

# Psalm 119:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

## Analysis

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The prayer "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law" reveals spiritual epistemology. *Gal einai* (open my eyes) acknowledges natural spiritual blindness—unregenerate humanity cannot perceive divine truth (1 Corinthians 2:14). *Niflaot* (wondrous things) means marvels, extraordinary things beyond human discovery. God's law contains depths that require divine illumination to perceive. This anticipates Jesus opening disciples' understanding to comprehend Scripture (Luke 24:45) and Paul's prayer for enlightenment (Ephesians 1:18). Reformed theology affirms both Scripture's objective clarity (perspicuity) and the Spirit's subjective illumination—the Bible is clear enough for salvation, yet requires the Spirit to open blind eyes to receive its truth.

## Historical Context

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In post-exilic Judaism, Torah study became central to Jewish identity. Yet mere academic study without spiritual illumination produces only intellectual knowledge, not transforming wisdom. The Pharisees exemplified this danger—extensive scriptural knowledge without perceiving Christ whom Scripture testified of (John 5:39-40). Jesus rebuked them for being blind guides (Matthew 23:16). This prayer guards against studying Scripture as merely ancient literature rather than living divine revelation requiring God's help to truly see.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. What is the difference between reading Scripture academically and beholding it with Spirit-opened eyes?
2. How does recognizing our need for divine illumination keep us humble in Bible study?
3. What "wondrous things" has God recently revealed to you from His Word that you hadn't seen before?

## Interlinear Text

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גַּל	עִינָּךְ	יָאֵב יְתָה	נִפְלָא זֶה	מִתּוֹרְתָּךְ:
Open	thou mine eyes	that I may behold	wondrous things	out of thy law
H1540	H5869	H5027	H6381	H8451

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 26:18** (Parallel theme): To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

**Isaiah 29:18** (Word): And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness.

**Isaiah 35:5** (Parallel theme): Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

**Isaiah 32:3** (Parallel theme): And the eyes of them that see shall not be dim, and the ears of them that hear shall hearken.

**Matthew 13:13** (Parallel theme): Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

**Matthew 16:17** (Parallel theme): And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

**John 9:39** (Parallel theme): And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.

**Revelation 3:18** (Parallel theme): I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

**Hebrews 8:5** (Parallel theme): Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.

**Psalms 119:96** (Word): I have seen an end of all perfection: but thy commandment is exceeding broad.