

PSALM 118:14-29

LESSON: THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE —April 26, 2020

INTRODUCTION:

This psalm invites praise unto the Lord for His goodness; demonstrates His worthiness; testifies of His deliverance, and offers prayers of praise. The author of the psalm is anonymous.

PSALM 118:1-13 When our hearts are grateful we express our thanks to God. In this chapter it starts out telling us what to do, and why it's done. It admonishes us to *"give thanks."* Why, *"for he is good because His mercy endureth forever."* This is mercy we don't even deserve, but it endures forever. This is Israel's chance, Aaron's chance, and those that fear the Lord's chance to proclaim that "God's mercy endures forever." The psalmist *"called upon the Lord in distress and He answered and set him in a large place"* meaning set him free; rescued him. He comes to know that God is for him; *"God is on his side"* to help him, therefore, he says how can he be afraid; *"what can man do to him."* It reminds me of Romans 8:31 *"If God be for us, who can be against us?"* Those who hate him ought to beware. Given all that goes on in our lives, *"it is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man or in princes."* The psalmist says twice though *"all the nations surrounded and attacked him, in the name of the Lord he will destroy them."* And the third time he again says they're being surrounded; swarmed about like bees. They blaze up and are extinguished like a fire of thorns, yet again in the name of the Lord, he will destroy them. The adversary pushed against him, and tried to make him fall, but the Lord helped him.

LESSON: I. WHO OUR LORD IS PSALM 118:14-26

118:14 The Lord is my strength and song, and is become my salvation. Coming from verse 13, the psalmist can truly begin to sing that the Lord is his strength and his song, and has become his salvation; saving him when he was surrounded and attacked. The Lord helped him. Jehovah provides strength in the conflict; song for the victory, and salvation for the soul! We can truly look back at our lives and sing the same thing about who our Lord is! [YOU ARE MY STRENGTH, STRENGTH LIKE NO OTHER...REACHES TO ME].

118:15 The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous: the right hand of the Lord doeth valiantly. Even in the **tabernacle** (*the dwelling place of Jehovah*) **of the righteous** (*the just; those who live righteously before Jehovah*), there is **the voice of rejoicing** (*shouts of joy; the sound of joy*), and **salvation** (*deliverance*). And we can truly say that **The right hand of the Lord** (His power; His mighty hand) **is heroic!**

118:16 The right hand of the Lord is exalted: the right hand of the Lord doeth valiantly. This reminds me of Moses raising his staff in battle, and whenever it was lifted up, God was exalted. God's powerful and mighty right hand caused Israel to win. We have the victory, for He is valiantly performing and displaying His power before us. When His powerful and mighty right hand is exalted (lifted up and honored), it does heroically; valiantly for the people of God!

118:17 I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord. I believe we say this verse all the time when we get to a point of badly needing our bodies healed; a point of affirmation to ourselves against the enemy of sickness and infirmity. It's our fight verse. So, to believe in the Lord's right hand is to declare

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and be convinced that he will not die, but he will live to declare the works of the Lord. This is important because we serve a heroic God.

118:18 The Lord hath chastened me sore: but he hath not given me over unto death. In times of chastisement (punishment), the psalmists says that even though he was severely discipline, God knows the limits, and He knows when to cut it off to where it does not end in death.

118:19 Open to me the gates of righteousness: I will go into them, and I will praise the Lord:— The psalmist says let the gates of righteousness open so he can go through them and praise the Lord. Evidently he's on the right track now of being righteous to enter because God had given him another chance and was not given over to death. That's enough for a praise break now!

118:20 This gate of the Lord, into which the righteous shall enter. This gate is where the presence of the Lord lives and the righteous will only enter into. Things we don't think we can go through is possible through Him. He's the way out when tested. He's the way out when it's hard. And He's the way out when delivered! "*Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise*" Ps.100:4. The gate of the Lord is a must to go into.

118:21 I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation. In those gates of righteousness, the Lord will be praised because God had heard the cries of the righteous and He had heard the praises of the righteous and became salvation; deliverer for them.

118:22 The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This speaks of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the stone which the builders refused (rejected) (Matt.21:42; 1Pt.2:7b). He is the living stone (1Pt.2:4) whom the Jews rejected, but He became the (chief) cornerstone (1Pt.2:6; Eph.4:20). The "*cornerstone*" is the stone that binds together the sides of a building. Jesus, the Messiah is the cornerstone of His church which He holds together. Without Him there would be no church.

118:23 This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. All that was done, was not of man's doing but was done by the Lord, and it's marvelous to see.

118:24 This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. This is another familiar verse that we quote when we go before people to express praise unto God or get up for a brand-new day. God made the day and delivered it to us. We are blessed to see a brand-new day, because He didn't even have to let us live. That's why we are to thank Him and rejoice and be glad in it. In this context it may refer to the day in which Jesus Christ rose from the grave. That day began a brand-new era of rejoicing for those who believed.

118:25 Save now, I beseech thee, O Lord: O Lord, I beseech thee, send now prosperity. Just as it reads, the psalmist is begging the Lord for two things: 1) to save now; and 2) to send prosperity. When you get tired of trying to do it on your own, begging is not a problem because you know you can't do it by yourself. Salvation comes through the Messiah. Prosperity comes after seeking Him. When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the donkey, the people cried out "*Hosanna*", meaning "*Save me.*"

118:26 Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord: we have blessed you out of the house



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of the Lord. We see that the first part of this verse is quoted in Matthew 21:9 by the multitudes that went before and followed Jesus as He entered Jerusalem upon an ass. They threw their garments and palm branches down before Him, blessing Him, honoring Him, and happy for the Messiah's arrival. They were expecting Christ to establish David's kingdom. The second part of the scripture, the Messiah is blessed from the house of the Lord (the Temple) (like a chant or benediction said afterwards).

II. WHAT OUR LORD DESERVES PSALM 118:27-29

118:27 God is the Lord, which hath shewed us light: bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar. Jehovah is the Lord God Almighty who has showed us (brought forth unto us) the Light of the World. The Messiah comes in the name of the Lord, bringing light to a dark world. In the Old Testament when the people sacrificed the animals, it was their offering unto God. Yes, the Messiah was on His way to Jerusalem, getting ready to be bound to an old rugged cross, and sacrificed for our sins for which He did not deserve. The verse began to praise Him by saying "*God is the Lord, which hath shewed us light.*" Next, the verse leads in the way to crucify by saying "*bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar.*"

118:28 Thou art my God, and I will praise thee: thou art my God, I will exalt thee. No matter what, "*praise and exaltation*" are what the Lord God deserves because He is God.

118:29 O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. At the end of every day or the end of our prayer, give thanks to the Lord. No matter what goes on because He is good and His mercy is what endures forever.

SUMMARY:

Coming from verse 13, 14 the psalmist can truly begin to sing that the Lord is his strength and his song, and has become his salvation; saving him when he was surrounded and attacked. 15 Even in the tabernacle of the righteous, there is the voice of rejoicing, and salvation (*deliverance*). 16 When His powerful and mighty right hand is exalted (lifted up and honored), it does heroically; valiantly for the people of God! 17 The psalmist declares again the right hand of the Lord, for he is convinced he will not die, but he will live to declare the works of the Lord. 18 In times of chastisement (punishment), the psalmists says that even though he was severely disciplined, God knows the limits, and knows when to cut the punishment off to where it does not end in death. 19 The psalmist says let the gates of righteousness open so he can go through and praise the Lord. 20 These are the gates where the presence of the Lord lives and the righteous will enter into. 21 In those gates the Lord will be praised because God had heard the cries of the righteous, and became their salvation; (deliverer). 22 Jesus, the Messiah is the cornerstone of His church which He holds together. 23 All that was done was not of man's doing, but was done by the Lord and it's marvelous to see. 24 We are blessed to see a brand-new day, because God did not even have to let us, that's why we are to thank Him and rejoice and be glad in it. 25 The psalmist is begging the Lord to save them now and begging Him to send prosperity. 26 They began to say "*Blessed be He that cometh in the name of the Lord, we have blessed you out of the house of the Lord*" (118:14-26).

27 Jehovah is the Lord God Almighty who has showed us the Light of the World. In the Old Testament when the people sacrificed the animals, it was their offering unto God. 28 Praise and exaltation are what the Lord God deserves because He is God. 29 No matter what goes on: give thanks to the Lord because He is good and His mercy is what endures forever. (118:27-29).

