

The Voices of Psalm 118

- All** [1] Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!
- Leader** [2] Let Israel say,
All "His steadfast love endures forever."
- Leader** [3] Let the house of Aaron say,
All "His steadfast love endures forever."
- Leader** [4] Let those who fear the LORD say,
All "His steadfast love endures forever."
- Leader** (*Speaking as a representative of the people he leads*)
[5] Out of my distress I called on the LORD;
the LORD answered me and set me free.
[6] The LORD is on my side; I will not fear.
What can man do to me?
[7] The LORD is on my side as my helper;
I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.
[8] It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in man.
[9] It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in princes.
[10] All nations surrounded me;
in the name of the LORD I cut them off!
[11] They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side;
in the name of the LORD I cut them off!
[12] They surrounded me like bees;
they went out like a fire among thorns;
in the name of the LORD I cut them off!
[13] I was pushed hard, so that I was falling,
but the LORD helped me.
[14] The LORD is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation.
[15] Glad songs of salvation
are in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD does valiantly,
[16] the right hand of the LORD exalts,
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!"
[17] I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the LORD.

- [18] The LORD has disciplined me severely,
but he has not given me over to death.
- Leader** *(Speaking to a gatekeeper/Levite/priest)*
- [19] Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.
- Gatekeeper** *(Gatekeeper/Levite/priest)*
- [20] This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.
- Leader** *(Speaking directly to the LORD for the first time)*
- [21] I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.
- All** *(The community interprets their leader's suffering from a different perspective than verse 18, using the well-known mini-parable of the rejected stone and explaining his experience as a dramatic reversal. Notice the switch from first person singular in verse 21 to first person plural in verses 23-27.)*
- [22] The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
- [23] This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
- [24] This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- All** *(Praying their "Hosanna" directly to the LORD)*
- [25] Save us, we pray, O LORD!
O LORD, we pray, give us success!
- Priest** *(A benediction from priests within the temple, "from the house of the LORD," blessing the leader and plural "you")*
- [26] Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!
We bless you from the house of the LORD.
- All** *(Expressing trust that only the LORD is El, the highest God, the One who is hearing and blessing them)*
- [27] The LORD is God,
and he has made his light to shine upon us.
- Priest** *(Speaking to the whole group)*
- Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,
up to the horns of the altar!
- Leader**
- [28] You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God; I will extol you.
- All**
- [29] Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!