

PSALM 118

This psalm seems to describe either David or some other man of God who was divinely appointed to a high and honorable office in Israel. He found himself rejected by his friends and countrymen and at the same time violently opposed by his enemies. He fights for his appointed place and while doing so displays the power and might of Yahweh. He then goes up to the Temple of Yahweh to offer sacrifice and express his gratitude. It is a resounding hymn of praise, of a responsive character, and one suitable for all manner of occasions when the Lord God, Yahweh, has manifested his steadfast love. When the foundation of the Second Temple was laid after the Babylonian captivity, we are told in Ezra 3:10,11 that the sons of Asaph sang responsively, "For He is good, for His mercy endures forever toward Israel," words from this psalm. It is possible that the whole psalm was chanted at that time.

- 1 Give thanks to YAHWEH, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting.
- 2 Oh let Israel say, "His lovingkindness is everlasting."
- 3 Oh let the house of Aaron say, "His lovingkindness is everlasting."
- 4 Oh let those who fear YAHWEH say, "His lovingkindness is everlasting."

- 5 From my distress I called upon YAHWEH; YAHWEH answered me *and set me* in a large place.
- 6 YAHWEH is for me; I will not fear; what can man do to me?
- 7 YAHWEH is for me among those who help me;
therefore I will look *with satisfaction* on those who hate me.
- 8 It is better to take refuge in YAHWEH than to trust in man.
- 9 It is better to take refuge in YAHWEH than to trust in princes.

- 10 All nations surrounded me; in the name of YAHWEH I will surely cut them off.
- 11 They surrounded me, yes, they surrounded me;
in the name of YAHWEH I will surely cut them off.
- 12 They surrounded me like bees; they were extinguished as a fire of thorns;
in the name of YAHWEH I will surely cut them off.
- 13 You pushed me violently so that I was falling, but YAHWEH helped me.
- 14 YAHWEH is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation.

- 15 The sound of joyful shouting and salvation is in the tents of the righteous;
the right hand of YAHWEH does valiantly.
- 16 The right hand of YAHWEH is exalted; the right hand of YAHWEH does valiantly.
- 17 I will not die, but live, and tell of the works of YAHWEH.
- 18 YAHWEH has disciplined me severely, but He has not given me over to death.

- 19 Open to me the gates of righteousness;
I shall enter through them, I shall give thanks to YAHWEH.

20 This is the gate of YAHWEH; the righteous will enter through it.
21 I shall give thanks to You, for You have answered me,
and You have become my salvation.

22 The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner stone.
23 This is YAHWEH's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.
24 This is the day which YAHWEH has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
25 O YAHWEH, do save, we beseech You; O YAHWEH, we beseech You, do send prosperity!
26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of YAHWEH;
we have blessed you from the house of YAHWEH.
27 YAHWEH is God, and He has given us light;
bind the festival sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.
28 You are my God, and I give thanks to You; You are my God, I extol You.
29 Give thanks to YAHWEH, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting.

PRAYER

O most gracious Lord, your mercy endures forever. Let the voice of praise and thanksgiving resound in our homes. When you chasten us for our sins, let us bow in humble gratitude for such love displayed on our behalf, for we know that you chasten those whom you love. When temptations arise, let joyful praise be on our tongues, for we know testings come to prove our love for you. When we are afflicted and persecuted by our enemies for our faith, let us rejoice with heartfelt praise, for we know it is an honor to suffer on behalf of our Master. Oh, open our eyes to see your providence working for us! We come to you in the name of our great High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.