

Take Refuge in the Lord
Psummer in the Psalms 2022
Psalm 118
July 3, 2022

Series Introduction

1. The Psalms are...songs and prayers of praise
2. The Psalms are...a wide-ranging collection | not a book *About 1,000 years!
3. The Psalms are...written by multiple authors (David - 75, anon - 48)
4. The Psalms are...multiple genres (lament, thanksgiving, royal celebration, ascent, wisdom)
5. The Psalms are...good for us

Why Are The Psalms Important?

1. Theology
2. Worship
3. Prayer
4. Gospel

Today, I want us to focus on Psalm 118. I chose this psalm intentionally because of our nation's celebration of Independence Day.

- Right: thankful for our freedoms and privileges
- Wrong: putting our trust in this (or any) nation above God

This psalm is a corporate worship song. It starts with a group call-and-response

Call to Worship

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good

All: His faithful love endures forever

Leader: Let all Israel say

All: His faithful love endures forever

Leader: Let the house of Aaron say

All: His faithful love endures forever

Leader: Let those who fear the Lord say

All: His faithful love endures forever

Trouble #1: Distress | 118:5-9

⁵I called to the Lord in distress; the Lord answered me and put me in a spacious place. ⁶The Lord is for me; I will not be afraid. What can a mere mortal do to me? ⁷The Lord is my helper; therefore, I will look in triumph on those who hate me. ⁸It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in humanity. ⁹It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in nobles.

- Life is full of things that distress/stress us. Unsettled
- What sorts of things cause you distress: money? relationships? kids? politics?

Trouble #2: Danger | 118:10-14

¹⁰All the nations surrounded me; in the name of the Lord I destroyed them. ¹¹They surrounded me, yes, they surrounded me; in the name of the Lord I destroyed them. ¹²They surrounded me like bees; they were extinguished like a fire among thorns; in the name of the Lord I destroyed them. ¹³They pushed me hard to make me fall, but the Lord helped me. ¹⁴The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

- Different from distress, there's real danger (wild animals in Alaska)
- Car accident, child in the hospital, wildfires, war

Trouble #3: Death | 118:15-18

¹⁵There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the righteous: "The Lord's right hand performs valiantly!" ¹⁶The Lord's right hand is raised. The Lord's right hand performs valiantly!" ¹⁷I will not die, but I will live and proclaim what the Lord has done. ¹⁸The Lord disciplined me severely but did not give me over to death.

- Ultimate distress and danger is death. Most of the world has always had to face death more closely than we have. The last 2 years have brought it a lot closer.
- My grandma is very close to death

Trouble #4: Disgrace | 118:19-24

¹⁹Open the gates of righteousness for me; I will enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. ²⁰This is the Lord's gate; the righteous will enter through it. ²¹I will give thanks to you because you have answered me and have become my salvation. ²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. ²³This came from the Lord; it is wondrous in our sight. ²⁴This is the day the Lord has made; let's rejoice and be glad in it.

- Gates of righteousness = a building. Buildings need good quality stones
- For some people, rejection and disgrace might feel worse than death

Where Do We Turn? When faced with disgrace/distress/danger/death

1. Pleasure | *Substances, Tik-Tok, Marvel movies,*
2. People | *These people will fix my distress, they'll rescue me, they'll not disgrace me*
3. Power | *Nobles/princes, politicians will protect me from*

Trust in the Lord!

⁵I called to the Lord in distress; the Lord answered me and put me in a spacious place. ⁶The Lord is for me; I will not be afraid. What can a mere mortal do to me? ⁷The Lord is my helper; therefore, I will look in triumph on those who hate me. ⁸It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in humanity. ⁹It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in nobles...¹³[The nations] pushed me hard to make me fall, but the Lord helped me. ¹⁴The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation...The Lord's right hand performs valiantly! ¹⁶The Lord's right hand is raised. The Lord's right hand performs valiantly!

- The joyful, confident, relentless call of the Psalms is to trust in the Lord

Jesus, Our Refuge

- Jesus faced distress | hunger, busyness, travel, temptation
- Jesus faced danger | storms, mobs
- Jesus faced disgrace | rejection from family, mockery from religious leaders
- Jesus faced death | crucified
- **The resurrection is Jesus' vindication over all of these!**
- **Now, all who trust in Jesus find their vindication along with him**

This Independence Day, we are reminded that our ultimate hope is:

- Not a nation, but a kingdom that cannot be shaken
- Not a president, but the King of Kings
- Not a military, but the Lord of Hosts/Armies
- Not an economic recovery, but an eternal treasure
- Not any other thing but a Savior who loves us and gave his life for us

Final Praise

²⁵ Lord, save us! Lord, please grant us success! ²⁶ He who comes in the name of the Lord is blessed. From the house of the Lord we bless you. ²⁷ The Lord is God and has given us light. Bind the festival sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar. ²⁸ You are my God, and I will give you thanks. You are my God; I will exalt you. ²⁹ Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his faithful love endures forever.

Baptisms

- Washed clean of sin
- Died and raised with Christ
- A public pledge of allegiance

Danielle (Dani) Mack
Rose Katlin
Sally Goodgion