

TRIUMPH

I. [Psalm 146:1-10](#)

A. Psalm 113 thru Psalm 118 are known as the Hallel Psalms. These Psalms were sung at Passover and other Jewish festivals. Psalm 118, our Psalm today, is the last of these. Psalm 118 is smack dab in the middle of the Bible. Psalm 117 is the shortest Psalm and Psalm 119 is the longest. Psalm 118 was Martin Luther's favorite, especially verse 17. In [Mark 14:26](#) as the Last Supper concludes, it says: "*And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*" This is that hymn. Today is Palm Sunday and we will see Messianic prophecy fulfilled in this Psalm as Jesus rides triumphantly into Jerusalem to waving palm branches and shouts of *Hosanna in the highest!*

1) **V1-4** "*Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Let those who fear the Lord say, "His steadfast love endures forever."* (Let us all say: **His steadfast love endures forever!**)

2) **V5-9** "*Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free. The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? The Lord is on my side as my helper; I shall look in triumph 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.*" (People try to drink or snort their distress away, argue and fight their distress away, shop their distress away, exercise their distress away, but to no avail.)

3) **V10-13** "*All nations surrounded me; in the name of the Lord I cut them off! They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side; in the name of the Lord I cut them off! They surrounded me like bees; they went out like a fire among thorns; in the name of the Lord I cut them off! I was pushed hard, so that I was falling, but the Lord helped me.*" (Perhaps Jesus felt this while riding into Jerusalem to waving palm branches knowing what was coming. Perhaps He felt this when torch-bearing men came to the Garden to arrest Him. Perhaps He felt this while hanging on the cross as He was pelted with insults...)

4) **V14-18** "*The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord does valiantly, the right hand of the Lord exalts, the right hand of the Lord does valiantly!" I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord. The Lord has disciplined me severely, but He has not given me over to death.*" (Sounds like victory songs, like triumph is in the air!)

5) **V19-21** "*Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank You that You have answered me and have become my salvation.*" (Jesus talked about narrow gates and wide gates in the Sermon on the Mount. Read [Matt. 7:12-13](#))

6) **V22-27 is Messianic prophecy:** "*The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we pray, O Lord! O Lord, we pray, give us success! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! (Heb. *Hoshi' ah na'*; Gk. *Hosanna!*) We bless you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, and He has made His light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!"*

B. So Jesus rides triumphantly into Jerusalem on Sunday before Passover. By Thursday night, the triumph seems to have disappeared. Herod is still Tetrarch. Rome's still in power. Pilate is still in charge. Judas has betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver and leads a party to the Garden to arrest Jesus. Peter's about to deny Jesus during the night of trials. And come tomorrow, the cheering will turn to jeering as the people cry out, "Crucify Him!" So was the triumph fleeting?

C. The triumph began in a manger 30 years earlier, just a few miles away in Bethlehem where God the Son was born to Mary and Joseph. Angels showed up that night to punctuate the new born triumph! There was triumph throughout Jesus' life with every miracle, sign, and wonder, each affirming Who He was. There was triumph woven into every sermon and parable and demonstrated with every sharp rebuke and act of kindness. There was triumph days before He rode into Jerusalem when Jesus was about to raise His friend Lazarus and declared: "*I am the resurrection and the life, He who believes in Me, though He were dead, yet shall He live. And whosoever lives and believes in Me will never die!*"

D. And so triumph was indeed in the air when Jesus rode into Jerusalem to waving palms. There was triumph when He cleared the temple. There was triumph in every Word He spoke during Passion week. There was triumph as He washed His disciples' feet, broke Bread and shared the Cup. Even during His arrest, trial, and torturous beatings, triumph was standing at the door. As they crowned Him with thorns and drove in each spike, raised Him up on that cross, triumph was unfolding. As the spit of mockers co-mingled with His blood, triumph over sin and death was unfolding. As His blood ran down and His breath ran out, triumph was emerging. As Romans, Jews, and thieves, Satan and his minions, gloated in the darkness, Heaven watched triumphantly from above. As He bore our sin and God's wrath against it and cried out, "*It is finished!*" triumph resounded through the universe. When they laid His dead body in the tomb, the triumph kept on advancing. And when He burst out of that tomb on Sunday morning, an even greater triumphal entry took place in Jerusalem! *Hoshi ah' na' in the highest!*

E. The only question that remains is whether or not Jesus has triumphantly taken over your heart as King of kings and Lord of lords? After all these other triumphs, how sad it would be for you to be among those who have rejected

Him. Judas did and lost. The Jewish leaders did and lost. Jerusalem did and lost. Pilate lost. Rome lost. Satan and his demons lost. So where do you stand? Lost or triumphant?

F. Acts 4:8-12 tells us about Peter and John before the Jewish leaders--arrested after a crippled man was healed: *"Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: 'Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Whom you crucified but Whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Jesus is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.' (Ps. 118:22) Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."* (NIV)

G. Is Jesus the Rock of your salvation or the Stone you have rejected? Is Jesus the Cornerstone your life is now being built upon or are you building on sand? Are these lyrics your lyrics? "On Christ the solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand."

H. Then in 1 Peter 2:4-10 (NIV) Peter combines verses from our Psalm and from Isaiah and applies them to Jesus the Messiah. **These are for all those who would believe in Him:** "As you come to Him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **(Please tell me that's you!)** For in Scripture it says (Isaiah 28:16): *"See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame."* Now to you who believe, this Stone is precious. **(Please tell me that's you!)** But to those who do not believe, (Here's Psalm 118:22 again) *"The Stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,"* and, (Isaiah 8:14) *"A Stone that causes people to stumble and a Rock that makes them fall."* They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. **(That's what triumphant looks like! Please tell me this is you!)**

* Close with Prayer...

[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

[Psalm 118:1-29 \(ESV\)](#)

1 Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever! **2** Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." **3** Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever." **4** Let those who fear the Lord say, "His steadfast love endures forever." **5** Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free. **6** The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? **7** The Lord is on my side as my helper; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me. **8** It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. **9** It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. **10** All nations surrounded me; in the name of the Lord I cut them off! **11** They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side; in the name of the Lord I cut them off! **12** They surrounded me like bees; they went out like a fire among thorns; in the name of the Lord I cut them off! **13** I was pushed hard, so that I was falling, but the Lord helped me. **14** The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. **15** Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord does valiantly, **16** the right hand of the Lord exalts, the right hand of the Lord does valiantly!" **17** I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord. **18** The Lord has disciplined me severely, but He has not given me over to death. **19** Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. **20** This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. **21** I thank You that You have answered me and have become my salvation. **22** The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. **23** This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. **24** This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. **25** Save us, we pray, O Lord! O Lord, we pray, give us success! **26** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We bless you from the house of the Lord. **27** The Lord is God, and He has made His light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar! **28** You are my God, and I will give thanks to You; You are my God; I will extol You. **29** Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!

[Matthew 7:12-13 \(ESV\)](#)

13 Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. **14** For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

[Acts 4:8-12 \(NIV\)](#)

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! **9** If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, **10** then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Whom you crucified but Whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. **11** Jesus is *"the stone you builders*

rejected, which has become the cornerstone.' 12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

1 Peter 2:4-10 (NIV)

4 As you come to Him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him— **5** you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame." **7** Now to you who believe, this Stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The Stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," **8** and, "A Stone that causes people to stumble and a Rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. **9** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Martin Luther on Psalm 118

"This is my psalm, my chosen psalm. I love them all; I love all holy Scripture, which is my consolation and my life. But this psalm is nearest my heart, and I have a peculiar right to call it mine. It has saved me from many a pressing danger, from which nor emperor, nor kings, nor sages, nor saints, could have saved me. It is my friend; dearer to me than all the honors and power of the earth."

- Quote by Martin Luther, cited by C. H. Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David* [Baker], 5:337. Luther's motto was verse 17: "I shall not die, but live, and recount the deeds of the Lord."

Interesting information about Psalm 118

- Psalm 118 is the middle chapter of the entire Bible.
- Psalm 117, before Psalm 118 is the shortest chapter in the Bible.
- Psalm 119, after Psalm 118 is the longest chapter in the Bible.
- The Bible has 594 chapters before Psalm 118 and 594 chapters after Psalm 118.
- If you add up all the chapters except Psalm 118, you get a total of 1188 chapters.
- 1188 or Psalm 118 verse 8 is the middle verse of the entire Bible. Should the central verse not have an important message? "It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man."

- Shared by Omar C. Garcia, Bible Teaching Notes, see:

<http://www.bibleteachingnotes.com/templates/System/details.asp?id=29183&fetch=8454>

Film Clips & Other Links

"Psalm 118" by Shane & Shane

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jKmPiTZLd3I>

"This is the Day" by Urban Rescue

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGeLuX9DdUg>

"The Stone that the Builders Rejected" - Students from Loma Linda Academy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jff0KBf-qwo>

Jesus' Favorite Psalm? (Psalm 118) - Sermon by Archbishop Scott McLaughlin

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01FqICu_aKY

Psalm 118: Thank God for His Salvation - Sermon & Podcast by Steven J. Cole

<https://bible.org/seriespage/psalm-118-thank-god-his-salvation>

When Pastor Starts Preaching (Absolutely Hilarious! - Thanks Mark!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jKmPiTZLd3I>

This is the Day - Bro. Franklin Giving His Offering :-)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGeLuX9DdUg>

Bonus Stuff

Matthew 21:1-11 (ESV)

1 Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, **2** saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt

with her. Untie them and bring them to Me. **3** If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." **4** This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, **5** "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" **6** The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. **7** They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. **8** Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. **9** And the crowds that went before Him and that followed Him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" **10** And when He entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" **11** And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

Matthew 21:33-46 (ESV)

33 "Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. **34** When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. **35** And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. **36** Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. **37** Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' **38** But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' **39** And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. **40** When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" **41** They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." **42** Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes"? **43** Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. **44** And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him." **45** When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking about them. **46** And although they were seeking to arrest Him, they feared the crowds, because they held Him to be a prophet.

Romans 9:30-33 (ESV)

30 What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; **31** but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. **32** Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, **33** as it is written, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

By: Latin Hymn, circa 7th century - Translator: John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

http://www.hymnary.org/text/christ_is_made_the_sure_foundation

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the Head and Corner-stone,
Chosen of the Lord, and precious,
Binding all the Church in one,
Holy Sion's help for ever,
And her confidence alone.

All that dedicated city,
Dearly loved of God on high,
In exultant jubilation
Pours perpetual melody;
God the One in Three adoring
In glad hymns eternally.

To this temple, where we call Thee,
Come, O Lord of Hosts, to-day;
With Thy wonted loving-kindness,
Hear Thy servants as they pray;
And Thy fullest benediction
Shed within its walls away.

Here vouchsafe to all Thy servants
What they ask of Thee to gain,
What they gain from Thee, for ever

With the blessed to retain,
And hereafter in Thy glory
Evermore with Thee to reign.

Praise and honour to the Father,
Praise and honour to the Son,
Praise and honour to the Spirit,
Ever Three, and ever One,
One in might, and one in glory,
While unending ages run.

- Hymnal: according to the use of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, 1871

Psalm 118:27 (Amplified)

27 The Lord is God, Who has shown and given us light [He has illuminated us with grace, freedom, and joy]. Decorate the festival with leafy boughs and bind the sacrifices to be offered with thick cords [all over the priest's court, right up] to the horns of the altar.

Charles Spurgeon Exposition on Psalm 118:27

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/treasury-of-david/psalms-118-27.html>

"Bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar." Some think that by this we are taught that the king offered so many sacrifices that the whole area of the court was filled, and the sacrifices were bound even up to the altar; but we are inclined to keep to our own version, and to believe that sometimes restive bullocks were bound to the altar before they were slain, in which case Mant's verse is correct:

*"He, Jehovah, is our Lord:
He, our God, on us hath shined:
Bind the sacrifice with cord,
To the horned altar bind."* - Richard Mant, 1824.

The word rendered "cords" carries with it the idea of wreaths and boughs, so that it was not a cord of hard, rough rope, but a decorated band; even as in our case, though we are bound to the altar of God, it is with the cords of love and the bands of a man, and not by a compulsion which destroys the freedom of the will. The sacrifice which we would present in honour of the victories of our Lord Jesus Christ is the living sacrifice of our spirit, soul, and body. We bring ourselves to his altar, and desire to offer him all that we have and are. There remains a tendency in our nature to start aside from this; it is not fond of the sacrificial knife. In the warmth of our love we come willingly to the altar, but we need constraining power to keep us there in the entirety of our being throughout the whole of life. Happily there is a cord which, twisted around the atonement, or, better still, around the person of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is our only Altar, can hold us, and does hold us: "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then all died; and that he died for all, that they that live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again." We are bound to the doctrine of atonement; we are bound to Christ himself, who is both altar and sacrifice; we desire to be more bound to him than ever, our soul finds her liberty in being tethered fast to the altar of the Lord. The American Board of Missions has for its seal an ox, with an altar on one side and a plough on the other, and the motto "Ready for either," -- ready to live and labour, or ready to suffer and die. We would gladly spend ourselves for the Lord actively, or be spent by him passively, whichever may be his will; but since we know the rebellion of our corrupt nature we earnestly pray that we may be kept in this consecrated mind, and that we may never, under discouragements, or through the temptations of the world, be permitted to leave the altar, to which it is our intense desire to be for ever fastened. Such consecration as this, and such desires for its perpetuity, well beseem that day of gladness which the Lord hath made so bright by the glorious triumph of his Son, our covenant head, our well beloved.

- Charles H. Spurgeon, Exposition of Psalm 118:27, Excerpt from his *Treasury of David*; to read exposition of full Psalm, go to: <http://www.spurgeon.org/treasury/ps118.htm>

Democrat - Republican Prayer Wager

Two senators, one a Republican and one a Democrat were in an argument over religion and politics. The Republican challenged the Democrat, *"If you're so religious, let's hear you quote the Lord's Prayer. Ten bucks says you can't do it!"* The Democrat piously bowed his head and began: *"Now I lay my down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take."* The Republican shook his head in astonishment, pulled out ten bucks from his wallet, threw it at his colleague, and said, *"I just didn't think you could do it!"*