

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

### Part 118 – Give Thanks Unto The Lord For His Mercy (Psalms 118)

1. What reasons are stated in the beginning of the 118<sup>th</sup> Psalm for thanks to be given to the Lord?

*“O give thanks unto the LORD; **for he is good; because his mercy endureth for ever**” (Psalms 118:1). Notice: Exodus 34:1-6*

\* Nearly the exact same statement found here: *“O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever” (I Chronicles 16:34).*

\* *“Give thanks unto the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people” (I Chronicles 16:8).*

\*\* God’s mercy is conditional:

- *“And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments” (Exodus 20:6; Deuteronomy 5:10).*

- *“Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations” (Deuteronomy 7:9).*

- *“And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments” (Nehemiah 1:5).*

- *“But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children” (Psalms 103:17).*

- *“Do they not err that devise evil? but mercy and truth shall be to them that devise good” (Proverbs 14:22).*

- *“Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life” (Jude 21).*

\*\* To know God’s goodness one has to continue in His goodness: *“Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off” (Romans 11:22).*

\*\*\* The goodness of God leads one to repentance: *“Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance” (Romans 2:4)?*

\*\*\*\* When Israel wanted to do what was right, they sung praises unto God for His goodness and mercy: *“And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid” (Ezra 3:11).*

2. Who was instructed to say, “His mercy endureth forever”?

*“(2) Let Israel now say, that his mercy endureth for ever. (3) Let the house of Aaron now say, that his mercy endureth for ever. (4) Let them now that fear the LORD say, that his mercy endureth for ever” (Psalms 118:2-4).*

\* An interesting point to add to those who fear the Lord is this: *“By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil” (Proverbs 16:6).*

3. Why was the Psalmist unafraid of what man could do to him?

*“The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me” (Psalms 118:6)?*

\* *“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us”*

**(Romans 8:31)?**

\* *“(5) Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. (6) So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me”*

**(Hebrews 13:5-6).**

\*\* *“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28).*

4. Why did the Psalmist believe he would see his desire upon them that hated him?

*“The LORD taketh my part with them that help me: therefore shall I see my desire upon them that hate me” (Psalms 118:7).*

\* *“Behold, God is mine helper: **the Lord is with them that uphold my soul!**” (Psalms 54:4).*

\* *“Then the spirit came upon Amasai, who was chief of the captains, and he said, Thine are we, David, and on thy side, thou son of Jesse: peace, peace be unto thee, and peace be to thine helpers; for thy God helpeth thee. Then David received them, and made them captains of the band” (I Chronicles 12:18).*

\* *“But the LORD is with me as a mighty terrible one: therefore my persecutors shall stumble, and they shall not prevail: they shall be greatly ashamed; for they shall not prosper: their everlasting confusion shall never be forgotten” (Jeremiah 20:11).*

5. Is it good to put confidence in any man (including governmental leaders)?

No: *“(8) It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. (9) It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes” (Psalms 118:8-9).*

\* *“(8) Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah. (9) Surely men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie: to be laid in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity” (Psalms 62:8-9).*

\* *“(5) Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. (6) For he shall be like the heath in*

*the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited. (7) Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is” (Jeremiah 17:5-7).*

6. When all nations surrounded the Psalmist and thrust sore at him, how did the Psalmist prevail?

*“(10) All nations compassed me about: but **in the name of the LORD will I destroy them.** (11) They compassed me about; yea, they compassed me about: but **in the name of the LORD I will destroy them.** (12) They compassed me about like bees; they are quenched as the fire of thorns: for **in the name of the LORD I will destroy them.** (13) Thou hast thrust sore at me that I might fall: **but the LORD helped me**” (Psalms 118:10-13).*

\* The Lord was more than capable of destroying any and all nations that afflicted His people (**Deuteronomy 31:1-6**).

\*\* Notice: **Zechariah 12:1-9**.

7. What does the Psalmist say the Lord is to him in Psalms 118:14?

*“The LORD is my strength and song, and is become my salvation” (Psalms 118:14).*

\* The Lord is the strength of the faithful: *“(7) The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him. (8) The LORD is their strength, and he is the saving strength of his anointed” (Psalms 28:7-8).*

\* The Lord is the song of the faithful: *“And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Isaiah 35:10).*

\* The Lord is salvation for the faithful: *“It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD” (Lamentation 3:26).*

8. What occurs in the tabernacles of the righteous?

*“The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous: the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly” (Psalms 118:15).*

\* *“(46) And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, (47) Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:46-47).*

9. What do we read in this context about the right hand of the Lord?

*“(15) The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous: the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly. (16) The right hand of the LORD is exalted: the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly” (Psalms 118:15-16).*

\* Knowing God is a spirit and hath not physical body parts (**John 4:24**), there is certainly meaning to the “right hand” of the Lord (**Exodus 15:6, Isaiah 41:10, Matthew 26:64, Acts 2:32-36, Colossians 3:1, and I Peter 3:22**).

10. Though the Lord has chastened the Psalmist, has he been chastised to the point of death?  
No: “(17) *I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD. (18) The LORD hath chastened me sore: but he hath not given me over unto death*” (**Psalms 118:17-18**).

11. What did the Psalmist say about the gates of righteousness?  
“(19) *Open to me the gates of righteousness: I will go into them, and I will praise the LORD. (20) This gate of the LORD, into which the righteous shall enter. (21) I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation*” (**Psalms 118:19-21**).

\* “(1) *In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks. (2) Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in*” (**Isaiah 26:1-2**).

12. Who is being prophesied about in Psalms 118:22-23?  
The verses say: “(22) *The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. (23) This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes*” (**Psalms 118:22-23**).

\* These Scriptures are talking about Jesus (**Matthew 21:37-42, Acts 4:10-12, and I Peter 2:5-8**).

13. In light of who was being prophesied about in verses 22-23, what day did the head stone of the corner become the head in verse 24 (i.e. the day Jesus died, the day He was born, etc.)?

\* The day in which Jesus ascended into Heaven and became the Lord of all things is the day the Lord made in this context (**Ephesians 1:19-22; cf. Acts 2:32-36**).

\* Here's the point, Jesus was not going to reign on earth (**Hebrews 8:1**).

14. When did the Psalmist want salvation to occur and prosperity to be sent?  
Now: “*Save now, I beseech thee, O LORD: O LORD, I beseech thee, send now prosperity*” (**Psalms 118:25**).

15. One is blessed when they come in whose name?  
The name of the Lord: “*Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD*” (**Psalms 118:26**).

16. Why did the Psalmist want a sacrifice to be made ready?  
“(27) *God is the LORD, which hath shewed us light: bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar. (28) Thou art my God, and I will praise thee: thou art my God, I will exalt thee*” (**Psalms 118:27-28**).

17. Does the 118<sup>th</sup> Psalm end differently than it began?  
The only difference are the words “because” and “for” (vs. **1; 29**).