has consumed me,
Because my adversaries have forgotten Your words.
140 Your word is very pure,
Therefore Your servant loves it.
141 I am small and despised,
Yet I do not forget Your precepts.
142 Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness,
And Your law is truth.
143 Trouble and anguish have come upon me,
Yet Your commandments are my delight.
144 Your testimonies are righteous forever;
Give me understanding that I may live.

137 צְדִיק אַתָּה יְהוָה וְיָשָׁר מִשְׁפָּטֶיךָ:
138 צְוִיתָ צֶדֶק עֲדוֹתֶיךָ וְאֲמוּנָה מְאֹד:
139 צָמַתְתִּנִּי קִנְאַתִּי כִּי־שָׁכַחוּ דְבָרֶיךָ צָרִי:
140 צְרוּפָה אִמְרַתְךָ מְאֹד וְעִבְדְּךָ אֶהְבֶּה:
141 צָעִיר אָנֹכִי וְנִבְזָה פְקֻדֶיךָ לֹא שָׁכַחְתִּי:
142 צְדָקַתְךָ צֶדֶק לְעוֹלָם וְתוֹרַתְךָ אֱמֶת:
143 צְרוּמָצוֹק מְצֻאוֹנֵי מְצוֹתֶיךָ שַׁעֲשַׁעֵי:
144 צֶדֶק עֲדוֹתֶיךָ לְעוֹלָם הִבִּינֵנִי וְאַחֲיָה:

כ: God’s Word provides us with the proper perspective of righteousness.

1. The Tsadhe is a reaping hook and reminds us how the Lord is in charge of our planting, growth, and harvesting.
2. The strophe begins with the theme of God’s righteousness (ψ¹¹⁹137) and emphatically stresses God’s righteousness throughout the eight verses (ψ¹¹⁹137,138, 142_{x2}, 144). Zadok (צָדוֹק #6659 *righteous*) gives us our proper-name word study for this strophe. (Another good name is Melchizedek).
3. God’s righteousness is manifest through His beyond-faithful commands (ψ¹¹⁹138 cf. vv.30,75,86,90; Ps. 143:1; Lam. 3:23; 1st Jn. 1:9).
4. Personal zeal becomes consuming when it is expressed in the context of disobedience among our adversaries (ψ¹¹⁹139 cf. Ps. 69:9; Jn. 2:17; Isa. 59:17. Also 1st Kgs. 19:10,14; Rom. 12:11; Tit. 2:14; Rev. 3:19).
5. The Word of God is tested and tried and worthy of our love (ψ¹¹⁹140 cf. Ps. 19:8; Prov. 30:5).
6. “You” from v.137 is contrasted with “I” in v.141. “Small and despised” may describe us in human terms but God the Father accomplishes His purposes anyway (ψ¹¹⁹141 cf. Ps. 22:6; Isa. 53:3 for Jesus and 2nd Cor. 10:10 for Paul).
7. God and His Word supply an eternal absolute for temporal relative creatures to embrace joyfully (ψ¹¹⁹142; Mal. 3:6; Ps. 102:18-28; Isa. 65:16; Ps. 31:5).
8. Circumstantial hardships are no excuse and do not hinder obedience to the will of God (ψ¹¹⁹143; 2nd Cor. 11:22-28).
9. The eternal absolute standard of God’s righteousness is the basis for our true life (ψ¹¹⁹144; Jn. 1:13; 3:5; Jas. 1:18; 1st Pet. 1:23; 1st Jn. 3:9; 5:4,18).