

PRAYING PSALM 118

“It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man” (Psalm 118:8).

YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED TO KNOW: This is the center of the Bible. Psalm 117 is the shortest chapter in the Bible. Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible. Psalm 118 is the center of the Bible. There 594 chapters before Psalm 118 and 594 chapters after it. Add these numbers and you get 1188. What is the center verse in the Bible? 118:8. The next time someone says they want to find God’s perfect will and they want to be in the center of His will, send him to the center of the Bible – Psalm 118:8.

This psalm was sung by worshippers in procession to the temple. 1. **ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE (1-4).** “His mercy endures forever” is mentioned four times in four verses. 2. **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PAST DISTRESS, PETITION, AND RELEASE (5-21).** I called on the Lord in distress. The Lord is on my side. Open to me the gates of righteousness, and I will go through them. This is the gate through which the righteous shall enter. 3. **ANTICIPATION OF THE FUTURE SAVIOR (22-29).** Christ is the stone (22-23). Christ sang this song on the way to His betrayal (24). It was spoken by the people when Christ rode into Jerusalem on a donkey (25-26). Bind the sacrifice with cords is a reference to Christ (27). Words of praise for Christ’s sacrifice (28-29).

True praise is based on the sacrificial work of Christ. All OT sacrifices anticipated the once-for-all sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Jesus was rejected after He presented Himself as the Messiah on Palm Sunday. He came in the name of the Lord and offered Himself as Israel’s King. He was crucified between two thieves as a sacrifice for sin. He gave us light (27). He is God (28). He should be praised (28). His mercy endures forever. If you can’t think of what to pray about, praise Jesus that as God the Son. Praise the light that “lights every man who comes into the world.” Praise Him for His eternal mercy. Then praise Him for His supreme sacrifice. “This is the day the Lord has made: We will rejoice and be glad” is the song Jesus sang on the way to the cross. Praise Him for that day.