

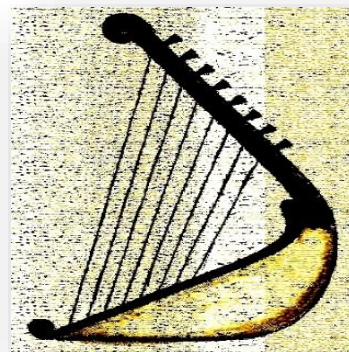
PSALM 118 vs 1

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Psalms 113 – 118 are known as: **The Great Hallel**

Author and Subject: In the book of Ezra: 3, we read that when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, they set priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the Lord, after the ordinance of David king of Israel; and they sang together in praising and giving thanks to the Lord; because He is good, for His mercy endure forever. And all the people shouted with great shout. – Charles Spurgeon. **Mercy = getting what we do not deserve**



The Hallel, or **Hallelujah, was sung at their three solemn festivals:**

Psalm 113, he sang praise to Him who redeems from the lowest depth

Psalm 114, he sang praise to Him who once redeemed Israel, and will redeem Israel again

Psalm 115, he sang praise to Him who is Sovereign over all the idols of the world

Psalm 116, he sang personal thanks and praise to the Lord

Psalm 117, he sang praise to Him among the great congregation

Psalm 118, he sang praise to Him as they went to the temple

¹ Give thanks to the LORD; He is good, and His mercy is forever / owlam; His mercy **continues** to our generation; His mercy are everlasting; it keeps going on and on.

Verses 2 – 4 introduce us to this great congregation which is giving thanks to the Lord for His good and His mercy that continues.

² Let Israel / **Isra = ruled + El = God**; it means: **ruled by God**. The name indicates: **God's people** populating the realm where God is in-charge. Jacob was given a new name when he was 100 years, who wrestled with the Lord most of his life. That old man Jacob, sounds like most of us wild jackasses, doesn't he? Jesus said, Take My yoke and learn of Me; those who do, are: **Israel**; small and great.

Let those ruled by God / small and great... **say, His mercy continues!**

³ Let the house of Aaron / his name means: **light bearer**; and since 2 Corinthians 1 declares... ALL the promises of God in Christ are Yes and Amen... THEN we can say: those houses of light bearers, the generations from folks like: **John Wycliffe** and **John Huss**, **Martin Luther** and **John Calvin**, **John Tyndale**, and **John Knox** to the houses of the **Edwards'**, the **Whitefield's** and the **Spurgeon's** faithful light bearers...

Let the houses of Light bearers / small and great... **say, His mercy continues!**

⁴ Let those who fear the LORD / Isaiah says: **who is there that fears the LORD... who obeys the Lord's servant, who walks in darkness** -- same word! Here we are introduced to an enormous assembly of God's thankful people: those **Israelites**... **ruled by Him**; those **Aaron-ites who bring His light**; and here **those nameless nobodies -- small and great**, who simply fear the LORD. They are included in the great assembly giving thanks to the LORD. who is building a big house for those full of His Spirit to inhabit...

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Let those who fear the LORD say, His mercy continues!

Next we meet those this psalm has been the solace for many in all generations; it speaks of King David's heart; but it was also a favorite psalm of Elizabeth I, and many others not so great or well known.

⁵I called on the LORD in my tight place; and the LORD answered, with a liberating spacious place / we've all been there, in a distressing, tightly constricted situation, cramped and troubling... without room enough to breathe. I was in a tight spot; and the Lord answered with a spacious, expansive place. Notice, it doesn't mean the one relocated, maybe the Lord demolished the tight spot, because when we call on Him **He wants to jump in and help** right where we are!

⁶The LORD is at my side; so I will not fear what can man do to me? / the one who puts God first need not worry. When we are on the Lord's side; He is on our side; **the Lord told our father of faith, fear not Abram, I Am your shield:**

⁷The LORD is with those who help me / the LORD God knows how to sit in His heaven and say nothing. Yet, when it comes to His people -- small or great; He will not remain an on-looker! We can count on it! **Jesus said, I will never leave you; nor forsake you.** Matthew says: He will help His people!

The LORD helps me: therefore I will see *my desire* / notice those 2 words are in italics... meaning added by the translators... you can discard them... and just fill in the blank!

therefore I will see ____ on those who hate me / whoever these fools are, this verse is a little awkward as the one who fears the Lord sees all these haters... who are looking down on him. Or it could mean...

I will look down on those who hate me!

⁸He is good: so I run to the LORD rather than to put lean on Adam's race.

⁹He is good; so run to the LORD / rather than lean on princes / we don't have many princes any more except William and crazy Harry. This verse talks about political leaders in each generation -- those who are owned by somebody, usually special interest. We are reminded about those who think they are royal, who are just royal asses; usually public whores on the citizen's payroll.

¹⁰All nations encompassed me / wow! They encircled this one from every direction; and it doesn't seem like they were going to sing: **For he's a jolly good fellow.** This one was in a tight spot. Have you been in a situation where you thought the whole world was against you? That is what this one is talking about!

but in the name of the LORD I will destroy them / **little David seemingly ill-equipped coming against Goliath:** in the name of the Lord = representing Him. This one did not start the fight, but with the LORD's help, will certainly finish it.

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¹¹ **They surrounded me; indeed, they surrounded me** / apparently, in waves of attack... from every direction... they just kept coming! We see their fierce array and cruel forces, they made a double ring,

but in the name of the LORD I will destroy them.

¹² **They surround me like swarming bees** / they seemed to be everywhere, attacking at every point. You know, bee stings can be the kiss of death. Read the stories of swarming bees when their hives and honeycomb colonies are disturbed. Apparently, this one disturbed someone's sweet reality!

but they are extinguished... like the fire to thorns / as fast as a flame is put to dry tinder. And now a third time declares:

for in the name of the LORD I will destroy them.

And next, it is as if this man or woman is directly looking on... the ring leader and greatest enemy... in this troubling attack, and fearlessly addresses the enemy:

¹³ **You pushed me violently that I might fall, but the LORD helped me** / You thought that your violent assault could trip me up; that I would fail: Oops! You forgot! That unseen One; the One who will never leave us; nor forsake us; He will help His people.



¹⁴ **The LORD is my Strength and Song,**

and is my Salvation / this word is: **Yeshua**... = deliverance, welfare, victory. And this is the same word where we get the name for: **JESUS!**

So, we could say...

The LORD is my Strength and Song, and is my Salvation.

Or...

The LORD is my Strength and Song, and is my Yeshua.

Or even...

The LORD is my Strength and Song, and is my JESUS / you can decide the translation that best helps you remember this verse. I'm going with Jesus! He will deliver, and help His people. There still is victory in JESUS!

¹⁵ **The voice of rejoicing and salvation** / of jubilation in **Yeshua**, in **JESUS**; is in the dwelling places of the upright; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly / in the tents -- in the temporary dwelling places; the Psalmist is not talking about a future heavenly home, he is talking about here and now. The right hand of the Lord is a matchless force of strength and might and power -- the salvation of the Lord.

¹⁶ **The right hand of the LORD is lifted up: the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.**

¹⁷ **I will not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD** / this one who was in distress... who called on the Lord... declares God's greatness. Change the focus... and the distressing place vanished. Paul wrote, **we are His poem! created in Christ Jesus to do His good works**; being saved by His grace, not as a result of our works... lest any of us should brag. We could have been dead; we should have been dead. God gets to do the boasting; since He is the One who worked our deliverance.

¹⁸ **The LORD has chastened me sore but He has not given me over to death** / sure we make mistakes and greatly mess up; God is a past-Expert in this very imperfect world with those who fall short, who miss the mark. Thankfully, He doesn't lower His expectations. Like a loving Father, He disciplines His child; like a Marathon Coach, He trains His runners... and my muscles and bottom was sore! It was pained! It hurt! Even so, He will jump in and train us, so don't be in a hurry to quit:

¹⁹ **Open the gates of rightness: I will enter in, and I will praise the LORD** / what are these gates? A gate is the most vulnerable part of the stronghold, since it is the moving part. Gates move up and down; or swing left and right as they open and close. Revelation 3 says, the Lord stands at the door, the gate of our hearts... knocking. This Hebrew word is: **yadah**; it means: **lift empty hands**; extending our needy hands in praise to the Lord, for His goodness to us. That is an opened gate of praise. A child can lift up hands in praise to our God, who supplies our every need, right?

²⁰ **This gate of the LORD, into which the upright enters** / the ones who are being trained by their Father; He holds His child upright; the children are to be learning to do things right. The psalmist is talking about the right way of the Lord... His way of doing things: not our way, we need no training on how to mess up things, we do that very well.

Notice... this individual... has stopped talking about the Lord -- about all His mighty works, His deliverance and His salvation. And in the following 3 verses... he has some joyous business to attend to... as he enters into that: most holy place... into the very presence of the LORD.

²¹ **I will praise You for You heard me, and became my Salvation** / my **Yeshua**, my **Jesus** / I will extend my empty hands in praise to You.

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The Gospel tells us: He will help His people. Jesus had to remind the religious leaders of His time... of this very verse, when He asked: Did you never read in the scriptures, The Stone which the builders rejected the same became the Chief Cornerstone : The kingdom of God will be taken from you, and given to others bringing forth its fruits. -- **Matthew 23**, and it happened. So we can praise Him and also declare this promise as He delivers us time and again;

²² The Stone that the builders rejected... the same became the Chief Cornerstone.

²³ This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵ Save now, I ask You, O LORD: O LORD, I ask You, send now prosperity.

²⁶ Kneel! For He comes in the name of the LORD / Salute Him! He once came in great humility; He came to do the Father's will; and He will come again! One day, every knee will bow to Him.

we kneel to You from the house of the LORD.

²⁷ God the LORD enlightens us: bind the sacrifice of praise, with cords even to the horns of the altar / with festive garlands; joyously keep connected to God the LORD, the Source of power; and get excited!

²⁸ O my God, I thank You: my God, I lift up Your Name / I brag about You; Psalm 23 says: His good and His mercy follow us all the days of our life, until the day we meet Him face to face.

²⁹ Give thanks to the LORD; for His good... for His mercy continues forever.

Salvation is Your Name |

This is My Father's World |

JESUS it is YOU