Shalom AZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

"I Gave It to The Lord, And THIS DAY He Did It!"

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts (TLV): Psalms 118; *Ps. 27:1–4; Ex. 15:2; Jn. 10:7–10; Lk. 19:36–44; Rev. 22:14.*

There are moments when life feels as though it is closing in on us. One problem comes, then another, and before long we are looking in every direction for a way out. Who can we call? Who do we know? What can we do to fix this? And sometimes, even after we have prayed, we pick the burden right back up. We say we have given it to the Lord, but we keep living like it is still our fight.

Psalm 118 meets us in that very place. It is a testimony of someone who was squeezed, surrounded, and pushed hard to make him fall, yet discovered that ADONAI was holding him up. The psalm begins and ends with the same declaration: *"Praise ADONAI, for He is good, for His lovingkindness endures forever"* (Ps. 118:1, 29). That word lovingkindness is *chesed*—His enduring covenant love and loyalty. Everything between those declarations tells the story of what His *chesed* – HIS LOVE – looks like in the middle of distress. The Psalmist came through it able to say, in effect, "I gave it to the LORD, and this day – TODAY – He did it!"

1. CALL ON ADONAI FROM THE TIGHT PLACE (PS. 118:5–9)

The psalmist remembers where he was: *"Out of a tight place I called on ADONAI—ADONAI answered me with a spacious place"* (Ps. 118:5). That tight place speaks of distress, oppression, bondage—being squeezed with seemingly no room to move. But notice where the change begins. He called on ADONAI. He did not claim he had found the right contact person, developed the perfect strategy, or somehow fought his way into freedom. He called out, "ADONAI, I need You!" And the Lord answered, bringing him from confinement into open space, from bondage into freedom.

Then comes this extraordinary declaration: *"ADONAI is for me—I will not fear! What can man do to me?"* (Ps. 118:6). *ADONAI Li*—ADONAI is for me; He is my Lord, my helper. It means fear no longer gets to govern our lives. The psalmist says it is better to take refuge in ADONAI than to trust in humanity or princes (Ps. 118:8–9). But our hope is not ultimately in the influence of people. It is in Him. When we know He is for us, we can look at what threatens us without being consumed by terror. We can call on the One who makes room where there seems to be none.

2. LET HIS STRENGTH HOLD YOU UP (PS. 118:10–18)

The opposition did not just appear once and disappear. The psalmist says the nations surrounded him, surrounded him again, and swarmed around him like bees (Ps. 118:10–12). Yet each time he identifies the source of deliverance: the name of ADONAI. He could stand because the battle belonged to the Lord. *"You pushed me hard to make me fall, but*

ADONAI helped me" (Ps. 118:13). Feel the force of those words: *you pushed me hard*. You pushed, but the Lord supported me, held me up, and did not let the opposition have the final word. You can push as hard as you want, but ADONAI has me. That is the confidence of a person who has learned to live like it is His battle, not mine.

The psalmist goes on: *"ADONAI is my strength and song, and HE has become my salvation"* (Ps. 118:14). These words echo the song Israel sang after the crossing of the sea (Ex. 15:2). The same God who brought His people out of Egypt is still the One who delivers. Salvation here is *yeshuah*—rescue, deliverance—and it draws our hearts toward Yeshua, in whom we find salvation. Suddenly there are shouts of joy and deliverance in the tents of the righteous. The psalmist declares that he will live and proclaim what ADONAI has done (Ps. 118:17). He also recognizes that the Lord has disciplined him, but has not given him over to death (v. 18). Even correction is not abandonment. Our strength is not found in pretending the pressure is small, but in acknowledging that His hand is mighty and that He is holding us.

3. RECOGNIZE WHAT ADONAI HAS DONE THIS DAY (PS. 118:19–29)

Now the psalmist calls for the gates of righteousness to open so that he may enter and praise ADONAI. *"This is the gate of ADONAI—the righteous will enter through it"* (Ps. 118:20). Yeshua declares: *"I am the gate! If anyone comes in through Me, he will be saved"* (Jn. 10:9). He is the way into the life and freedom we cannot manufacture for ourselves. The Shepherd brings His sheep into pasture, out of bondage into spaciousness. And Psalm 118 moves from the gate to the rejected stone that becomes the capstone. What people rejected, ADONAI established. *"It is from ADONAI: it is marvelous in our eyes!"* (Ps. 118:23). It is a wonder, something extraordinary—something only the Lord could accomplish.

Then comes the declaration at the heart of the psalm: *"This is the day that ADONAI has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!"* (Ps. 118:24). Listen to this verse in the flow of the testimony. I was trapped. I cried out. They surrounded me. They pushed me hard. ADONAI held me up. The rejected stone became the capstone. The Hebrew word for "made" also means "to do." And so this literal translation here could be understand to express this: **This day, ADONAI has done it!** I called on the LORD – and today, HE HAS DONE IT! I will rejoice! The psalm continues with *"Hoshia-na!"*—"Save now!" (v. 25)—and *"Blessed is He who comes in the Name of ADONAI"* (v. 26), words that call to mind the welcome Yeshua received as He approached Jerusalem (Lk. 19:36–38). He is our salvation, the One worthy of our praise. The psalm ends where it began: His *chesed* endures forever. That is what we hold on to in every place.

CONCLUSION

Think about the place where you are feeling squeezed right now. Perhaps the pressure is coming from every direction, and you cannot see how things could possibly change. Psalm 118 invites you into a different response. Call upon ADONAI. Take refuge in Him.

Fix your eyes on Him rather than on what surrounds you. The Psalmist recognized and held to the reality that the people pushing against him were not stronger than the Lord who was holding him up. His testimony was, "Look what ADONAI has done."

Today, give Him the fight you have been carrying. If you have been trusting yourself more than the Lord, confess it and return to Him. If you are standing outside the gate, trying to find freedom and life by your own strength, come to Yeshua, the gate of salvation. And if He has brought you through a tight place, do not rush on without acknowledging Him. Praise Him. Tell what He has done. Whether you are crying out for deliverance or rejoicing in the answer, let your heart declare, *"Praise ADONAI, for He is good, for His lovingkindness endures forever"* (Ps. 118:29). His chesed has not failed you. This day belongs to Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the repeated declaration of ADONAI's enduring *chesed* frame the story told in Psalm 118?
2. What is the significance of the movement from a "tight place" into a "spacious place" in verse 5?
3. Where in your life are you still carrying a battle you have said you gave to the Lord? What would taking refuge in Him look like this week?
4. When pressure surrounds you, do you instinctively reach for people, influence, and your own solutions before calling on ADONAI? How might you change that response?
5. How do the gate, the rejected stone, and "this day" point us toward recognizing and celebrating ADONAI's salvation in Yeshua?

CLOSING PRAYER

ADONAI, You are good, and Your *chesed* endures forever. You see the tight places, the pressure, and the battles we cannot fight in our own strength. Forgive us for trusting ourselves and allowing fear to direct our steps. Today we call upon You. Be our refuge, our strength, and our song. Hold us up when we are pushed hard, and shape us through the things we face. Thank You for Yeshua, the gate of salvation, who brings us into life and freedom. Open our eyes to recognize Your hand at work. Teach us to rejoice, to acknowledge You, and to proclaim what You have done. We give You the battle and place our hope in You.

B'Shem Yeshua, In the name of Yeshua, amen.