

The Truth of the Lord

Psalms One Hundred Seventeen, One Hundred Eighteen

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~ Our Spiritual Safari camel train continues to roll on across the blossoming desert of the Book of Psalms in this report; and we will leave the little oasis of "Hallel" Psalms, which we began in Psalm one hundred thirteen. All of these Psalms were sung at the three great feasts given to the nation Israel: Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles – and probably at all the other feasts, too. During the Passover feast, the cup was passed around seven times; and between the passings, they would sing one of these Psalms. Some very reputable Bible scholars have suggested that Psalm one hundred thirteen and one hundred fourteen were sung before the meal; and then Psalm one hundred fifteen through one hundred eighteen were sang after the meal. I'm not sure that really matters much; but, I think it is worth passing along to you. Either way, the last Psalm sung would have been Psalm one hundred eighteen. When the Gospel writers say "... they sang a song and went out" from the Upper Room, that very definitely refers to Psalm one hundred eighteen....

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1 O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people.

2 For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise ye the LORD.

~ Here is the shortest chapter in the Bible; thirty-three words. One for each year of the life of the Lord Jesus Christ! Because of the brief nature of the Psalm, there is a danger of passing it by without a second thought. When we understand it properly, correctly and completely, we will see it is one of the most startling and remarkable Psalms we have. Once again, we have a Psalm that looks to the future; when all races, nations, tribes, tongues — and every people on every continent — will praise the Name of Jehovah and will worship Him as their Lord. There just doesn't happen to be

anything even close to that happening today, friends. The world just isn't turning to God in this present hour.

At the turn of the century, during the Victorian Era, the church believed wholeheartedly that the Millennial Kingdom was being ushered in and established by them. That was the heyday of post-millennialism. The pre-millennialist, at that time, was an outsider of the *worst* sort. If one even mentioned a pessimistic or cynical comment about a "*Great Tribulation period*," yet to come on this earth, they would have rode that man out of town on a rail. Well, all nations aren't singing praises to Jehovah today. If you think they are, then you are out of touch with reality. Very few people genuinely adore the Lord Jesus Christ; and very few are in worshipful submission to Him. This world is not anxious to accept Jesus. You'll be hard pressed to find *one* nation that meets the criteria of this Psalm. This also reflects the message of the prophets.

Zechariah 2:11*many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day ~*

Zechariah 4:16*it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles ~*

So, my Preterist friends, it just so happens that the worshiping of all nations is inextricably intertwined with the nation Israel turning to the True and Living God – the Lord Jesus Christ – as their Messiah. This can only find its fulfillment when, as this Psalm states in verse two, "*.... His merciful kindness is great towards 'us' – and that 'us' means Israel. That's after the Great Tribulation period, when Christ returns to this earth and establishes His Kingdom; THEN He will be gracious to Israel and to all nations in entire world! In THAT day is when the prophets spoke of, when they said....*

Micah 7:20 *Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old ~*

Isaiah 54: 7 *For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. 8 In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a*

moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer ~

In this modern day in which we live, there is not even an inkling of a notion that all nations will someday be praising the Lord. Remember, in the Book of Acts, at the council in Jerusalem, which was made up entirely of Jewish believers, they just couldn't quite understand why the prophecies in the Old Testament weren't being fulfilled. James stood up and said, "*.... Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles to take out from them a people unto His Name.*" That's what God is doing today – taking a people out among the Gentiles – as in, the church; which is made up of people of all races, tribes, tongues, and everyone else — who are now brought together in one body.

James goes on to say, "*.... and to this agree the words of the prophets: after this....*" and 'after this' means after the Lord Jesus takes the church out of the world, "*....after this, I will return and I will rebuild the tabernacle of David which is fallen down and I will build again the ruins thereof and set it up that the residue of men might seek after the Lord and all the Gentiles upon whom My Name is called, saith the Lord, Who doeth all these things.*"

So, what we really have is a time in this Psalm when every creature on earth will render praise unto God; and I take that to mean man, animal, and all plant life, too. Again, if you think that's happening anywhere in the world – maybe you think it's happening in your church or on your street – then you are just not living in reality. Here on the streets of Orlando, Florida, there isn't a shred of evidence that this world is going to ultimately turn to God. No, it actually seems they may crowd Him out.

Psalm 67: 6 *Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us. 7 God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him ~*

I hate to be the one to drop the atomic bomb on the Kingdom builders and the Preterist, post-millennialist, and amillennialist; but, that's my job, friends – whether you like it or not – this is what the Bible teaches in sound doctrine; and you can argue with me all day long, until you turn blue in the

face and drop dead and, guess what? – you’ll still be wrong. My dear readers, you won’t find a Kingdom building saint, a Preterist, post-millennialist or an amillennialist anywhere in the vicinity of this report; you can just write that down! They stopped reading a *LONG* time ago. What an utterly remarkable and explosive Psalm we have here – let’s be sure we don’t just pass it by and shrug it off....

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1 O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever.

~ Here we have a Psalm sandwiched between the longest chapter in the Bible and the shortest chapter in the Bible. Jesus and the disciples sang this Psalm as they left the safety of the Upper Room, and went into the Garden of Gethsemane. The dying embers of a fading Passover feast have been fully extinguished now, and both joy and sadness are simultaneously realized in great anticipation. Now, the Lord Jesus has instituted a new feast — the Lord’s Supper. See, the Lord’s Supper is no Wailing Wall, my friends. Taking communion is not some morbid ceremony; it is commemorated with bread and wine. Jesus didn’t construct some monument with bronze and marble; no, it was made out of the perishable and frail elements of unleavened bread and wine. Interestingly, at the Passover, they always had a roasted lamb; but not in the Upper Room – all we have record of are bread and wine. That’s because the Lamb was right there serving them as He prepared to die on the altar of the cross. They were eating His flesh and drinking His blood....

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.

5 I called upon the LORD in distress: the LORD answered me, and set me in a large place.

6 The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?

7 The LORD taketh my part with them that help me: therefore shall I see my desire upon them that hate me.

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.

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.

14 The LORD is my strength and song, and is become my salvation.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

25 Save now, I beseech thee, O LORD: O LORD, I beseech thee, send now prosperity.

26 Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD.

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.

29 O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

~ So, this leg of our Spiritual Safari through the entire Bible ends with the disciples singing on their way to the Garden of Gethsemane. The bread and wine they just finished sharing speak of joy and life in the Lord Jesus Christ until He returns. When the cup went around in the Upper Room, Jesus said, *"I'll not drink this cup with you."* That's because it spoke of the cup of salvation. We'll drink that cup with Him in the Kingdom – when it comes – not today. We're talking about the New Covenant of His Blood, friends. What this says is that God is *good* to us. Let's *ALL* say – all of us who fear the Lord, that is, say — *"His mercy endureth forever!"*

I have to laugh in amusement as the atheist insists there is no evidence that God is real; but they place all their confidence in some man they don't even know. If he has a white coat and Pince-nez glasses, and calls himself a scientist or doctor, they trust him; providing, that is, that his theory is one of the myriad available theories they want to be true to support their personal agenda; ignoring the total conflicts and contradictions of said theories, by the way. Well, every single one of them are going to receive an education in the most difficult of all possible ways as they figure out that it is better to trust in the Lord than to trust in man. My friend, to put your faith in a theory that some man likely tainted the conclusions thereof for their own agenda of personal gain makes absolutely no sense. When a scientist is commissioned to support a theory, they are going to produce a study that does what they are paid to do; you can just write that down, too.

Even the well-meaning Christian can easily get their eyes on the teachings of one particular man; and when that man fails you, your faith will likely crash and burn – and *ALL* men – including the one writing this report for you – will fail you, sooner or later. Well, when Jesus sang verse eight of this Psalm, on His way to the Garden of Gethsemane, one man had already betrayed Him. The remaining eleven would be denying Him and scattered like sheep before the sun came up. Men let Jesus down, and men will always let us down, too. Let's learn to place our trust and our confidence in the Hands of the Lord – because He is the Only One Who will never let us down ~

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