

# The Book of PSALMS

## Psalms 115 – 118

> **Psalms 115 – 118** (the Great Hallel) were sung after the last cup (cp. Matt 26:27-30 - Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "*Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.*" And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.).

### **PSALM 115 – “Trust in the LORD!”** (*Psalms 115 – 118 sung after the Passover supper.*)

(v1-3) **Let's give glory to our God!**

(v4-8) **The heathen Gods are idols made by the hands of man. (In the Great Tribulation the image of the beast must be worshipped! (cp. Rev. 13:11-18)**

(v9-11) **Trust in the LORD!**

(v12-18) **The LORD will bless those that are His, and we shall bless the name of the LORD!**

### **Psalm 116 – “I Love the LORD!”**

(v1-4) **For He hears and answers my prayers!**

(v5-7) **For He is gracious, righteous, merciful and He saves!**

(v8-11) **For He delivers my soul from death, takes away my tears, and gives me eternal life!**

(v12-14) **I will show the LORD that I love Him by declaring His salvation and I shall pay my vows.**

(v15) ***Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints. (Acts 7:54-60; 2 Cor. 5:1-8; Phil 3:20-21- For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.)***

(v16-19) **I love the LORD by serving Him, thanking Him, praying to Him, and gathering with His people in the LORD's house. We follow the example of fellowship from the beginning of the Church Acts 2:42-47- *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. To the end of the Church age - Heb 10:24-25- *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.****

**- The Psalmist concludes with *Praise ye the LORD!* - Hallelujah!**

### **Psalm 117- “His Truth Endures Forever!”**

**PSALM 117** – JOHN MACARTHUR – “The seal of redemptive truth is bound up in this diminutive but seminal psalm—its profundity far outdistances its size. This pivotal psalm exhibits 3 distinguishing features: 1) it is the shortest psalm; 2) it is the shortest chapter in the Bible; and 3) it is the middle chapter of the Bible. That God looked redemptively beyond the borders of Israel in the OT is made clear here. The psalm looks back to God's intent for Adam and Eve in Eden (Ge 1, 2) and looks ahead to the ultimate fulfillment in the new heavens and earth (Rev 21, 22).<sup>1</sup>

(v1) **The Gentiles are called to PRAISE THE LORD! Isa 49:6- *Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give you as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'***

(cp. Luke 2:25-32)

(v2) **Two key points:**

<sup>1</sup>MacArthur, John: *MacArthur Study Bible NASB*. Thomas Nelson Publishers; Nashville, TN, 2006; 2008, S. Ps 117:1

**(1) His merciful kindness is great toward us!** The word “mercy” is found 292 times in the Bible, “mercies” 39 times, and “merciful” another 39 times, totaling 350 times, His mercy is GREAT! We read in Eph 2:4-10- *But God, who is rich In MERCY, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

**(2) His truth endures forever!** John 1:14-18- *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and **truth**. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'" And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. John 14:6- Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the **truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 18:37-38- Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the **truth**. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all. John 15:26-27- "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the **Spirit of truth** who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning. John 17:17-19- Sanctify them by Your **truth**. Your **word is truth**. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the **truth**.*

- **His truth inspires all generations, especially when our times are the toughest. (Listen to the “Battle Hymn of the Republic”)**

### **Psalm 118 – “Save Now!”**

- This is the last psalm of the “*Egyptian Hallel*” group in reference to the Exodus, (Ps. 113 – 118). A unique feature is the use of a double refrain; a soloist would chant the first line of a verse and the choir would chant the second; or one choir would sound the first line and a second choir respond with the second. Martin Luther embraced this Psalm and said, “This is the psalm that I love . . . for it has often served me well and has helped me out of grave troubles, when neither emperors, kings, wise men, clever men, nor saints could have helped me.” This was the psalm the Lord sang with His disciples before His death (Mt. 26:30).

**(v1-4) Guess what? His mercy endures forever!**

**(v5-9) Are you afraid? Isa 41:10- Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.' Matt 10:27-31- "Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. 1 John 4:18-19- There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.**

**(v10-14) The LORD is my strength and my song!**

**(v15-21) The chastening of the LORD, what does it mean? Hebrews 12:5-11**

**(v22-24) Jesus explains the meaning of this verse in Matthew 21:33-46. Paul affirms Christ position**

- **Eph 2:19-22- 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. Peter proclaims the stone in 1 Peter 2:4-8.**

**(v25-29) Save now! – Matthew 21:1-11**