

Palm Sunday: Psalm 118

Announcements:

- Comment on being away last week (silencing) and thank Pastor Scot - great **“heart preparing”**
- Devotions from our pastors - this week - all social accounts: IG, FB, YT, daily...
- Good Friday (two services and communion - children's ministry at 5:00pm)
- Four Easter Services (sunrise is the same (if weather inside) ages 0-3 for last three services)
 - If home church and no little kids - please come to the earlier two **save room for guests.**
 - Kids candy hunt! - little Jesus in the field next door... (candy)
 - Baptisms the following week - register online per service time...

Holy Week: Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday (**All Four Gospels**) ($\frac{1}{3}$ of Mark, $\frac{1}{2}$ of John)

- This year: **Christ in the Psalms!** (each major moment calls back... prophetically!)

For this Palm Sunday, please open to **Psalm Chapter 118** (Need a Bible? Near you in chairs...)

- While people are turning there... **set the scene for Palm Sunday:**
- John 12:12 - **“...a great multitude that had come to the feast”**
 - A couple million people (Josephus) for **PASSOVER** (one of three pilgrimage feasts)
 - Palm Sunday kicked off the first three. **Passover, Unleavened bread, and Firstfruits.**
- **Energy and anticipation!** And a prophet from Galilee is the talk of the town! (Matt. 21:10)
- He's riding from Bethany into Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives (**map for whole section**)
 - **Mount of Olives** = Beautiful view of the city...
- You will find a colt tied - (Zechariah 9:9) - **Donkey = animal of peace!**
 - Imagine a parade for a war hero—flags waving, cheers erupting. What if the hero came not in a polished classic vehicle but on a rusty old bike... **Unexpected humility!**
- Spread clothes on the road... Waving palm branches on the road... (John 12:13, Rev. 7:9)
 - These are pictures of allegiance to a **KING. TRIUMPHAL! Royal Welcome!**
- **All singing a portion of a particular song, (fulfilling prophecy)** which we will look at today...
- Hallel = **“praise” or “song of praise”** **Psalm 113-118** - Passover (Pesach), Pentecost (Shavuot), and Tabernacles (Sukkot) - later would become a tradition to sing at Hanukkah
 - **Songs of victory, joy, and deliverance!** By memory... Sawdust the dance floor!
 - Most meaningful during passover week... **Egyptian Exodus Psalms...** (**seder**)
- An interesting note...
- Matthew 26:30/Mark 14:26 - “And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives...” Hymneo - “To sing praises” **Certainly Psalm 118** (Eve of Betrayal & Palm Sunday)
- It's deeply meaningful to look at the beginning of **HOLY WEEK**. With that context in mind...

Message title: **Christ in the Psalms** (that's the title all week long...)

- The Call to Give Praise (verses 1-4)
- The Story of Salvation (verses 5-18)
- The Arrival of the King (verses 19-26)
- The Call to Give Praise (verses 27-29)

I won't have enough time to talk in detail about every verse; I will touch on some & go deep on a few.

- Context = **David, immediately...** (surrounded but victorious) But, **Christ, prophetically...**

The Call to Give Praise (verses 1-4)

PRAY

V. 1 - Oh, **give thanks to the Lord**, for He is good!

- Thanksgiving and praise **sent upward!**
- **Yadah** = "to throw, cast, or shoot" (give thanks, confess the name of God, praise)
- **Judah (Yehuda)** is derived from the verb root Yadah - points to the lion from the tribe/Judah!

V. 1 - For **His mercy** endures forever. (looked at this in detail recently...)

- **Kindness (chesed)** = "kindness/goodness/mercy (i.e. Unfailing Covenant Love)"
- God's **unfailing, unbreakable covenant promises!**
- Before we know "**what**" happens, we up front know "**why**" God does it... (from the outside, it might appear like the opposite of chesed, but it is not...) **Bookended with proclamation!**

V. 2 - Let **Israel now say**, "His mercy endures forever."

V. 3 - Let **the house of Aaron now say**, "His mercy endures forever."

V. 4 - Let **those who fear the Lord (proselytes/Gentiles) now say**, "His mercy endures forever."

- **All classes, all people: invited! Whosoever!** (distinct parts for different groups: call/response)

The Story of Salvation (verses 5-18)

- Read through these one by one...

V. 5 - **I called on the Lord in distress**; The Lord answered me and set me in a broad place.

- Picture **David in time of trouble**, but more importantly **Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane**...
- **Distress (metsar)** = narrow or tight (crushing), but **broad place (merchab)** = safety & victory!

Vv. 6-9 - The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. **What can man do to me?** The Lord is for me among those who help me; Therefore I shall see my desire on those who hate me. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes.

- Think of Christ before **Sanhedrin and Pontius Pilate**... (**Gabbatha**) (Aramaic: paved platform)
- **The Lord is on my side, I will not fear**... - **his face was set like flint** (Isaiah 50:7, Luke 9:51)
- Side note... Verse 8 = **exact middle of the bible** according to verse count. **Profound...**
- **Psalm 118:8** - It is better to trust [take refuge] in the Lord than to trust in man." **Amen!!!!**
- **Pontius Pilate** would not save... **Sanhedrin/High Priest** would not... (not even His disciples)
 - **But the Lord does!** Good word for us today... (name anything)

Vv. 10-12 - **All nations surrounded me**, but in the name of the Lord I will destroy them. They surrounded me, Yes, they surrounded me; But in the name of the Lord I will destroy them. They surrounded me like bees; They were quenched like a fire of thorns; For in the name of the Lord I will destroy them.

- Think of Christ **on the cross**... (**Golgotha**) (the place of the skull (Calvary))
- **Surrounded** is **repeated for emphasis**... trapped by all, looking bleak, like **swarming bees**...
- **Picture Christ** singing these words on the way... and pondering them during the cross... **Wow**
- **Quenched (extinguished) like a fire of thorns** - Christ saw **victory beyond the pain**...
- **For in the name of the Lord**, Christ would give a destructive blow to the nations of this world

- It's true that **Christ made a public blow to the gods of this world**. But something deeper...
- **Destroy ('amilam)** = "to cut off; to circumcise/be circumcised" - think about that...
 - Col. 2:11, NET - "In him you also were circumcised—not, however, with a circumcision performed by human hands, but by the removal of the fleshly body, that is, **through the circumcision done by Christ.**"
 - 1 Cor. 1:18 - "For the message of the cross is **foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God...**"

Vv. 13-16 - You pushed me violently, that I might fall, **But the Lord helped me**. The Lord is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation. The voice of rejoicing 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.

- **This song includes an older song** from **Exodus 15:20 - The song of Miriam!**
- Sing to the Lord, He is our Strength! Voices of rejoicing! His right hand is exalted and valiant!
- V. 14 - **He has become my salvation** = **yeshua** (Joshua, Jesus, Jesus) (from "yasha")
- = **deliverance!** **Salvation is not something, but Someone!** + **My (ani) = personal** (you?)

Vv. 17-18 - **I shall not die, but live**, And declare the works of the Lord. The Lord has chastened me severely, But He has not given me over to death.

- **I shall not die, but live**: Wow, think of **Christ singing this the night before** His crucifixion!
- There's an **interesting word** here that would *make sense for David*, but **NOT for our Lord**...
- **Yasar** (sounds like yessir!) = "to chasten, discipline, instruct, admonish, correct"
 - **But Christ never sinned...**
 - 2 Cor. 5:21 - "For He made **Him who knew no sin to be sin for us**, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." - **The great exchange!**
- **But not given over to death**... gotta come back **next Sunday** for that message :)

We've been looking at it **during the peak of Passover**, but **back up for a few days... Palm Sunday!**

The Arrival of the King (verses 19-26)

Think of Christ **as King and Exalted... (glory!)**

Vv. 19-21 - **Open to me the gates of righteousness**; I will go through them, And I will praise the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord, Through which the righteous shall enter. I will praise You, For You have answered me, And have become my salvation.

- This is the language of **a triumphal entry!**
- **Sha'ar ha-tzedek** - "gate/entrance of righteousness/justification/deliverance/victory" (**Messianic!**)
- The **righteous one entered the gate of the Lord** on that **Palm Sunday**...
- Mark 11:11, NET - "Then Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the temple [area]. And after looking around at everything..." (Matthew 21:12 - went and **drove out all those who sold...**)
- The **king of righteousness showed up publicly**, and **went straight to business...**
- Remember, **He is** also the **gate by which the saved will enter and find pasture** (John 10:9).

And, now to **one of the most quoted verses** in the New Testament...

Vv. 22-23 - The stone which **the builders rejected** has become **the chief cornerstone (rosh pinnah)**
This was the Lord's doing; It is marvelous in our eyes.

- **The builders (ha-bonim)** - **Spiritual authorities**. Those who "build, rebuild, inspect, establish"
 - They were professionals... (foremen, not villains) - Devout men, Sanhedrin...
 - But Jesus **didn't fit their blueprint...** (gotta be careful...)
- Not sure what the immediate psalmist had in mind, but there was an **important stone (eben)**
- **They Rejected (ma'as)** = **despised, refused (Is 53)** (examined and found not suitable)
- Despised Him and **refused to acknowledge the Hosannas** of the crowd (**more soon**) **to reject:**
- **Luke 19:40, NLT** - "If they kept quiet, the **stones along the road would burst into cheers!**"
- **Little did they know**, they were **throwing out** the... "**Rosh Pinnah**" (**chief cornerstone**)
 - **Foundation stone or capstone? Doesn't really matter (most important stone!)**
 - Remove it, and everything collapses... everything is measured against it...
 - **All of this was fulfilled in the person of Christ!**
 - **On Christ the solid rock I stand!** (all other ground is sinking sand...)
- **Matthew 21:33-46** - **Parable of the wicked vinedressers** (landowner, leased vineyard, far country, time drew near, sent servants, beat/killed, sent more, beat/killed, lastly sent son... cut off/killed - owner returns, will destroy wicked, and leave vineyard to others...)
- **Matthew 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?'**" - **Direct quote from our verses!**
 - And the chief priests and Pharisees **perceived He was speaking of them..** (Matt 21:43)
- **Let's not be too hard on them... This was the Lord's doing, it is marvelous in our eyes.**
- **Marvelous (pala')** = "surpassing, extraordinary, beyond one's power, difficult to understand"
 - For who can **know the mind of the Lord? His ways are higher than ours!**
- **But wait, there's more...** Even **after our Lord's Resurrection and Ascension**, the Apostles were **being questioned for preaching Christ after healing a man** in the name of Jesus...
- **Acts 4:10-12** - "Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. This is the **'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.'** Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
- Now **fast forward 30 years later**, and **the message still had not changed...**
- **1 Peter 2:7, NASB** - "This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, **'The stone which the builders rejected, This became the chief cornerstone.'**"
- Peter goes on to talk about the **stone of stumbling/offense... but for those who love him...**
- **1 Peter 2:4-5** - "Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, **as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house...**"
- The Apostle Paul would agree!
- **Eph 2:19-20** - "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone**, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit."
- **You see the theme don't you? Christ is the chief stone of the church. The rock of ages!**

And on that Palm Sunday, they were singing...

V. 24 - ***This is the day*** the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.

- **Not just any old day** (though we should rejoice in them), **a specific day!** (chief cornerstone)
- Now some view it as: **crucifixion, resurrection, the whole week, His return** (reports of all)
- **Day (yom)** = "24 hour literal day; year, general time period, lifetime"
- **This is the day!** *Prophesied in Daniel!* And sure, *throughout that week...* (*still in the "day"?*)
- **We are to rejoice in it!** *The crowds on Pam Sunday certainly did...*

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

- **Hosanna** = "hoshia (of yasha)" (save/deliver us) + "na" (now we pray)
 - The word itself is a one word prayer that means - **"Save us now!"**
- (for centuries - *they knew it by heart*) It's what the **crowds sang to Christ on Palm Sunday:**
- **Matthew 21:9 - "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Hosanna in the highest!"**
 - **Originally a word of drowning desperation** in crying out for **deliverance...**
 - Later, *during second temple period*, became a word associated with **messianic victory**
 - They *missed the deeper truths (Rome, military)* (*asking for candy, needed medicine*)
 - **Luke 19:41-42, NIV** - "As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, 'If you, even you, **had only known on this day what would bring you peace...**'"
- They wanted **physical war**, but Christ came to bring **spiritual peace**. **Eternal shalom...**
 - **Be careful today, friends, that you're not looking for a wrong system or person...**

But *even in their faulty hopes...* **make no mistake: Proclaiming Christ to be Messiah!**

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

- **Ha-ba** - "to go in, enter, lead in, carry in, gather, bring to pass, to be introduced" (**Messianic!**)
- *Not merely greeting* a traveling prophet... This is **a formal coronation moment.** (**Davidic**)
 - (**Hosanna to the son of David - Matt 21:9 / Mark 11:9-10**)
- **They had the right King, but the wrong kingdom.** (*his kingdom not of this world*)
- *It's possible to say the right words, sing the right lyrics...*
- **Palm branches are easy to wave. Lives/hearts are much harder to surrender.**
- Jesus, *later that week would comment* on their *misguided devotion...* (*at least the leaders...*)
- **Matthew 23:37-39, CSB** - "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her. How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again **until** you say, '**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!**'"

The Call to Give Praise (verses 27-29)

A few simple notes...

V. 27 - ***God is the Lord, And He has given us light***

- The God of the Bible is the highest God. **No other.** **There is no other name under heaven.**
- He brought **light** into our darkness (**John 1**) (*some of you may still need that... illumination*)

V. 27 - ***Bind the sacrifice*** with cords to the horns of the altar.

- And the way He gave us light was *through sacrifice*. A *willing offering*... (come back on Friday)
- Remarkable to **consider Jesus singing these words** from the *Upper room to Gethsemane*...
- **Epecially significant on Palm Sunday** in light of *Exodus 12:3-6* (*10th of Nisan = passover lamb chosen, then inspected for four days*... it happened to our Lord (*Crucifixion day?*))
- **The King & the Lamb = the same person**. Singing His *coronation & passion*, simultaneously.

V. 28 - *You are my God, and I will praise You; You are my God, I will exalt You.*

- *David/Christ exalts His father* in the midst of it all. **So should our lives be too...**

V. 29 - Oh, **give thanks to the Lord**, for He is good!

- Amen, for **we have a great king and savior!** **Shoot praises (Yadah) up to Him!**

V. 29 - For **His mercy** endures forever.

- **Eternal covenant mercy, anyone thankful?**

Bookends with doxology!

Closing:

Don't miss Christ this week, in the *busyness of the crowd* or a *misguided kingdom pursuit*...

Lord, make our hearts right before you...

Psalm 24:7-10 - "Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, **He is the King of glory**. Selah" (perfecting ending with Selah)

PRAY