

PSALM 118
“Hosanna!”
Palm Sunday
Psalm outline

- 1. Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love* endures forever.** **vs 1-15**
- a.** Let Israel say - His love endures forever. Vs 1-4
- Let the house of Aaron say - His love endures forever.
 - Let those who fear the Lord say - His love endures forever.
- b.** “In my anguish (“*distress*”) I cried to the Lord, and He answered me by setting me free.”
- God is a better refuge than men. (Is 51:12, Rom 8:31, Heb 13:6). vs 5-9
 - God helps me (Israel) protect my people. We were surrounded. vs 10-12
 - God is my strength and salvation. vs 13-15
- 2. Let the righteous rejoice!** **vs 16-18**
- a.** The Lord reigns and acts (His right hand has done mighty things.)
- b.** My loving God disciplines His own.
- 3. Open for me the gates of righteousness** **vs 19-24**
- a.** I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.
- b.** This is the gate through which the righteous may enter.
- I will give You thanks for You answered me.
 - You have become my salvation.
- c.** The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;
- the Lord has done this and it is marvelous in our eyes.
 - This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- 4. O Lord, save us: O Lord, grant us success.** **vs 25-29**
- a.** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
- b.** From the house of the Lord we bless you.
- c.** The Lord is God, and He has made His light shine upon us.
- d.** With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar.
- 5. You are my God, and I will give You thanks; You are my God and I will exalt You.**
- a.** Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
- b.** His love endures forever.

* “Covenant-keeping love, faithfulness, mercy, kindness, affection” - this is a rich word!

Some background for this wonderful psalm:

It is likely a post-exilic psalm, perhaps written for the dedication of the 2nd temple. In Judaism today it is still read from the Passover Haggadah and also read during the feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot). It seems to have been written as a song / prayer of thanksgiving.

Ps 118. "Is Anything Too Hard For God? He Saves!"

- It commemorates the laying of the foundation (See Ezr 3:10-13).
- It recounts the opposition of the surrounding nations (Ezr 4:1-5 etc.). Like a swarm of bees The returned exiles were harried and stung by Ammonites, Samaritans, Arabs etc. All of them intent on hindering them in rebuilding the temple and reestablishing their nation.
- It proceeds to the returned exiles casting themselves on the Lord as they confronted discouragement and opposition. (Read Haggai - a wonderful little book!).
- Encouraged by God's prophets (Ezr 5:1-2, 6:13-15), the community took heart and rebuilt the temple. Their enemies could roar and rage, but like burning thorns, it was brief. God silenced them. (see Neh 6:15-16).
- God has become their strength and salvation. Trust is learned! (Ps 25:4-5)
- The righteous rejoice!
 - * God is mighty to save.
 - * Declare His works!
- Who are the righteous? Those who trust in the Lord and His Cornerstone. They may enter. Look at the NT application: Turn to Mtt 21 - there is no salvation apart from the Cornerstone!
- Although the builders (leaders) rejected their Messiah, God's choice will stand! He is the cornerstone! (Ps 2:7, Is 28:16, Mtt 21:42, Act 4:11, Eph 2:20, 1 Pet 2:7)
 - * Hosanna! ("Save!") A cry for deliverance and it became a term of praise. The One they called upon was worthy and able to save. It was a cry of acclaim.
 - * This was applied to the Lord on His ascent up the temple mount on Palm Sunday (See Mtt 21, Mk 11, Lk19:28-20:19, Jn 12:12-19).
 - * The Lord on the "last and greatest day of the feast (Tabernacles) identified Himself as the source for the Spring of Living Water (Jn 7:37-39).
 - * What a prophetic message! How marvelous ("extraordinary, miraculous") (See Jer 32:17) This is the day - Israel's day of deliverance and it looks forward to the ultimate deliverance for humanity that was wrought by our Lord on the cross.
- Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. This points to Jesus' coming.
 - * The leaders at the temple heard the children shouting "Hosanna to the son of David," as they praised Jesus in the temple while He healed the blind and lame (Mtt 21:14-15).
 - * He responded to them in the words of Ps 8:2 - That from the lips of children and infants God had ordained praise. Look up Ps 8:2b - the rest of the quote reads, "because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger." Jesus told them exactly how things stood.
- The psalm closes in thanksgiving to God

God has set His Cornerstone. As it was then, so it is now. Many reject Him. But for all who believe, He is the only One Who creates, sustains and saves. Do you know Him?