

Psalm 114

- This is a short and simple Psalm of remembrance that extolls the marvellous works of God.
 - It's a reflection on Israel's deliverance from bondage, and their being brought into the promised land.
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V: 1-2 Israel, those governed by God, the household of Jacob - having been brought out of Egypt, Egypt also used as a type of the world - people who behave differently, people who speak differently.

- Judah became "His" sanctuary - His safe place, and Israel His dominion.
- Judah means "praise" which became their sanctuary, their safe place after being with amongst a people of a strange tongue.
- To have dominion over is to rule over, and thus back to the name Israel itself, those ruled over or governed by God.
- So in a place of submission and praise, they found sanctuary.
- God eventually brought them into the promised land which was called Judah and Israel, particularly later after the kingdom was divided.

V: 3 Both the Red Sea (not the Reed Sea) and the Jordan were witness to the power and might of Almighty God as He parted each of them in turn allowing Israel safe passage across both of the bodies of water.

Exodus 14:21 "Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided."

Joshua 3:14-17 "14So it was, when the people set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan, with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, 15and as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest), 16that the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan. So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Arbah, the Salt Sea, failed, and were cut off; and the people crossed over opposite Jericho 17Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan."

V: 4 The mountains skipping like rams, the little hills like lambs - I'm going to assume like little lambs when they're jumping around - all of which kind of describes the earth trembling before the mighty hand of God.

- This speaks of when God called Moses to the top of Mt. Sinai to receive the 10 commandments.

Exodus 19:18 “Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly.”

V: 5-7 The common denominator in all these miraculous events is the Lord Himself, His power on display.

“⁷Tremble, O Earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob.”

- It did, that's why we're reading this.

V: 8 Adding to all of that the fact that God brought water out of the Rock, speaking both of the split rock at Horeb, and of our Lord.

- Rock: “Tsur” - low rock.
- Flint (H-2496) “Hallamiys”
- Another word for “rock” - “Sela” - high rock.
- This Psalm is a very brief summary of the great and mighty things that God has done for His people, it's a reminder so that they would not forget - they are to be put into remembrance.

Communion:

- As we move into the Communion segment of our service - once again God's people are to remember, to not forget the great and mighty things that He has done for us, the biggest miracle, the biggest demonstration of His power being that of His sacrifice on the cross on our behalf, then raising Himself from the dead three days later.
- As Jesus was in the midst of celebrating communion and instructing His disciples, He told them:

Luke 22:19 “And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

- There is the obvious aspect of remembering and perhaps even appreciating what the Lord has done for us - not forgetting that this was a costly sacrifice:

1 Peter 1:18-19 “¹⁸Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

- When you hear the word “communion” it speaks of being connected to or being joined to someone or some thing.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 “¹⁶The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? ¹⁷For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.”

- Partaking of communion together is a symbolic rite, it demonstrates our connection, our oneness with the blood of Christ, and the body of Christ - and it demonstrates our connection together as the body of Christ corporately.

Jesus placed a very high value on this:

John 6:48-69 (Turn to / read)

3 points very quickly about this passage:

1. Jesus said V: 53 - “If you don’t partake of Me, you have no life in you.”
2. He also said V: 54 “Whoever eats My flesh, and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up in the last day.” Those who partake and those who don’t - there is a difference.
3. Somehow through this difficult teaching came the understanding and conclusion that Jesus is “the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
 - As we partake in the elements of communion, the bread and the juice - we know that these things represent the body and the blood of Christ - as we partake of them they are digested and assimilated into our bodies.
 - These elements then become part of us, representing Jesus who has become one with us, and we become one with Him, abiding in Him.
 - This is the answer to Jesus’ prayer:

John 17:20-23 “²⁰I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word: ²¹that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You

sent Me. ²²And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect / complete in one...

- Partaking in communion is an act of remembrance, it's a demonstration of unity with Christ and the body of Christ - and as a partaker of Him and with Him comes the imputing of His righteousness to us as our sins are imputed to Him:

2 Corinthians 5:21 "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

- Part of the remembrance aspect of this Christian rite, is that we remember that we were sinners condemned to hell - by our own behavior and decisions, we condemned ourselves.

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

- Because of that gift, we are made clean through the shed blood of Jesus.

Reading: **Luke 22:1 – 23:47**

- Communion is a call to remembrance: Remembering that Jesus came to sacrifice Himself: Not for His sin, but for ours:

2 Corinthians 5:21 "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

Jesus said:

Luke 22:20 "... this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you."

- Sometimes people will mistakenly think that the New Testament is the testament or covenant of grace - and it is not. The New Testament is the testament or the covenant of blood - His blood.

Jeremiah 31:31, 34b "³¹Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah." - "^{34b}... for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

John 15:13 "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man will lay down His life for His friends."

Romans 5:8 "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

John 3:16-19 “¹⁶For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ¹⁷For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸He that believeth in Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”

- We partake of these elements, the bread and the cup – which is what Jesus’ disciples did.
- They are symbolic of His body and His blood, we don’t believe in “transubstantiation” these are merely a reminder of what our Lord has done for us.

Worship Team please come forward:

- Neither do we partake carelessly or flippantly – communion is also an act of reverence.
- Paul warns us because that there is a consequence, a negative effect to partaking in an improper way, without proper appreciation of what we’re doing.

Admonition:

1 Corinthians 11:27-31 “²⁷Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. ²⁹For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. ³⁰For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. ³¹For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.”

Distribute the elements:

1 Corinthians 11:24-26 “²⁴And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me.

Leviticus 17:11 “For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”

²⁵After the same manner also he took the cup, when He had supped, saying, this cup is the New Testament in My blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me. ²⁶For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till He come.”

Ref.Psalm.114 / Communion