

Psalm 117-118

November 10, 2021

Most commentators agree that Psalm 118 was written by an unnamed king of Israel. The king tells of his distress and danger when surrounded in battle by enemy forces, then finishes with notes of thanksgiving and praise for the Lord who has rescued him.

But it is possible to also foresee a coming **kingdom** in these verses – the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In 118:7, “*the Lord is on my side,*” we see the nation of Israel as God’s chosen people, beloved for His sake.

118:18 says the Lord has disciplined that nation but not given it over to death. This parallels the history of Israel, exiled and then dispersed, but always preserved.

118:10: “*All nations surrounded me; in the name of the Lord I cut them off!*” Revelation 20:9 says about Jerusalem at the end of the millennium, “*And they ... surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them.*”

118:20, “*This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it*” and 118:27 “*The Lord is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us*” find their echo in Revelation 21:23-27, “*And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.*”

The Psalms of King David and other writers look forward to the King who will come as David’s heir. Psalm 22 tells of His suffering on the cross. Many other Psalms look ahead to His glorious earthly kingdom where He will reign with His saints.

Questions for study and discussion:

1. Psalm 117 is the shortest chapter in the Bible. What would be lost if it were left out?
2. In Psalm 115, Israel, the house of Aaron, and those who fear the Lord were commanded to trust in the Lord. In Psalm 118:2-4 the same three parties are told to proclaim that his steadfast love or mercy endures forever. How does this change perspective?
3. What do 118:6-9 tell us about trusting in man? What are some practical implications? (Also see Hebrews 13:6.)

