

"O GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD"
Psalm 118:1, 29

Intro: This is the last of the Hallel Psalms, which begins w/ Psa. 113. It was sung at all of the Feasts, esp. the Passover and the Tabernacles. It is probably the hymn which the Lord sang with His disciples in the Upper Room.

The Psalm begins and ends with the same verse.

This was composed by David when the ark was first brought to Zion. Cf. 1 Chron. 16:34. (See also v. 8 in that chapter.)

And so this is a Psalm that was to become a permanent part of the lives of the people of Israel--in contrast with songs which we sing for a time, and then they are forgotten. It is sad to see the deterioration of music among the people of God.

It is a divinely inspired Psalm.

I. ITS PLACE IN SCRIPTURE.

- A. At the dedication of the Temple in Solomon's time.
Cf. 2 Chron. 5:13, 7:3.
- B. When Jehoshaphat's army went into battle--2 Chron. 20:21.
- C. In Jeremiah's prophecy--Jer. 33:11. See also Ezra 3:11.
- D. In the Psalms:
 1. Psa. 106:1.
 2. Psa. 107:1.
 3. Our text: Psa. 118:1, 26.
 4. PSALM 136:1, 26, and throughout the entire Psalm.

II. THE MEANING.

- A. To give thanks is to acknowledge blessings, and to acknowledge that they come from the Lord--and so to praise Him.

The situation when Melchizedek blessed Abraham is a good example--God blesses us, and then we praise Him. Cf. Gen. 14:19, 20.

- B. The goodness of God encompasses many of His attributes. Here David was exhorting the people to praise the Lord

By its frequent usage it has to be one of the most imp. vv in OT.

for what He is: "good."

This means that He is sufficient, adequate,
kind,
reliable,
satisfying,
without any moral defilement, i.e.
holy.

- C. His mercies, meaning that God is kind and acts kindly and compassionately, lovingly, toward His people.

And they endure forever. Cf. Psa. 103:17, 18; Lam. 3: 22-32 (esp. vv. 22, 23).

III. THE SUBJECTS FOR THANKSGIVING.

Look for these as you read through your Bible. They are too numerous to mention at one time. We experience them every day.

But let me point out just three in Psalm 118.

- A. For answered prayer (v. 8).
- B. For salvation (vv. 14, 21-25).
- C. That He is our God (vv. 26-28).

Concl: How amazing that we should have to be told to give thanks to the Lord! We are like little children who need to be taught by their parents to say "thank you."

Our blessings are undeserved. This should make us praise Him all the more.

Cf. 1 Thess. 5:18,
In every thing give thanks:
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus
concerning you.