

# Psalm 118 and the Lord's Table

March 10, 2024

Dean Bible Ministries

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# PSALMS

**Psalm 118 and the  
Lord's Table**

**εὐχαριστία *eucharistia***  
**thanksgiving**

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**thanksgiving**

# **Psalm 118**

## **Background**

- 1. Written after the exile, possibly at the dedication of the second temple in 516 BC.**
- 2. No stated author, circumstances, or historical context.**
- 3. Written by the political leader who represents the people.**
- 4. Communal thanksgiving and praise to God for delivering them from the nations that surrounded them.**

# **Psalm 118**

## **Outline**

- 1. Call to worship through giving of thanks to God for His loyal, steadfast love. Psa. 118:1–4**
- 2. Cause for giving thanks to God. Psa. 118:5–18**
- 3. The declaration of what God has done. Psa. 118:19–27**
- 4. Closes with a reminder of the call to give thanks for His loyal, steadfast love. Psa. 118:28–29**

## The Call to Give Thankful Praise to God, Psalm 118:1–4

Psa. 118:1, “Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.”

חֶסֶד *chesed*-2 lovingkindness,  
faithful, loyal love, steadfast love.  
The love of God based on His  
covenantal promises to the  
nation.

**Psa. 118:1, “Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.**

**Psa. 118:2, “Let Israel now say, ‘His mercy endures forever.’**

**Psa. 118:3, “Let the house of Aaron now say, ‘His mercy endures forever.’**

**Psa. 118:4, “Let those who fear the LORD now say, ‘His mercy endures forever.’ ”**

**חֶסֶד *chesed*-2 lovingkindness, faithful, loyal love, steadfast love. The love of God based on His covenantal promises to the nation.**



**חֶסֶד *chesed*-2 lovingkindness, faithful, loyal love**

**3 parts**

**God has made a covenant with His people**

- **God will be faithful to the covenant**
- **God is faithful because He loves them**
- **Faithful loyal love, covenant love**

**Gratitude that God answered their prayers and delivered them from their distress (Psa. 118:5–19).**

**Psa. 118:5, “I called on the LORD in distress; The LORD answered me and set me in a broad place.”**

**מֵצָר *metzar***

**comm masc sing abs**

**distress**

**from a root for being  
trapped, under pressure,  
hard pressed, no way of  
escape**

**We have nothing to fear because the Lord is on our side.**

**Psa. 118:6, “The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”**

**Psa. 118:7, “The LORD is for me among those who help me; Therefore I shall see my desire on those who hate me.”**

**עֲזַר *azar* qal part  
masc plur constr  
to help**

**Psa. 118:8, “It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.**

**Psa. 118:9, “It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.”**

חָסָה *chaash*

qal infinitive const

“to take refuge”

בָּטַח-1 *batach-1*

qal infinitive Const

to trust, rely or  
depend upon

**Psa. 118:8, “It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to put trust in man.**

**Psa. 118:9, “It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to put trust in princes.”**

חָסָה *chaash*

qal infinitive const

“to take refuge”

בָּטַח-1 *batach-1*

qal infinitive Const

to trust, rely or

depend upon

**Psa. 118:10, “All nations surrounded me, but in the name of the LORD I will destroy them.”**

**Psa. 118:10, “All nations surrounded me, but in the name of the LORD I will destroy them.”**

**2-מול *moyl-2***

**hif imperf 1 com sing**

**“to cut off, to circumcise”**

**Psa. 118:10, “All nations surrounded me, but in the name of the LORD I will circumcise them.”**

**2-לִּמְוֹל-2 *moyl-2***

**hif imperf 1 com sing**

**“to cut off, to circumcise”**



**Deut. 10:16, “Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer.”**

**Deut. 30:6, “And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.”**

**2-מול *moyl-2***

**hif imperf 1 com sing**

**“to cut off, to circumcise”**

Psa. 118:10, “All nations surrounded me, but **in the name of the LORD** I will circumcise them.

Psa. 118:11, “They surrounded me, Yes, they surrounded me; But **in the name of the LORD** I will circumcise them.

Psa. 118:12, “They surrounded me like bees; They were quenched like a fire of thorns; For **in the name of the LORD** I will circumcise them.”

2-מול *moyl-2*

hif imperf 1 com sing

“to cut off, to circumcise”

**Psa. 118:13, “You pushed me violently, that I might fall, but the LORD helped me.**

**Psa. 118:14, “The LORD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation.”**

**Psa. 118:15, “The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tents of the righteous; The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.**

**Psa. 118:16, “The right hand of the LORD is exalted; The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.**

**Psa. 118:17, “I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.**

**Psa. 118:18, “The LORD has chastened me severely, but He has not given me over to death.”**

**The processional comes to describe what God has done.**

***The people request:***

**Psa. 118:19, “Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go through them, and I will praise the LORD.”**

***The gatekeeper’s answer:***

**Psa. 118:20, “This is the gate of the LORD, through which the righteous shall enter.”**

***The people express their praise***

**Psa. 118:21, “I will praise You, for You have answered me, and have become my salvation.”**

**Psa. 118:22, “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

**Psa. 118:23, “This was the LORD’S doing; It is marvelous in our eyes.**

**Psa. 118:24, “This is the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.”**

**Psa. 118:22, “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.”**

***Cornerstone* is literally the chief or head stone of the corner.**

**Who are the builders?**

- 1. What is the stone? In context: it is Israel.**
- 2. In the historical context: the Gentile nation/empire builders who reject the stone, i.e., Israel, which God uses now to build something new.**
- 3. By typology it is applied to the Lord Jesus, who was rejected, despised of men (Isa. 53:3), but God will make Him the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Matt. 21:42, 44).**

**Matt. 21:42, “Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the Scriptures: “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’S doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes”?’”**

**Matt. 21:43, “Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.**

**Matt. 21:44, “And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.”**



**Psa. 118:23, “This was the LORD’S doing; It is marvelous in our eyes.**

**Psa. 118:24, “This is the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.”**

**Psa. 118:25, “Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity.**

**Psa. 118:26, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.”**

**הוֹשִׁיעָה נָא *hoshiy'ah na'* save now**

**Psa. 118:26, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.”**

**(Matt. 21:9; Mark 11:9, 10; Luke 13:35; 19:38; John 12:13; 23:39)**

**Matt. 21:9, “Then 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!’ ”**

**Matt. 23:39, “for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ ”**

**Psa. 118:26, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.”**

**John 11:27, “She said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.’ ”**

**Psa. 118:27, “God is the Lord, and He has given us light;**

**Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.” [NKJV]**



**Psa. 118:28, “You are my God, and I will praise You; You are my God, I will exalt You.**

**Psa. 118:29, “Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.” [NKJV]**