

Announcements

- Next week (12/17) we will be meeting at the Golf Course for **The Star**.
- We will then be on break until January 14, 2015.

Psalm 118: The Cornerstone

- One of the most important Messianic Psalms.
- This Psalm finishes the “Hallel” series of holiday Psalms.
- This Psalm is connected to the Passover, and Christ and His sufferings.
- There are several different speakers: the Psalmist, the priests, and the people.

1 Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. 2 Let Israel now say, “His mercy endures forever.” 3 Let the house of Aaron now say, “His mercy endures forever.” 4 Let those who fear the Lord now say, “His mercy endures forever.”

- The Psalm opens with a call to worship according to a typical formula.
- In verses 2-4 we can see group participation in public worship by: the people; the priests and Levites; then, by all who fear the Lord.

5 I called on the Lord in distress; the Lord answered me and set me in a broad place. 6 The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? 7 The Lord is for me among those who help me; therefore I shall see my desire on those who hate me.

- God had delivered the Psalmist, and so he gives testimony.
- Verse 6 is also used in the New Testament as an expression of bold faith.

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.

- These two verses are often said to be right in the middle of the Bible.
- The Psalmist emphasizes that human beings in general are not trustworthy compared to the Lord, nor even princes.
- How often do we need to be reminded that the Kingdom of God is not about political solutions that princes can give us!
- The answer to a spiritual problem must be a spiritual answer.

10 All nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I will destroy them. 11 They surrounded me, yes, they surrounded me; but in the name of the Lord I will destroy them. 12 They surrounded me like bees; they were quenched like a fire of thorns; for in the name of the Lord I will destroy them.

- The nations are described here as being like bees, annoying and numerous.
- Israel's final victory will come by Messiah's conquest of the armies of the Earth.
- To wage war in the name of the Lord means that He is the one who has commissioned us, and not we ourselves. Not everyone who claims to be on the Lord's mission, or on the Lord's errand, is really acting for Him.

13 You pushed me violently, that I might fall, but the Lord helped me. 14 The Lord is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation. 15 The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tents of the righteous; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly. 16 The right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly. 17 I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord. 18 The Lord has chastened me severely, but He has not given me over to death.

- David says victory came through the right hand of the Lord: a picture of Christ.
- Not only will we be preserved, but we will have a testimony on the other side also!

19 Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go through them, and I will praise the Lord. 20 This is the gate of the Lord, through which the righteous shall enter.

- The Psalmist here seeks to be admitted to the Temple to worship and give thanks to God before all the people.
- In a spiritual sense, this is the cry of the redeemed, and of Christ Himself!

21 I will praise You, for You have answered me, and have become my salvation. 22 The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. 23 This was the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

- These verses apply directly to Christ – He cried out to God and was delivered.
- Christ Himself is the stone which the builders rejected but which God placed as the most important stone of all, and we are built upon Him. (Matt. 21:42-45)

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

25 Save now, I pray, O Lord; O Lord, I pray, send now prosperity.

- The famous verse 24 really applies to Passover – and specifically the very wonderful Passover when Christ the Lamb was nailed to the cross.
- Verse 25 is the origin of the cry “Hosanna!,” which carries the idea of “Save now!”

26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We have blessed you from the house of the Lord.

- A further, future fulfillment. : *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.* (Matt. 23:37-39)
- This of course describes His triumphant return to the Earth:
 - *Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.* (Rev. 1:7)
 - *And one shall say unto him, “What are these wounds in thine hands?” Then he shall answer, “Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.”* (Zech. 13:6)
- Jesus is the unique one. He is the one God-Man, the one Messiah-King, the one Savior and Sacrifice. They need to recognize Him... and they will! They will say: *Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord.*

27 God is the Lord, and He has given us light; bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar. 28 You are my God, and I will praise You; You are my God, I will exalt You. 29 Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

- Here is a call to bind the sacrifice, as the people speak. It is also a prophetic call for Jesus to be bound to the corners, to the points of His Cross, to be sacrificed.
- In the Bible, light stands for revelation. God must give us the revelation of the Cross, of how important it is, and that the Messiah must be sacrificed for us.
