

Summer Psalms
HYMN OF THE SAVIOR

Friday, August 15
Reading: Psalm 117-118

Psalm 118:22 *The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; 23 the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.*

“When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives” (Matthew 26:30). This is how Matthew concludes his account of Jesus’ last supper. Matthew does not record what they sang because the Jewish audience he was writing to already knew. Like any Jew at Passover, they would conclude their celebration with the singing of the final four psalms of the Hallel. Imagine as the disciples sang the words of Psalm 118, not realizing that they were about to be fulfilled.

This is an appropriate psalm to conclude the Hallel psalms because it is all about God’s plan of salvation which proves that “He is good; His love endures forever (118:1-4).

1. **PRESENCE OF GOD** (118:5-7): Twice it is said that “the LORD is with me.” Passover was a time of remembering how God’s presence had led them to salvation.
2. **PROTECTION OF GOD** (118:8-14): God is presented as a “refuge” where believers can run for safety (118:8-9), and a Warrior who helps us fight our battles (118:10-14).
3. **POWER OF GOD** (118:15-21): The repeated reference to God’s “right hand” is a picture of His power (see Exodus 15:6). The psalm continues with a picture of a victorious soldier marching through the gates of the city into the presence of the king. It is by God’s power that we can have victory and be bold to come into His presence.
4. **PERSON OF GOD** (118:22-28): The conclusion to this psalm proclaims how this salvation is possible. The presence, protection, and power of God are all wrapped up in one Person - the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus called Himself “the stone that the builders rejected” (118:22; Luke 20:17) as did the Apostle Peter (Acts 4:11; 1 Pet. 2:7). Though rejected, He is the cornerstone of salvation.

At Passover, the people were looking for a Savior. As Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, the crowds sang the words of Psalm 118:25-25 (see Matthew 21:9) and tore down boughs from palm trees to welcome Him as He approached the Temple courts (Matthew 21:8), as verse 27 states. However, the people on that day did not understand the purpose of Jesus coming. Jesus would quote this psalm again when He wept over the people’s rejection.

Matthew 23:37 “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. 38 Look, your house is left to you desolate. 39 For I tell you, you will not see Me again until you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

And what about us? Looking back on the salvation Jesus provided by His death on the cross, should not the words of this psalm burst from our hearts. “The LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad” (118:23-24). “Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever” (118:29).