

## Psalm 119:1-8<sup>iv</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose way is blameless, \* (*Blessed are those whose ways are blameless*)

who walk in the law of the LORD! (***who live with spiritual integrity!***)

<sup>2</sup>Happy are they who observe his decrees \* (***Blessed are those who honor the inner Being***)

and seek him with all their hearts! (***who follow You with their whole heart.***)

<sup>3</sup>Who never do any wrong, \* (***Who enfold the world with love,***)  
but always walk in his ways. (***and walk on a peaceful path!***)

<sup>4</sup>You laid down your commandments, \* (You have shown us the way of truth,) that we should fully keep them. (***the way that leads to freedom.***)

<sup>5</sup>Oh, that my ways were made so direct \* (***O, that I might ever reflect the Light!***) that I might keep your statutes! (***Then I shall know inner peace, as I surrender myself into Your hands.***)

<sup>6</sup>Then I should not be put to shame, \* (***Nan C. Merrill acknowledges no guilt.***)  
when I regard all your commandments. (***For when we deal with promises, rather than penalties, there is no need for shame – repentance (a commitment to change) maybe but no crippling shame.***)

<sup>7</sup>I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, \* (***I will praise you with a grateful heart,***)

when I have learned your righteous judgments. (***as I lean on Your great kindness.***)

<sup>8</sup>I will keep your statutes; \* (***As I forsake the path of darkness,***)  
do not utterly forsake me. (***O have mercy on me.***)

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### <sup>iv</sup> About the Psalm: Psalm 119:1-8

This psalm is an acrostic psalm, in which the first line of each of its 22 eight-line stanzas begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. It is the longest in the Bible. In this reading, the psalmist describes those who are blessed because of their fidelity to God's commands and asks God to give wisdom and discernment for keeping them.

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<sup>v</sup> The four senses (depth) of Scripture

1<sup>st</sup> Literal, linear causality. Ex: did this really happen; questions of time and place. Jerusalem is a city.

2<sup>nd</sup> Moral, something wakes up inside. A call to act! Jerusalem is a symbol

3<sup>rd</sup> Allegorical, topological, metaphor on reality of what one's life is. Exodus . . . on life passing through you . . . scripture that are archetypes . . . we are called to move through that virgin journey. We are now transforming, archetypically our unconscious is engaged. Jerusalem is the heart.

4<sup>th</sup> Unitive, -- Anagogical . . . processing our own journey in terms of scripture . . . my story is scripture, Jerusalem is the Holy City