SEEING JESUS AND OURSELVES IN PSALM 118



PSALM 118

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting. Oh let Israel say, "His lovingkindness is everlasting." Oh let the house of Aaron say, "His lovingkindness is everlasting." Oh let those who fear the Lord say, "His lovingkindness is everlasting."

From my distress I called upon the Lord; The Lord answered me and set me in a large place. The Lord is for me; I will not fear; What can man do to me? The Lord is for me among those who help me; Therefore I will look with satisfaction on those who hate me. It is better to take refuge in the Lord Than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord Than to trust in princes.

All nations surrounded me; In the name of the Lord I will surely cut them off. They surrounded me, yes, they surrounded me; In the name of the Lord I will surely cut them off. They surrounded me like bees; They were extinguished as a fire of thorns; In the name of the Lord I will surely cut them off. You pushed me violently so that I was falling, But the Lord helped me. The Lord is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation.

The sound of joyful shouting and salvation is in the tents of the righteous; The right hand of the Lord does valiantly. The right hand of the Lord is exalted; The right hand of the Lord does valiantly. I will not die, but live, And tell of the works of the Lord. The Lord has disciplined me severely, But He has not given me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness; I shall enter through them, I shall give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; The righteous will enter through it. I shall give thanks to You, for You have answered me, And You have become my salvation.

The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief corner stone. This is the Lord's doing; It is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it. O Lord, do save, we beseech You; O Lord, we beseech You, do send prosperity!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord;

We have blessed you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, and He has given us light; Bind the festival sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I give thanks to You; You are my God, I extol You. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

SEEING JESUS IN PSALM 118

- Though people rejected Jesus, God chose him to be the foundation of his house/temple (Ps 118:22-23).
 - Rejection of Jesus as the Christ ends in judgment for the unrepentant (Luke 20:17-18; cf. vv. 9-16; Mark 8:31).
 - Salvation is only in the Lord (Acts 4:11-12; cf. vv. 8-10).
 - Those who entrust themselves to Jesus will never be disappointed (1 Pet 2:4-8; cf. v. 3; Ps 118:1-4, 29 = goodness/lovingkindness; Isa 28:16; Rom 10:8-13).

SEEING JESUS IN PSALM 118

- Jesus, once rejected by people but later/now exalted by God, is the blessed king of Israel (Ps 118:25-26).
 - Shortly before they rejected him, the Jews honored Christ as king (Matt 21:9; cf. vv. 4–5; Mark 11:9–10; Luke 19:38; John 12:13 = "Hosanna," "Son of David," "King of Israel").
 - Jesus demonstrated his power in AD 70 (Matt 23:38–39; Luke 13:35; cf. Mark 13:61–62; Ps 118:26b).
- Psalm 118 depicts Jesus as the cornerstone and king of God's house/temple. How should we respond?

RESPONSES AND REWARDS

- Recognizing Jesus as cornerstone/king compels fitting responses and communicates countless rewards:
 - We give thanks to the Lord (Ps 118:1-4; cf. v. 29 = inclusio; 1 Pet 2:4-10 = nation, priesthood, gentiles?).
 - We are confident in Christ (Ps 118:5–14; cf. v. 26 = triumph in the name; Heb 13:5–6; Rom 8:31; cf. vv. 32–39).
 - We celebrate the Savior (Ps 118:15-18; cf. vv. 24-25; 2 Cor 6:9; cf. vv. 1-10).
 - We (will) enter the gate(s) of God (= righteousness/heaven; Ps 118:19-21; cf. 14b; 2 Pet 3:13; Rev 22:14).