

Enchanted Forest of Psalms

June 8, 2025

1 Tree Planted by a Stream
119 God's Holy Word, Law, Wisdom

George Pine's Deep Roots

General Sherman Sequoia

19 Heavens Declare God's Glory
96 Sing a New Song, Let Heavens Rejoice

Huge Oak of David

Red Maple Profuse Beauty

132 Lord, Remember David

Liberty Trees of Early U.S.

110 Sit at My Right Hand, Enemies a Footstool

Hanging Trees of Old West

18 Lord Is My Rock, His Way Perfect

Mighty Elms – Keel of Ship

105 Give Praise, Remember Wonders

Douglas Fir for Homes

Arrows Pierced Me

Poisonous Driftwood

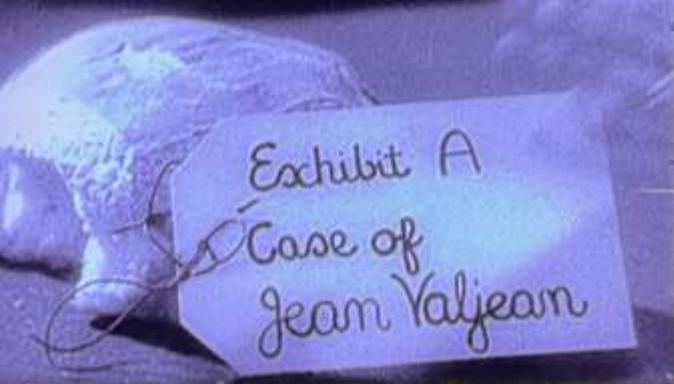
Nobel Pine, 126 Species

Nightengale of Psalms

Knightwood Oak – Queen of Forest
Hickory – American Wagon Wheel

Psalm 119:1
Blessed are those whose
ways are *BLAMELESS*
who walk according to the
LAW of the **LORD**

How do you **READ** Psalm 119?
Shallowly, **Legalistically**,
or **Relationally**?



Psalm 119

Spurgeon quoted William De Burgh of Psalm 119, St. Augustine, among his voluminous works on Psalms that he delayed to comment on 119 until he had finished the whole Psalter Then yielded only to the long and vehement urgency of his friends, “because,” Augustine said, “as often as I essayed to think thereon, it always **EXCEEDED** the powers of my intent thought and the utmost grasp of my faculties”



Saint Augustin, c. 1645
by Philippe de Champaigne,

Key Verse Psalm 119:1
Blessed are those whose
ways are **BLAMELESS,**
who walk according to the
LAW of the LORD

IF you can grasp
THIS VERSE

- ✓ You Can Grasp ALL 176
- ✓ You Can APPRECIATE ALL
- ✓ You are Top of the Class

Who is ***BLAMELESS?***

- ✓ Me? You? WHO?
- ✓ Only ONE has been—
1,000 years after 119
- ✓ Who can approach such
a high standard?

Psalm 119

George Wishart (1599–1671) Presbyterian Bishop of Edinburg
not an earlier man by same name (1513–1546) killed for preaching in Scotland

**His biography of great 1st Marquis of Montrose was
tied around the Marquis' neck when
the Marquis was *HANGED* for his 1650 victories
then Marquis was beheaded & quartered**

Wishart was tried & ordered to be HANGED too ...

Custom was the condemned chose a Psalm to be sung

He chose Psalm 119 ... before 2/3 was sung ...

a pardon arrived His life was preserved.



Psalm 119

One of Spurgeon's 100s of sources was

- ✓ Thomas Manton (1620–1677) English Puritan
- ✓ His Collected Writings span 22 volumes
- ✓ He was a Chaplain to Oliver Cromwell

Manton was jailed for 6 months in 1670 for violating Act of Uniformity 1662

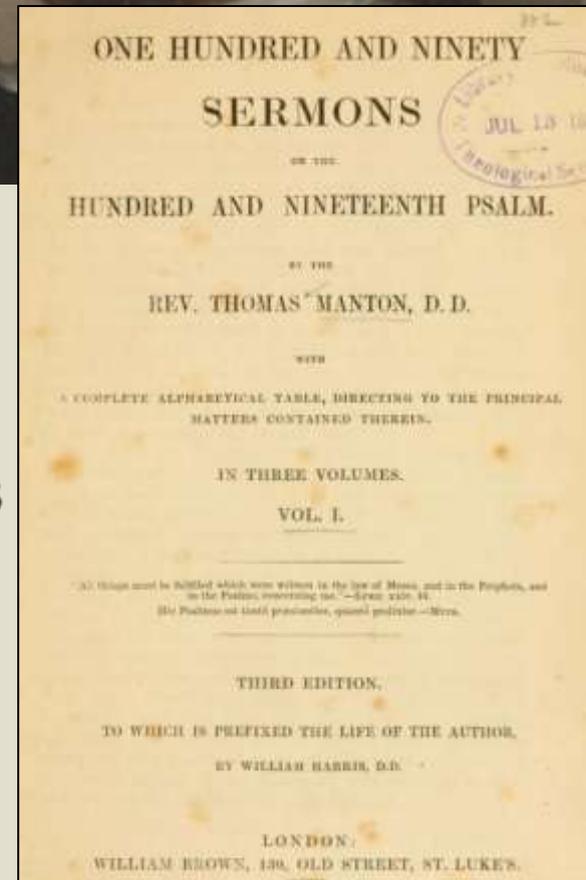
His 3-vol *190 Sermons on Psalm 119* (1840s)

Free from Google Books ... How did he do it?

Hard to imagine anyone preaching 190x on 119 more than twice for a few of Psalm 119's 176 verses

I seriously doubt *anyone* read ALL 3 volumes

Though a few might spend an hour *gleaning*



The Enchanted Forest

Psalm 119 – How ... **HOW** you
read it makes **ALL** the difference

1. Shallow – *Boring, Tedious*
2. Semi-Shallow – *Repetitive or uselessly Redundant*
3. *Legalistically* – **Rulebook Taxing**
4. *Relationally* – Loving God's **Love**
increasing in richness . . .



GENERAL SHERMAN

Les Misérables, 1862

French epic novel by Victor Hugo

Upton Sinclair said it was "one of the half-dozen greatest novels of the world"

5 volumes, 48 books, 365 chapters.

chapters short, usually just a few pages.

655,478 words, one of longest novels written
takes us from 1815 & Waterloo to 1832

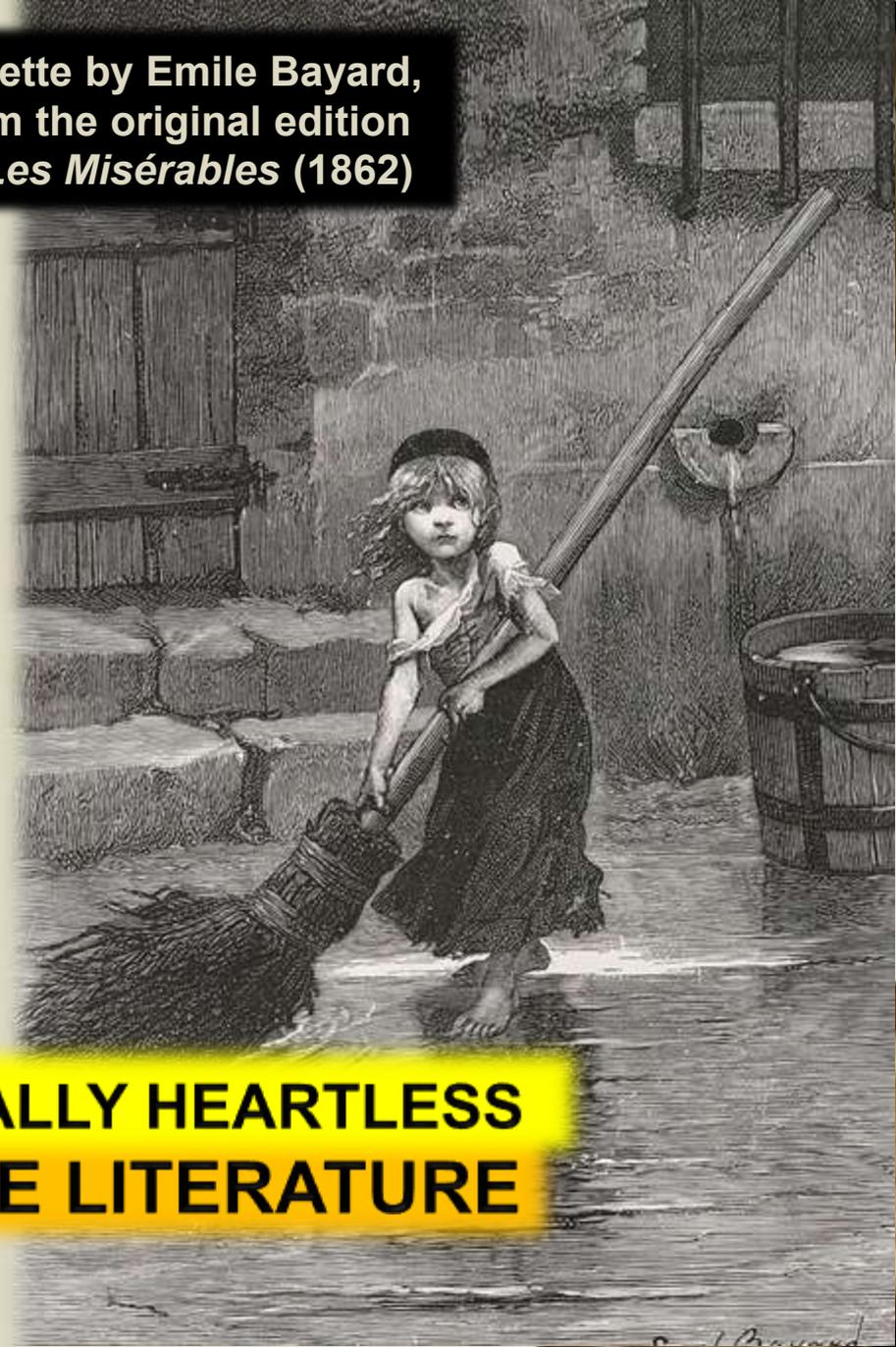
Jean Valjean is prisoner for stealing bread
after release, a priest takes him in ...

Valjean steals silver, caught, brought back

Priest FREES – gives him candlesticks

**HEREIN WE SEE THE MOST LEGALISTICALLY HEARTLESS
POLICE INSPECTOR IN THE LITERATURE**

Cosette by Emile Bayard,
from the original edition
of *Les Misérables* (1862)





***Les Misérables*, 1862, French epic novel by Victor Hugo**
Les Misérables = miserable ones or wretched ones

General Sherman

275 feet tall ~ 2,100 tons ~ 36 feet wide

Like Psalm 119 - Massive & Ancient

General Sherman is dated 500-300 BC

Most Massive Tree in the World

not tallest – not largest circumference

Psalm 119 is the most massive Psalm

Not as TALL as Psalm 23 in metaphor – Valley to His House **FOREVER**
or as WIDE as Psalm 139 – guides to uttermost part of the **SEA**

Though no author is listed, Spurgeon & others
see King David as author

Like General Sherman ...

Psalm 119 stands most MASSIVE in

the **Enchanted Forest of Psalms**

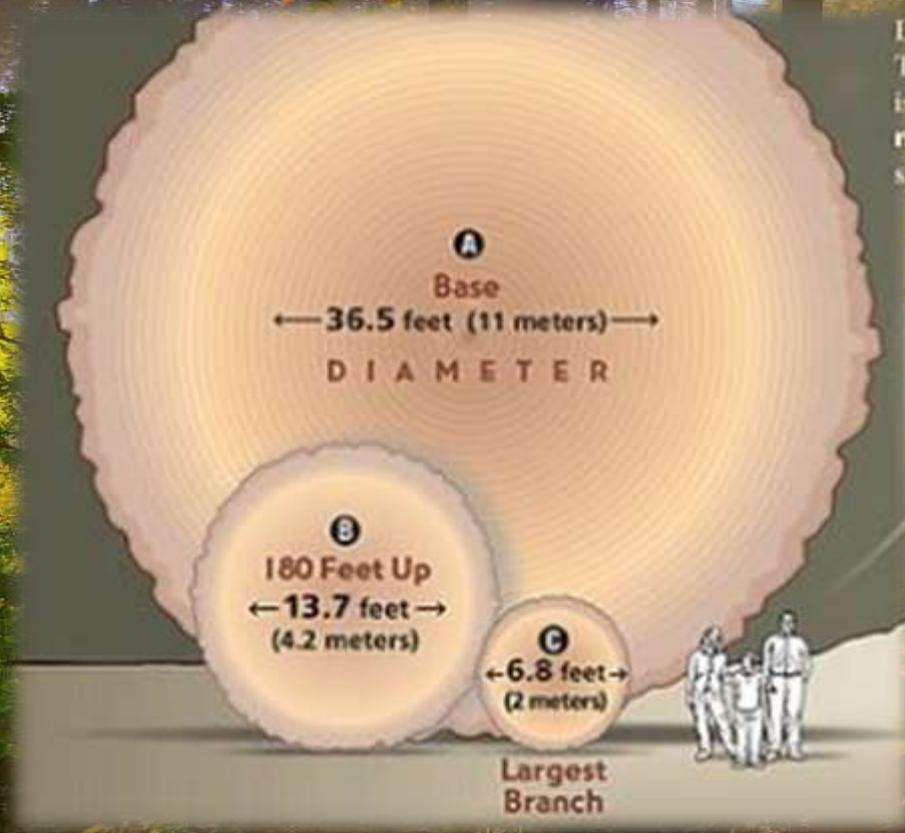


General Sherman –

Giant Sequoia 275 feet tall

Est. 2,100 tons – largest volume in world

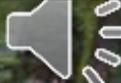
Not the tallest or largest circumference





General Sherman Sequoia

275 feet tall ~ 2,100 tons ~ 36 feet wide



GENERAL SHERMAN

PSALM 119 ~ Hebrew Reads Opposite of English

Hebrew reads LEFT to RIGHT



Psalm 119 is an Acrostic Psalm, each section beginning with letter of Hebrew alphabet, for 22 sections

Each set of 8 verses in the 22 sections begins with Hebrew letter

א Aleph	1-8	ה Heth	57-64	ס Samekh	113-120
ב Beth	9-16	ט Teth	65-72	ע Ayin	121-128
ג Gimel	17-24	י Yodh	73-80	פ Pe	129-136
ד Daleth	25-32	כ Kaph	81-88	צ Tsadhe	137-144
ה He	33-40	ל Lamedh	89-96	ק Qoph	145-152
ו Waw	41-48	מ Mem	97-104	ר Resh	153-160
ז Zayin	49-56	נ Nun	105-112	ש Sin/Shin	161-168
				ת Taw	169-176

Psalm 119 is the General Sherman Sequoia of PSLAMS

Psalm 119

Spurgeon quoted Andrew A. Bonar of Psalm 119's acrostic,

There may be something more than fancy in the remark,
Christ's name, "the Alpha and Omega" ... may have a
a reference to the peculiarity of this Psalm, which ...

every verse speaks of God's revelation of Himself to man.

Spurgeon quoted Johannes Paulus Palanterius on Psalm 119
writing these words in 1600,

This Psalm is called the Alphabet of Divine Love,

the Paradise of ALL the Doctrines,

the Storehouse of the Holy Spirit,

the School of Truth,

also the deep mystery of the Scriptures, where the whole
moral discipline of all the virtues shines brightly.





General Sherman Sequoia

275 feet tall ~ 2,100 tons ~ 36 feet wide



The Enchanted Forest

Psalm 119 – How ... **HOW** you
read it makes **ALL** the difference

1. Shallow – *Boring, Tedious*

2. Semi-Shallow – *Repetitive or
uselessly Redundant*

3. *Legalistically* – **Rulebook Taxing**

4. **Relationally** – Loving God's **Love**

increasing in richness . . .



GENERAL SHERMAN

The Enchanted Forest

General Sherman of Psalms

MASSIVE – few *Metaphors*

WHY it does **NOT** at first *FEEL*
appealing – few *Pictures!*

Psalm 23 has Dozen PICTURES in 6 verses

Psalm 119 *barely has Dozen* in 176 verses

Like v 25, “I am laid low in the DUST”

Like v 103, “How SWEET are your words to my TASTE,
SWEETER than honey to my mouth!”

Like v 105, “Thy Word is a LAMP unto my feet,
a LIGHT unto my PATH”

Like v 114, “You are my REFUGE & my SHIELD”





Key Verse Psalm 119:1

**Blessed are those whose
ways are **BLAMELESS**,
who walk according to the
LAW of the **LORD****



C.H. Spurgeon's *Treasury of David*

Premier website:

<http://archive.spurgeon.org/treasury/treasury.php>

**C. H. Spurgeon's *Treasury of David* (1865-1885)
masterpiece without equal**

**Psalm 119 takes up nearly 400 pgs of Vol 4
Profitable are the hours gleaning these pages
Waxing eloquent as always, Spurgeon says:
He—King David—never repeats himself;
for if the same sentiment recurs it is placed
in a fresh connection, and so exhibits
another interesting shade of meaning.**



C.H. Spurgeon's *Treasury of David*

Waxing eloquent as always, Spurgeon says:
More one studies it, the fresher it becomes.
As those who drink the Nile water like it better
every time they take a draught,
so does this Psalm become the more full and
fascinating the oftener you turn to it.
It contains no idle word;
the grapes of THIS CLUSTER are almost
to bursting full with the new
wine of the kingdom.



C.H. Spurgeon's *Treasury of David*

Waxing eloquent as always, Spurgeon says:

The more you look into this mirror of a
GRACIOUS HEART the more you will see in it.

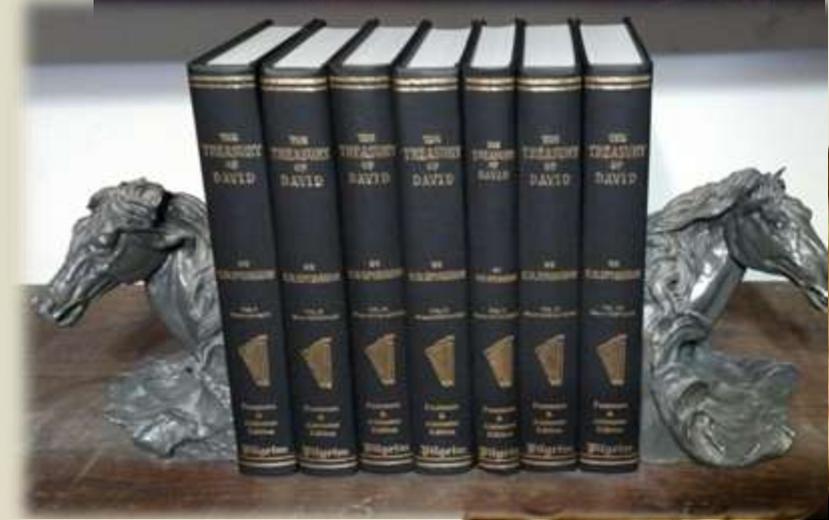
Placid on the surface as the sea of glass before
the eternal throne,

it yet contains within its depths

an ocean of fire,

and those who devoutly gaze into it shall not only
see the brightness, but

feel the glow of the sacred flame.



The Enchanted Forest

Psalm 119 – How ... *HOW* you read it makes *ALL* the difference

1. Shallow – Boring, Tedious
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4. Relationally – Loving God's *Love*

FIRST – see the LEGALIST



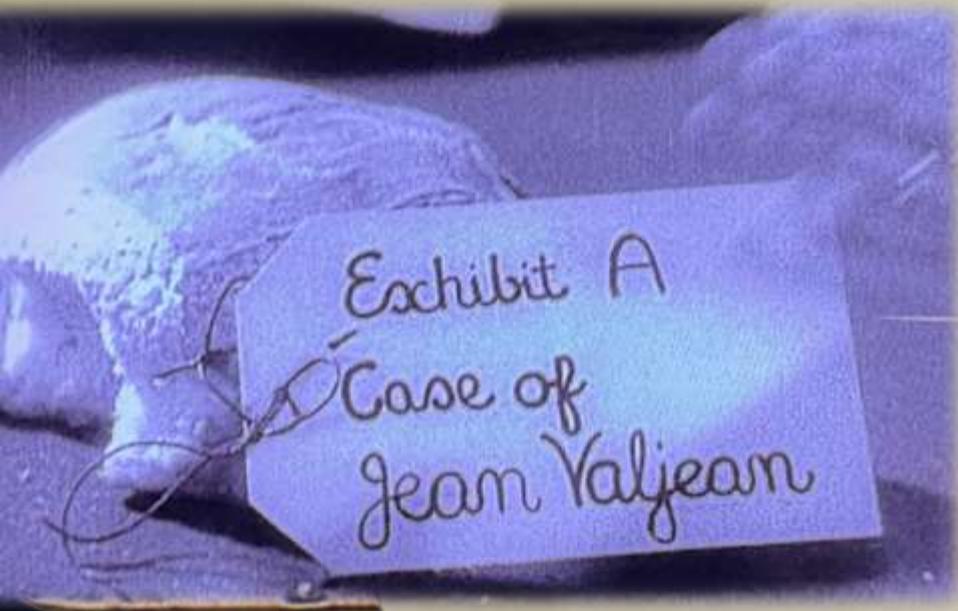
GENERAL SHERMAN

Les Misérables, 1862

French epic novel by Victor Hugo

Jean Valjean is a prisoner
for stealing bread for starving children!
After release, a priest takes him in ...
Valjean steals silver, caught, brought back
Priest FREES him, giving him pair of
silver candlesticks

Cosette by Emile Bayard,
from the original edition
of *Les Misérables* (1862)





will the accused explain
the presence of this family in the court?

Les Misérables, 1862

French epic novel by Victor Hugo

Valjean in the sewers
with the wounded Marius
(US edition, 1900)

AFTER PRISON Valjean runs for years ...
assumes a name - becomes prominent

Raises Fantine's daughter Cosette

Inspector Javert was **BRUTAL** as a prison
guard - chases Jean *thru the book*

Inspector Javert—Fanatical **LEGALIST**
his **LIFE** is the **LAW** without a **HEART**

Young man Marius falls for Cosette

During the uprising in 1832 Paris,
Jean Valjean saves Marius' **LIFE & FLEES**

Jean Valjean **CARRIES** Marius thru the

SEWERS of Paris



The Enchanted Forest

Psalm 119 – How ... *HOW* you
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FIRST – see the LEGALIST



GENERAL SHERMAN

Les Misérables, 1862

French epic novel by Victor Hugo

LEGALIST Police Inspector Javert

No room for **MERCY** or **FAITH**

JUST THE LAW ...

Catches Jean Valjean carrying Marius
exiting the **SEWER**

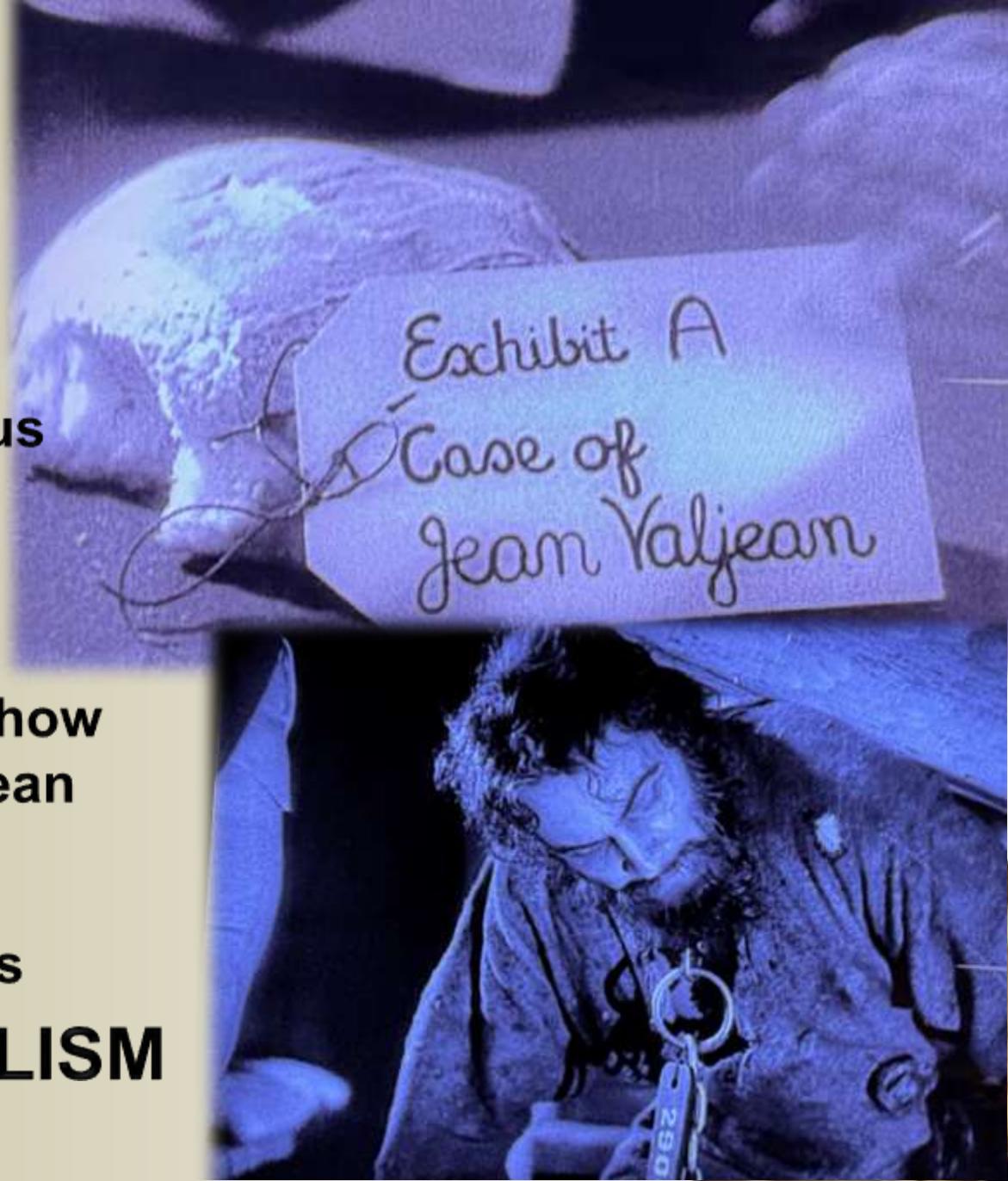
NONE of the movies can detail how
the novel describes the **SEWER**

Only faintly one sees in the movies how
TORN Javert is about Jean Valjean

Jean **SAVES** Javert's **LIFE**

then after a **LIFE** of heartlessness

Javert sees his **LEGALISM**



Les Misérables, 1862

French epic novel by Victor Hugo

Javert allows Valjean to save Marius

Javert watches the MAN Valjean

Javert – Fanatical Legalist is *TORN* – then quote:

Javert had lost his bearings in this unexpected presence

He did not know what to do with this superior....

But how manage to send in his resignation to God ?

However this might be ...

one thing overruled all else for him ...

he had just committed an appalling infraction.

He had closed his eyes upon a

convicted second offender!



Javert played by
Russell Crowe in 2012
film musical



The Enchanted Forest

Psalm 119 – How ... *HOW* you
read it makes *ALL* the difference

IF not shallow, then ... then ... then

3. *Legalistically* – Rulebook Taxing

Psalm 119 is DPRESSING

*Then Psalm 119 is an endless diatribe
on the endless failures of ALL of US*



GENERAL SHERMAN

Les Misérables, 1862

French epic novel by Victor Hugo

Javert – Fanatical Legalist is *TORN*

of many sublimely exquisite passages

He had SET A GALLEY-SLAVE AT LARGE.

He—Javert—had robbed the laws of a man
who belonged to them. He had done that.

He could not understand himself....

The very reasons of his action escaped him....

He had lived up to this moment by that blind faith
which a dark probity engenders....

All that he had believed was dissipated.

Truths which he had no wish for ... **BESIEGED HIM.**



Javert played by
Russell Crowe in 2012
film musical



Les Misérables, 1862

French epic novel by Victor Hugo

Javert – Fanatical Legalist is **TORN**

of many sublimely exquisite passages

He must henceforth be another man.

... strange pangs of a conscience suddenly
operated upon for the cataract.

He saw what he revolted at seeing.

He felt that he was emptied, useless, broken off
from his past life, destitute, dissolved.

Authority was dead in him.

He had no further reason for existence....



Javert played by
Russell Crowe in 2012
film musical



Les Misérables, 1862

French epic novel by Victor Hugo

Javert—to be granite, and **NOW TO DOUBT!**

To be the statue of penalty cast in a single
piece in the mould of the **LAW**,

and to suddenly perceive that you have under
your breast of bronze something *preposterous* ...
which almost resembles a **HEART!**

To be led by it to render good for good....

To be the watch-dog, and to fawn !

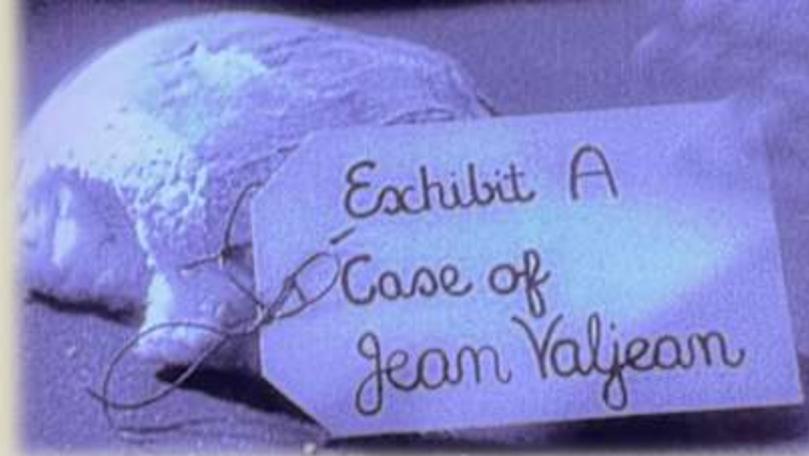
to be ice, and to melt !

to be a vice, and to become a hand !

to feel your fingers suddenly open !

Javert LOVED Psalm 119's **PERFECT LAW**

But to find himself **IMPERFECT** was too much!



Javert played by
Russell Crowe in 2012
film musical



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GENERAL SHERMAN

Thanks to Mark Tolar for this song by Amy Grant
Psalm 119:105, "Thy Word is a LAMP unto my feet"

AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH



Psalm 119

- 1 Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,
who walk according to the law of the LORD.
- 2 Blessed are those who keep his statutes
and seek him with all their heart—
- 3 they do no wrong but follow his ways.

Viewed by Javert—there is no room for error

Viewed by LOVE, there is latent a *DESIRE*

Spurgeon quoted Thomas Manton (1620–1677)

There is a remorse after the sin:

David's heart smote him.

It grieves and shames them that they do evil.

Tenderness goes with the new nature:

Peter sinned foully, but he went out and wept bitterly.



Biography of Thomas Manton (1620-1677):

Word Use in Psalm 119

2x God
 24x Lord

 45x Law
 30x Word
 23x Statutes
 22x Commands
 22x Decrees
 21x Precepts
 17x Right/Righteous/
 Righteousness
 14x Promises
 3x True

20x Obey
 19x Love
 12x Teach
 11x Preserve
 9x Live
 9x Delight
 8x Meditate
 8x Understanding
 8x Long
 7x Follow
 6x Praise
 3x Help
 2x Deliver

 7x Wicked
 5x Fear
 4x Hate
 3x Persecute

15x Heart
 13x Servant
 8x Eye/s
 3x Soul
 28x ALL

*Now for the odd ones
 Today's Infamous*

PRONOUNS 😊

254x you/your
 145x I
 86x me
 85x my

When NOT viewed as Javert
 When seen by LONGING
 to be ***CLOSE***

When read for Love & God's LOVE
 in the light of inability & LONGING
 Psalm 119 gets
DEEPLY Profound!

Psalm 119

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Saint Augustin, c. 1645
by Philippe de Champaigne

Psalm 119 – Spurgeon quoted these:

**Spurgeon said Johannes Paulus Palanterius
said in 1600 of Psalm 119,**

**The other Psalms, truly, as lesser stars shine somewhat
but THIS burns with the meridian heat of its full brightness,
and is wholly resplendent with moral loveliness.**

**Spurgeon quoted Great O. T. scholar Franz Delitzsch on Psalm 119,
German version it has the appropriate inscription,
"The Christian's golden A B C of the praise, love, power,
and use of the Word of God."**

**Spurgeon quoted William De Burgh on Psalm 119,
an ancient church father titled 119
"the perfection of teaching & instruction"**

Psalm 119

Spurgeon quoted William De Burgh on 119,
One ancient church father said,
“it applies an all containing medicine
to the varied spiritual diseases of men—
sufficing to perfect those who
long for perfect virtue,
to rouse the slothful,
to refresh the dispirited, and
to set in order the relaxed”



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