

Psalm 117

- Another of the “Hallel Psalms” sung by Jesus at the Passover.
 - The Lord’s faithfulness endures forever.
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V: 1 This is an imperative; a command - for the Gentiles, the “nations” to praise the LORD.

- “Laud” Him, all you peoples!”
- “Laud” - (H-7623) “Sabah” - to praise, to extol, to worship.
- Paul quotes this verse in **Romans 15:11** as he expresses God’s heart for the salvation of both the Jews and the Gentiles.
- Through the atoning death of Jesus Christ on the cross, salvation is made available not just to the Jews, but to the whole world - the nations, hence the whole world should praise Him!

V: 2 Because... His merciful kindness (His grace) is great towards us!

- This is evident in the fact that He hasn’t already judged us and given us the justice that we deserve. Each generation has had and does have the opportunity to repent of our sins, to be forgiven of our sins, and to join with Him.

1 Timothy 1:14 “And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.”

- Truth: (H-571) “emet” - truth, faithfulness.
- His Word, his truth endures forever!

Psalm 119:160 “The entirety of Your Word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.”

Psalm 111:7 “The works of His hands are verity and justice; all His precepts are sure.”

- In this verse we see the combination of grace and truth joined together:

John 1:17 “For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

“Praise the Lord!” “Hallelujah!”

Psalm 118

- Psalm 118 is sandwiched between the shortest Psalm in the Bible, and the longest. And it's meaty!
- Psalm 118 is the last of the Hallel psalms, it is also a Messianic psalm.

V: 1 / V: 29 *"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!"*

- 10 X's (1 Chronicles 16:34, Psalms 105:1, 106:1, 107:1, 118:1, 29, 136, 1, 2, 3, 26.)
- God is good! Everything He does is good!

Psalm 145:17 "The Lord is righteous in all His ways, Holy in all His works."

"His mercy endures forever!"

Psalm 100:5 "For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations."

V: 2-4 Three groups that should proclaim that "His mercy endures forever."

- Let Israel / those governed by God now say...
- Let the house of Aaron, those who serve God now say....
- Let those who fear the Lord, believers, let those who believe in God now say...

Psalm 107:1 "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever."

- The same exact phrase is used 33 times in the Psalms alone - and it's true every time!

V: 5 I called on the Lord and He answered me, and rescued me.

Psalm 34:17 "The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles."

V: 6-7 God is for us!

Psalm 27:1 "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Romans 8:31 “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”

“*I will see my desire,*” I will be given victory over those who hate me.

- The one who hates us more than any other is the Devil, we remind him of the Creator that he really hates.

1 Corinthians 15:57 “But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

V: 8-9 This sounds like it needs to be finished off by: (middle verses in entire Bible)

Psalms 20:7 “Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.”

- It’s always better to trust in the Lord!

V: 10-13 Looking back to those who hate him, his enemies - the nations, those non-believers, those who don’t know God, or more specifically his and our one real enemy the Devil.

- Paul talks about this in a couple of different places:

2 Corinthians 4:8-9 “⁸We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.”

Romans 8:37-39 “³⁷Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

V:14 The LORD - (Yah contraction for YHWH) is (present tense) my strength - He is what keeps me going.

- If it weren’t for the Lord in our lives we would have no hope, no reason to keep going.

“*The Lord / Yah is my strength and song.*” The Lord is what / who I sing about, He is my joy, the joy of my heart is what I sing about.

Isaiah 12:2 “Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.”

“He has become my salvation.”

- Salvation: (H-3444) Y^esua(h)
- Joshua (Jesus) (H-3091) “Y^ehoshua” - The Lord delivers, God is salvation.
- “He” meaning the LORD / “Yah” has become my salvation “Y^eshuah.”
- One way or another this is pointing to Jesus because “God is salvation.”

V: 15 The voice of rejoicing and salvation - that would be a song!

Psalm 28:7 “The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him.”

- The tents & dwellings of the righteous are filled with praise.

Ephesians 5:19 “Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;”

V: 16 The right hand of the Lord - symbolizing His power and might - which does valiantly and is to be exalted, because the LORD does valiantly.

Exodus 15:6 “Your right hand, O LORD, has become glorious in power; Your right hand, O LORD, has dashed the enemy in pieces.”

Deuteronomy 26:8 “So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders.”

- **Valiantly** speaks of courage and determination; strength in battle, able to judge and righteous in behavior.

V: 17 Jesus said:

John 11:26 “And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this.”

The Psalmist was convinced:

“I shall not die, but live,” for a purpose: To declare the works of the Lord.

Psalm 40:10 “I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth from the great assembly.”

V:18 The Lord chastened me severely, just as Jesus was.

Isaiah 53:5 “He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.”

- The Lord chastens those He loves.

Hebrews 12:5-7 “⁵And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; ⁶For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives. ⁷If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?”

- The Psalmist’s perspective was that he was chastened “severely” - but not quite to death, even though it might have felt that way at the time. When we’re being chastened by the Lord it always seems severe to us, but God is as gentle as He can be in the process.
- God uses trials and afflictions in our lives to help us grow, and to draw near to Him.
- Everyone goes through these things, and we each have the ability to choose how we’re going to react to them, we can allow these things to draw us closer to the Lord, or we can allow them to drive us away through our pride and anger - it’s our choice.

John 16:33 “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

V: 19-21 Open to me the gates of righteousness - and I will step through! And I will praise the Lord!

Psalms 100:4 “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.”

Jesus is the gate of righteousness:

John 10:9 “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved...”

Jesus teaches us:

Mathew 7:13-14 “¹³Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

“I will praise You, for You have answered me, and have become my salvation.”

- My Yeshuah...

★ V: 22-23 We move from “Yeshuah” to the Stone that was rejected, the Chief corner stone which is Jesus!

- There is a story about the building of the Temple - there was a master plan for all the stonework to be done, how the stones would be hewn out of Solomon’s quarry and numbered, and brought to the site already finished so that they would interlock together, and so that there would not be the use or sound of chisels and tools in the Temple as it was being built.
- Each of the stones were fashioned, shaped, and numbered then delivered in order - then as they were received they were put in place.
- At some point in the process they received a stone that didn’t seem to fit anywhere and not knowing what to do with it they discarded it, set it aside, and kept going with the other pieces.
- As they were nearing the completion of the Temple, the builders requested the final stone, the corner stone from the quarry - but they got the message back that it had already been delivered. After some back and forth discussion, someone remembered that years earlier they had received a stone that they didn’t know what to do with, and after some intensive search they found it covered up and overgrown by the weeds and bushes.
- This was the stone which the builders had rejected, but it was the chief corner stone.

Jesus said:

Matthew 16:18 “... and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”

- Upon this Rock, upon the confession that Peter had just made that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God.
- Jesus quotes this scripture and describes it’s fulfillment in one of His confrontations with the religious leaders in **Matthew 21:42**, as does Peter in **Acts 4:11** as he is before the Sanhedrin.

Peter quotes this prophesy, and interprets it’s fulfillment for us:

1 Peter 2:6-8 “⁶Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.” ⁷Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, “The stone which the builders rejected has become the Chief Cornerstone,” ⁸and “A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.” They stumble, being disobedient to the Word, to which they also were appointed.”

- Who's doing is this, who set this up? *“This was the LORD's doing...”*

V: 24 The day spoken of here is the day of redemption, the very day that Messiah came and presented Himself to the nation, but was rejected.

V: 25-26 The triumphant entry:

“Save now” - Hosanna!

Matthew 21:7-9 *“7They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. 8And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest.””*

V: 27 God - “El” is the LORD / YHWH

“Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.” - Just as Jesus was nailed to the cross.

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 atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.”*

- He has given us, brought us to the light: Jesus is that light! (**John 1:4-5**)

1 Peter 2:9 *“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”*

V: 28 *“You are my God”* - personal God, personal relationship, personal Lord and Savior.

- Because of that, my response: *“I will praise you.”*
- Again, *“you are my God”* - *“and I will exalt you!”*

V: 29 Ending this Psalm the way it started:

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! for His mercy endures forever.”

- We see the goodness of God and the mercy of God manifest in the person of Jesus, who is our Lord, and our Savior, and our God!