

PSALMS 116 and 117

Personal love fostered by a personal experience of redemption is the theme of this Psalm. It is a continuation of the *Paschal Hallel*, and therefore must in some way be connected with Israel's release from Egyptian bondage. To enter fully into the spirit of it, we must imagine the case of a person with a penitent heart and lively faith brought by sickness to the very gates of the grave. He feels all the trouble and heaviness that a consciousness of sin produces, and then finds comfort from trust in the mercy of God. The pious man evidently remembers his own deliverance as well as that of his people. We see the redeemed answered when they pray, preserved in time of trouble, resting in Yahweh their God, sensible of their obligations in their daily walk, conscious that they are not their own but bought with a price, and joining with all the ransomed company to sing hallelujahs unto Yahweh.

Psalm 116

- 1 I love YAHWEH, because He hears my voice *and* my supplications.
- 2 Because He has inclined His ear to me, therefore I shall call *upon Him* as long as I live.
- 3 The cords of death encompassed me and the terrors of Sheol came upon me;
I found distress and sorrow.
- 4 Then I called upon the name of YAHWEH: "O YAHWEH, I beseech You, save my life!"

- 5 Gracious is YAHWEH, and righteous; yes, our God is compassionate.
- 6 YAHWEH preserves the simple; I was brought low, and He saved me.
- 7 Return to your rest, O my soul, for YAHWEH has dealt bountifully with you.
- 8 For You have rescued my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.
- 9 I shall walk before YAHWEH in the land of the living.
- 10 I believed when I said, "I am greatly afflicted."
- 11 I said in my alarm, "All men are liars."

- 12 What shall I render to YAHWEH for all His benefits toward me?
- 13 I shall lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of YAHWEH.
- 14 I shall pay my vows to YAHWEH, oh *may it be* in the presence of all His people.
- 15 Precious in the sight of YAHWEH is the death of His godly ones.
- 16 O YAHWEH, surely I am Your servant, I am Your servant, the son of Your handmaid,
You have loosed my bonds.
- 17 To You I shall offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and call upon the name of YAHWEH.
- 18 I shall pay my vows to YAHWEH, oh *may it be* in the presence of all His people,
- 19 in the courts of YAHWEH'S house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Praise YAHWEH!

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Psalm 117 is not only the shortest chapter of the Bible, but it holds the center position of it as well. The one thought set forth in it is that Yahweh has done such great things for Israel, that the Gentile nations, should they hear of them, cannot but feel impelled to add their praises as well.

Psalm 117

- 1 Praise YAHWEH, all nations; laud Him, all peoples!
- 2 For His lovingkindness is great toward us,
and the truth of YAHWEH is everlasting. Praise YAHWEH!

PRAYER

Gracious God, give us hearts filled with love and praise to your holy name, for you hear our prayers, break asunder our bonds of sin, deliver our souls from trouble and heaviness, and snatch us from the sorrows of eternal death. Let our souls rest in you and be satisfied with the pleasures of your mercy, because in your divine providence you have only the best laid up for us. And grant that we may walk faithfully in your commandments until we at last arrive in the courts of heaven where we will sing our great hallelujahs to you, being received solely through the blood and merits of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we offer this prayer. Amen.