

## PSALM 118 [PART OF THE "EGYPTIAN HALLEL," PSALMS 113-118]

O give thanks to YHWH, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Let those who fear YHWH say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Out of my distress I called on YHWH; YHWH answered me and set me in a broad place. With YHWH on my side I do not fear. What can mortals do to me? YHWH is on my side to help me; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me. It is better to take refuge in YHWH than to put confidence in mortals. It is better to take refuge in YHWH than to put confidence in princes.

All nations surrounded me; in the name of YHWH I cut them off! They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side; in the name of YHWH I cut them off! They surrounded me like bees; they blazed like a fire of thorns; in the name of YHWH I cut them off! I was pushed hard, so that I was falling, but YHWH helped me. YHWH is my strength and my might [Exodus 15.2]; he has become my salvation.

There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of YHWH does valiantly; the right hand of YHWH is exalted; the right hand of YHWH does valiantly." I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of YHWH. YHWH has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to YHWH [cf. Isaiah 26.2]. This is the gate of YHWH; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

**The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone** [cf. Zechariah 10.4]. This is YHWH's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes [Mark 12.11; Matt 21.42].

This is the day that YHWH has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you, O YHWH! O YHWH, we beseech you, give us success! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of YHWH [Matt 21.9; 23.29; Mk 11.9; Lk 13.35; 19.38; John 12.13].

We bless you from the house of YHWH. YHWH is God, and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you. O give thanks to YHWH, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.