**“THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE!”**

**PSALM 118—Part II**

**Pastor Keith E. Gephart**

INTRODUCTION

Some think that Jer. 33:11 reflects a possible background for this psalm. But see the various suggestions found in Part I of this study.

1. REFLECTING ON THE PAST (1-14)
2. Timeless loyal-love (1-4) [For the 3 groups, see 115:9-13]
3. Timely Help (5-9)
4. The Condition (5)—“Distress”—“straits, distress”; rare term used only here, in Lam. 1:3 of conquered Judah, and in 116:3 of the “straits of Sheol.”
5. The Response
6. God is **for** me (6a, 7a).
7. God is my helper—the Special helper among other helpers.
8. God “answers me” (5b)
9. God gives me **space** (5b)
10. The Result
11. No fear of man (6)—Such a statement sounds very similar to what Paul states in Romans 8:31—“What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who is against us?**” But a closer connection is with David’s words in Ps. 56:4, 11—“In God I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid. What can *mere* man do to me?”
12. Victory over enemies (7)—“look *with satisfaction* upon those who hate me”
13. Safe refuge in Yahweh (8a, 9a)—not in **man** or in **princes** (8b, 9b).
14. The Ring of Foes (10-14)
15. “Surrounded”! **Four times** in 10a, 11a, and 12a)
16. “Pushed” (13a)—“in order that/so that I would fall”
17. “Saved” (14)
18. “He helped me” (13b)
19. “I will cut them off” (10b, 11b, 12c)
20. “Extinguished like a fire of thorns”—burns hot, but quickly, and soon gone (12b).
21. Yahweh is “my strength, my song, my salvation”—Ex. 15:2—“Song of Moses”
22. REJOICING IN THE PRESENT (15-29)
23. The Songs of Victory (15-18)—
* “In the tents of the righteous,” where they live, harkening back to the time of the Exodus and living in tents.
* Sharing the joy of victory with their leader—v. 14.
1. The discipline (18)—disobedience brings hard “training/discipline” to turn to godliness
2. The deliverance (17, 18b)
3. “Not die, but live”—the living on earth can publicly rejoice and praise the Lord.
4. “He has not given me over to death.”
5. He has manifested “His right hand”—**3 times** for emphasis
* The right hand of His strength.
* His hand is exalted.
* His hand “does valiantly”—twice; manifests heroic strength.
1. The delight
2. A ringing cry—here of joy, due to “salvation”—deliverance (15a).
3. Telling others of Yahweh’s “works” (17b)
4. A Victor’s Welcome (19-27)
5. The challenge at the gates (19-20)
6. The request (19)—“gates of righteousness,” into Yahweh’s righteous presence in His house, through which “righteous” worshipers can and should enter—cf. Ps. 15:1-5; 24:3-6.
7. The response—Yahweh’s gate, those He permits may enter—“The righteous.”
8. The Ruler give thanks, for Yahweh has answered him, become his “salvation,” and bids him enter to worship.
* We have righteousness through Christ—we can enter, and give thanks.
* He entered in and won the Victory; now all his people may enter in!
1. The Chief Cornerstone (21-23)
2. Rejected by the builders (22a)
* In the historical setting, can refer to the “kingdom builders” of the world, who had no place for Israel’s king or his people, Israel.
* But, even his own people did not respond the way they should, and did not understand or appreciate him and all he stood for—as we see often of Israel’s leaders, pre, and post captivity.
* Christ is the ultimate fulfillment of the type here—See Mt. 21:42; Mk. 12:10-11; Lk. 20:17; Act. 4:11-12; I Pet. 2:7; Eph. 2:20.
1. Received by Yahweh (23a)—this circumstance is totally of the Lord!
2. Rejoiced in by His people (23b)—“It is marvelous in our eyes.”
3. The Crowning Day (24-27)
4. A day of God’s doing
* The Day which the LORD has made (24).
* “Let us rejoice and be glad in it.”
1. A day of salvation and prosperity (25)
* “Hosanna”—“save now”
* “Send prosperity”
* **Four** particles of entreaty—“please, we beseech, we plead, we beg you!”
1. A day of triumphant entrance (26)
* The one who comes “in the Lord’s name” is blessed by Yahweh.
* Yahweh’s people, from His house, “bless/praise” Him.
1. A day of light and loving worship (27)
* He has “let His light shine upon” His people—cf. Num. 6—the blessing of the high priest.
* His people celebrate with “festive” sacrifice and offering.
* In the future, they celebrate His ultimate victory and Millennial reign over Israel and the Earth.
* Animals to be offered are “bound with cords” until the time of offering, while the people rejoice together.
* “Sacrifice” is actually “feast,” but here the animal offered at the feast as a thank offering. The animal is not bound to the horns of the altar, but is bound until it may be brought **unto** the altar—meaning of the preposition used here.
1. The Doxology (28-29)
2. Yahweh is God (27a); He is “my God” (28a, b).
3. “I give thanks to You”; “I extol You” (28a, b).

CONCLUSION

“Jesus is the Cornerstone!”

Is He the Cornerstone of your life?