

# Psalm 118 *As fears close in, help is at hand.*

*Two reasons we feel insecure at the moment:*

## Psalm 118

a procession to the city of Jerusalem and to the presence of God // a journey from suffering to glory.

-> the loving LORD is the focus

28 x LORD

Psalm 118:1

Psalm 118:14

Psalm 118:29

-> the suffering King is the centre

suffering: Psalm 118:5-12

King: compare 118:5 with Psalm 18:9 *He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me.*

compare 118:6 with Psalm 56:1 *in God I trust and am not afraid. What can man do to me?*

compare 118:10 with Psalm 2:1-3

-> the LORD's unfailing promise keeping love is the heart

Psalm 118:6-9

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

<sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

<sup>5</sup>"Say to Daughter Zion,

"See, your king comes to you,

gentle and riding on a donkey,

and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. <sup>7</sup>They brought

the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!"

**"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"**

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

<sup>10</sup>When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked,

"Who is this?"

<sup>11</sup>The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee." [Matthew 21:1-11]

Jesus knew He was the stone that Israel was rejecting

-> Matthew 21:33-46, esp. v42!

Jesus knew that God was rejecting them (unless they repented and came into His international kingdom centred on Him not on the physical temple)

-> Matthew 23:1-36, esp. v39! Then 24:1-2.

<sup>26</sup>While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." <sup>27</sup>Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. <sup>28</sup>This is my blood of the <sup>new</sup> covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup>I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

<sup>30</sup>**When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.** [Matthew 26:26-30]

*Three reasons we can be secure today and in the days/weeks/months to come*

1. Romans 8:31-34

2. Romans 8:35

3. Hebrews 13:5-6

# Psalm 118

Psalm 118 isn't written like a script. So, what is below (**the names in bold**) is my current 'best guesswork' from clues in the verses and my sense from my reading of Scripture. I share it to help you to think about this Psalm more deeply.

## PROCESSION TO THE CITY OF GOD

1. **LEADER\***. Give thanks to the **Lord**, for he is good;

**PEOPLE:** his love endures forever.

2. **LEADER:** Oh, let Israel say:

**PEOPLE** "His love endures forever."

3. **LEADER:** Let the house of Aaron say:

**PRIESTS** His love endures forever."

4. **LEADER** Let those who fear the **Lord** say:

**NON-JEWS** "His love endures forever."

5. **KING:** When hard pressed, I cried to the **Lord**;  
The **Lord** brought me into a spacious place.  
6. The **Lord** is with me; I will not be afraid.  
What can mere mortals do to me?  
7. The **Lord** is with me; he is my helper.  
I look in triumph on my enemies.

8. **PEOPLE:** It is better to take refuge in the **Lord**  
than to trust in humans.  
9. It is better to take refuge in the **Lord**  
than to trust in princes.

10. **KING:** All the nations surrounded me,  
but in the name of the **Lord** I cut them down.  
11. They surrounded me on every side,  
but in the name of the **Lord** I cut them down.  
12. They swarmed around me like bees,  
but they were consumed as quickly as burning  
thorns;  
in the name of the **Lord** I cut them down.  
13. I was pushed back and about to fall,  
but the **Lord** helped me.  
14. The **Lord** is my strength and my song[a];  
he has become my salvation.

15. **PEOPLE:** Shouts of joy and victory  
resound in the tents of the righteous:  
"The **Lord's** right hand has done mighty things!  
16. The **Lord's** right hand is lifted high;  
the **Lord's** right hand has done mighty things!"

## AT THE GATE

17. **KING:** I will not die but live,  
and will proclaim what the **Lord** has done.  
18. The **Lord** has chastened me severely,  
but he has not given me over to death.

19. Open for me the gates of the righteous;  
I will enter and give thanks to the **Lord**.

20. **GATEKEEPER.** This is the gate of the **Lord**  
through which the righteous may enter.

21. **KING:** I will give you thanks, for you answered me;  
you have become my salvation.

## INSIDE THE CITY & ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

22. **LEADER:** The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
23. **PEOPLE:** the **Lord** has done this,  
and it is marvellous in our eyes.  
24. **LEADER** This is the day the **Lord** has made.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
25. **PEOPLE** **Lord**, save us!  
**Lord**, grant us success!  
26. **LEADER** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the **Lord**.  
From the house of the **Lord** we bless you.[b]  
27. **PEOPLE.** The **Lord** is God,  
and he has made his light shine on us.  
Bind the festal sacrifice with ropes  
and take it up[c] to the horns of the altar.  
28. **KING:** You are my God, and I will praise you;  
you are my God, and I will exalt you.  
29. **LEADER:** Give thanks to the **Lord**, for he is good;  
**PEOPLE:** his love endures forever.

\* one of the sons of Korah or a priest?

## Footnotes:

[a] Psalm 118:14 Or *defence*. Cf Exodus 15:2

[b] Psalm 118:26 The Hebrew is plural.

[c] Psalm 118:27 Or *With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession*