

Psalm Chapter 118 - Review

In chapter one-hundred-eighteen, part 1, we learned that this Psalm is the *sixth* (and last) of the ‘Great Hallel’ Psalms (Psalms 113-118). And, it may have even been this very Psalm 118 that Jesus sang, with His apostles, after the first Holy Communion and shortly before Jesus was arrested and eventually crucified. This means, our Lord and Savior (Jesus Christ) *prepared Himself to endure the sufferings* He would soon experience *by singing* praise for the *enduring* loving-kindness of our Heavenly Father (YHVH). And, this also teaches us that Jesus wasn’t agonizing over the sufferings He would have to go through; rather, He was *looking forward* to what His sufferings (and resurrection) would accomplish (Lk 22:15-16), i.e. the salvation of God’s children *and* putting an end to the wicked ones ruling on earth! And then we learned this great Psalm began *by praising* the Lord (YHVH) *because* He is good and His mercy endures forever (and always), which explains *why* the title of this chapter is “**Praise**”. And we also learned that, the first verse was actually quite popular. For not only was this first verse found in several of the Psalms (106-107, 136) but it was *also* used by David himself, when he “*delivered first this psalm to thank the LORD into the hand of Asaph and his brethren*” at the celebration they held when the Ark of the Covenant was brought to Jerusalem (1 Chron 16:1, 7, 34). This is *one* indication that this Psalm 118 *might* have been written by David himself, although it’s not noted to belonging to Him. And we learned that this first verse was so popular *because* it points out the *timeless truth* that our Heavenly Father’s mercy *always* exists and does endure *forever*. But we also learned, that His mercy is *only* given to those who are willing to face themselves, repent for their sins, seek Him (via His Word) and strive *earnestly* to obey Him. With those who refuse Him (His Word) He doesn’t show mercy (kindness or forgiveness) *because* they are *not* repentant (Prov 1:31). Thus, they *have* to be punished for their sins and, He *always* punishes people *righteously*.

And then the Psalmist called the *entire* nation of Israel to also profess that the Lord (YHVH) is ‘good’ and His mercy endured forever (and always). Yet, he also called the *entire* priesthood (house of Aaron) and *anyone else* (of any race, from any nation) who truly ‘fears’ (and reveres) the Lord (YHVH). So, the first four verses (of this Psalm 118) were really a ‘call’ *to the world* to come and praise the Lord (YHVH) God Almighty. And then the Psalmist began to explain his personal **reasons** for ‘praising’ the Lord (YHVH). And he used a special name for the Lord (Yah, #3050) to explain how the Lord ‘*saved* him’ (i.e. delivered him) *out of* his troubles, when the Psalmist ‘called upon’ Him for help. And because of the Lord’s ‘salvation’ he boldly proclaimed he wouldn’t fear (be afraid of) what mankind could do to him; for he knew there wasn’t anything that would (or could) happen to him that the Lord (YHVH) couldn’t (or wouldn’t) help him through *because* he was *faithfully* serving the Lord (YHVH). And this is the kind of *strong* (unwavering) faith in the Lord (YHVH) we *too* must have. For, as 1 Cor 10:11 points out, there’s **no** temptation, nor trials, or tribulations that will come upon us, that the Lord won’t either give us the strength to get through, or show us a way to escape it.

In part 2 we learned of *more* reasons the Psalmist praised the Lord (YHVH). For, He *continued* to help the Psalmist out of his troubles, even though many foreign nations surrounded him (and his army), even as ‘mad hornets’ do. Yet, the Lord (YHVH) helped the Psalmist consume them like thorns are *quickly* devoured by fire. And that’s *why* (and *how*) the Psalmist knew it is *far better* to trust in the Lord (YHVH) than to trust in mankind - even those who have great power (and wealth) on earth. For, it is *only* with God’s helps that we can obtain victory over our enemies (i.e. those who hate us *because* we are Christian). And that’s why the Psalmist said (three times, *for emphasis*) that he *knew* he would ‘destroy’ his enemies ‘in the name of the Lord (YHVH)’! So, the Psalmist well knew *where* his strength came from, and it was *not* from rulers on earth, nor anyone else. It *only* comes from truly believing in, and obeying, our Heavenly Father. For He alone is the One who gives us the truth, strength, understanding and wisdom we need to overcome all things, and people, that come against us. And, we need Him so *very* much *because* we truly are in a *spiritual* war. So, while some people (as this Psalmist) do have to fight physically at times, the *main* war we are all in (whether we realize it or not) is the fight between good (Jesus Christ) and evil (Satan). And truly, all physical war stems from this *spiritual* war. That’s why the Psalmist knew where His help came from, i.e. the Lord (YHVH) God Almighty! And that’s the kind of fervent faith that we *too must always* have if we want to obtain victory over death (Satan).

In part 3 we learned that the Lord (YHVH) will always help (and protect) those who love, fear *and obey* Him – just as He did for this Psalmist when his enemies were ‘thrusting sore’ at him. And we also learned from Peter’s example, i.e. when he was walking on water to go to Jesus, but began to sink *because* he lost focus on Christ and looked at the boisterous waves *instead*. Yet, when he called out to Jesus for help, the Lord *immediately* reached out and *raised him up*. And this teaches us that, even though our enemies *will* try to push us down (as the roaring waves did to Peter), the Lord (YHVH) is *always* by our side (via Jesus Christ) to (spiritually) ‘grab our hand’ *and help us up* - just as Jesus did for Peter and *just* as the Lord (YHVH) did for the Psalmist... *when* they called out for help! And that’s why the Psalmist went on to proclaim that the Lord (YHVH) was his ‘strength’ (and protection) and his ‘song’ because He gave the Psalmist *a reason* to sing this song of ‘Praise’ when He delivered him out of many troubles. And that’s *why* the Psalmist also proclaimed that the Lord (Yah) had ‘*become my salvation*’, which *why* he used the special ‘nickname’ of ‘Yah’ (#3050), when referring to Yehovah.

And then the Psalmist began to speak of how the Lord’s great salvation wasn’t *only* for him; it’s for *all* those who are righteous - which simply means those who believe in the Lord (YHVH) *and* earnestly strive to obey Him. And that’s why the Psalmist said the sound of rejoicing and salvation, would be in the homes of the righteous. For they will have great *reason* to rejoice in the Lord (YHVH) – meaning to praise Him - because He delivers those who *earnestly* believe in Him *and* thus, strive to obey Him *wholeheartedly*. And then the Psalmist *twice* (for emphasis)

spoke of the ‘right hand’ (power) of the Lord (YHWH) doing ‘valiantly’ (valor, and strength) adding that His ‘right hand’ (power) is also ‘exalted’ (raised up). And, while the Psalmist was certainly thinking about how the Lord (YHWH) had helped him (and perhaps others he knew), this truly *still* applies to us today. For, indeed, the Lord (YHWH) raised up ‘*an horn of salvation*’ when He sent His only begotten Son (Jesus Christ) into the world to die for (atone for) our sins (Luke 1:69). And He *also* raised Jesus up from the dead *and* even took Him up to heaven, where Jesus Christ *still* sits (at the right hand of God) making intercession for (to help) *those of us* who love, and serve, Him (Rom 8:26-28). So, *still today* the Lord’s ‘right hand’ (Jesus Christ) is *still* doing ‘valiantly’ (and raising us up, *spiritually*) by helping *many* of God’s faithful servant in their times of trouble.

In part 4 we learned that, our response to the Lord’s saving us *should be* giving Him praise and *willingly* share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others, as the opportunities arise (Eph 5:15-16, Col 4:5-6). And the Lord’s saving us (from sin, Satan, troubles and temptations) *should* also give us *great* confidence (as it did this Psalmist) in the Lord’s ability to *always* save (deliver) us, no matter what happens (1 Cor 10:13). And we know that, even though our flesh body *will* die someday, the Lord (YHWH) *will* give us *eternal* life because of our faith in, *and* obedience to Jesus Christ (the Word of God, John 1:1,14). In fact, the process of being ‘raised up’ (revived in our ‘inner man’) happens each day we *earnestly* study His Word *and* strive to obey it. So, we *should* keep our heart and mind on the things that are not seen (i.e. God’s Word and His promises within it) so that our ‘inner man’ can be ‘renewed day by day’ (via the Word of God and Holy Spirit within us), even though our ‘outward man’ does keep declining as we age.

And we also learned that, even though our Heavenly Father forgives our sins, and helps us out of all our troubles (both physically and spiritually), He *also* is very faithful to chasten us. And that’s simply because... *we need it!* And, as Paul points out in Heb 12, God only chases those He *loves*. So, if He doesn’t chasten us, then He truly has ‘given us over to death’ (Satan, Heb 2:14) in hopes that we’ll get *so* miserable that we’ll *finally* turn back to Him. And that’s why God’s chastening is *for our good*, **because** it *helps us to kick out the sin that harms us* and helps us to be productive (fruitful in good works) servants for Him. Therefore, so long as we are willing to see our sins, repent for them, and earnestly strive to obey Him (change our sinful ways), our Heavenly Father will *never* give us over to death (Satan). And this is something we *should* thank, and praise, the good Lord (YHWH) *ever so much* for!

And then we read how the Psalmist asked that the ‘gates of righteousness’ would be ‘opened up’ to him so he could ‘go into them’ *and* ‘Praise the Lord’. And we learned that the ‘gates of righteousness’ is simply an *analogy* for the understanding the Holy Spirit gives us, as we study God’s Word. For, when we earnestly study God’s Word (2 Tim 2:15), the Holy Spirit ‘opens’ our understanding of the Scriptures, *just as* someone would open a physical gate, to let us walk into a certain place. Thus, we also learned that the ‘gates of righteousness’ *lead to* the ‘Kingdom of God’ (heaven)! Yet, we also learned that the ‘gates of righteousness’ are indeed ‘strait’ (narrow)

because it's not an easy gate to walk into, nor is the 'path' to it easy to walk (Matt 7:13-14). And this is because, living life for our Heavenly Father is *much harder* to do, than living for the 'pleasures of the flesh', *because* it takes *disciplining* our carnal (flesh) mind *and* body. For our flesh body often *wants* us to think about the 'pleasures of life' *instead of* what really matters, which is serving our Heavenly Father (1 Pt 4:1-2). So, the fact that we *must* **struggle each day** to *control* our carnal inclinations (and the negative/sinful thoughts, and desires, we have each day) is *much harder* than simply living life according to our lusts and emotions. But, letting our lusts and emotions *control us* is not how we 'walk into' the 'strait gate' (the 'gates of righteousness') which lead us to eternal life! And that's why we must be committed to *deny* our carnal lusts, and emotions, work to 'crucify' (kill) them spiritually, *and follow* the teachings of Jesus Christ (i.e. God's Word) *each and every day* of the rest of our life. And, **if** we do these things, then an 'entrance' to the 'gates of righteousness' (Kingdom of God) *will* be 'ministered' unto us *abundantly* via the Holy Spirit *within us* (2 Pt 1:11)!

In part 5 we learned how the Psalmist proclaimed the Lord (YHVH) *became* his salvation *because* He heard his sincere prayer *and* delivered him out of his troubles, which gave him the *victory* over his enemies. Yet, the Lord's salvation was also *prophetical* of the time when "*The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner*". And we learned that, in the *physical* sense, this referred to the building of the Temple of Solomon, and how a certain *physical* stone was rejected as being part of it. This stone is thought (by many) to be the very stone that Jacob laid his head on one night, when had a dream where he saw *a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it* (Gen 28:12). And, not only did Jacob set up that rock (as a pillar) and anoint it but, he also took it with him into Egypt, which his descendants then took out of Egypt, and into the Promise Land. And that's likely why Solomon wanted to use 'the rock' in the Temple but, for some reason, the builders rejected it. So, in the *physical* sense, **this** 'rock' (called today "Jacob's Pillar" or the 'Stone of Scone') is *most likely* what this Psalmist is referring to, here in Ps 118:22.

However, we also learned that this verse is *most definitely prophetical*. As the *Companion Bible* notes point out (and most all scholars agree) this 'stone' (in Ps 118:22) is *prophetical* for **the Messiah**, which **is** Jesus Christ. So, it's not surprising that there are *many* references to it, in the Scriptures. And we covered a few Scriptures which prophesied of it (Gen 49:24, Isa 28:16) and also looked at some of the Scriptures where Jesus Himself quoted from this Psalm (Mth 21:42, Mk 12:10-11 and Lk 20:17-18) that *prove* this verse **is indeed** prophetical of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. So, we know that *this* 'stone' - that the builders refused - is *prophetical* of how, those who were *controlling* (managing with guile) God's Temple would *refuse* Jesus Christ as the 'corner stone' (i.e. the head stone). And what that means is **they rejected Jesus Christ as the Messiah**, who *was* prophesied to be the 'head ruler' (chiefdom), i.e. the King of kings and Lord of lords of God's righteous (and eternal) Government (Ps 2:6, Isa 9:6-7, 11:1, 32:1, 33:22; Jer 23:5, 33:15; Zech 3:8, 6:12; Mal 4:1, etc.). And we also looked at how Peter quoted from this Psalm 118:22

(in Acts 4:8-12) which *also* proves this Psalm 118:22 is prophetic for **how Jesus Christ would be rejected**, at His First Advent, **as the Messiah** (i.e. the King of kings and Lord of lords).

Yet we also learned that, *because* ‘the stone’ (i.e. the head stone of the corner, i.e. Jesus Christ) was rejected (at His first Advent) it (He) was **also prophesied to be a ‘stone of stumbling’**. As the Scriptures declare (Isa 8:14, 1 Peter 2:1-8, Rom 9:29-33), Jesus was be **“a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence** to those who refuse the Lord (YHVH) to rule over them. And that is *because* they ‘stumble at the Word’ (i.e., they do not believe God’s Word) and are, therefore, ‘disobedient’ to God’s Word. So, regardless of race, *anyone* who rejects Jesus Christ as the Messiah, will *not* be allowed to be a part of God’s *eternal* Government, which is what the ‘building’ of the Temple represented (as Jesus also said in Mth 21:43 and 7:21-23, etc.). Yet, Paul also explained (in 1 Cor 3:9-17) how those who **do** believe in Jesus Christ (regardless of race or gender), as the *true* Messiah (i.e. they accepted the ‘corner stone’, this Ps 118:22 prophesied of), are indeed ‘God’s building’, which foundation is *laid upon* Jesus Christ. In fact, Paul even explains that, when the Holy Spirit dwells within us, *we are* the “Temple of God”, which Paul further explained in Eph 2:18-22.

So, we learned that there’s *many* Scriptures that speak of this ‘head stone of the corner’ *being Jesus Christ* – which is *the* stone that completes, and is *above all* the others ‘stones’ (people), like the capstone of a pyramid. And, if we reject Him as that ‘head stone of the corner’ (i.e. the capstone), then He *will* indeed reject us (Matt 10:32-33; Luke 9:23-26). And that’s *why* Jesus Christ will still be a ‘stone of stumbling’ *yet future to us*! For, as the Scriptures clearly warn us (Ps 110:1-2), the *true* Messiah will *not* (and *cannot*) *return until* the false Messiah (the false ‘head stone of the corner’) comes *first*. This **is** the ‘antichrist’ (which actually means the ‘instead of Christ’, in the Greek), who **is none other** than Satan himself (Rev 12:7-12, Matt 24:15; Mark 13:14, Dan 9:27, 11:31, 12:11). And those who accept Satan, as the Messiah, will thus commit *apostasy* which Paul warned us *strongly* about in 2 Thess 2: 1-4. So, in the prophetic sense (still yet future to us today) Jesus *will* be a ‘stone of stumbling’ to many Christians *because* they won’t realize there is a *false* Christ (Satan himself) coming *before* the *true* Jesus Christ returns. Thus, they will unwittingly worship God’s arch enemy, Satan, because they *willingly* rejected the opportunity to study God’s Word, just as the builders of old rejected ‘that stone’ (Jacob’s Pillar) which was prophetic of Jesus Christ.

So, the last study made it *very* apparent just *how* important this Psalm 118 really is. For, it not only prophesied of how Jesus Christ would be refused (rejected) at His *First* Advent, but also how He will be rejected during the ‘great tribulation’ (Mth 24:21) that comes *shortly before* Jesus Christ’s *Second* Advent. So then, the *reason* this Psalmist wrote this verse, right after stating how he would praise the Lord (YHVH) for saving him (‘become my salvation’, vs 21) is that he *knew*, even though many had (and would continue to) reject the *true* Messiah (‘the stone’), He would *still* become the ‘head stone of the corner’, i.e. the King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev

17:14, 19:16). And that's why he went on to write "*This is the LORD's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes*" (Ps 118:23) - which means, it truly *was* the "Lord's doing" that raised Jesus Christ from the dead, and then took Him up to heaven, where Jesus *still* sits (at the right hand of God) *waiting* for His enemies to be made His 'footstool - *so that* Jesus can return to earth as the King of kings and Lord of Lords, *forevermore* - as even Psalm 110:1 prophesied of. And that *truly* will be the *greatest* fulfillment of the Lord (YHVH) 'becoming our salvation', as verse 21 spoke about! So, yet again, we see these precious Psalms give us much hope, and comfort, through the many prophecies God has given to us, through them.

In part 6 we learned of more prophecy contained in this great Psalm 118. And, while verse 24 is often cited by Christians, to remind others to thank God for each day we have to live on earth (for life is a gift from Him), it's truly quite a *prophetical* verse. For '*this day*' that the Lord (YHVH, #3068) 'has made' refers to *the* day that Jesus Christ *returns* at His Second Advent, to take *full* control over the *entire* world. And the Bible has **a lot** to say about *that* 'day'! For, the Old, and New, Testaments *often* speaks of God's ultimate victory over sin and death, *and* His return in judgment, as "*that day*", "*the day*", or "*the day of the Lord*". And, because *one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day* (2 Pt 3:8, Ps 90:4), 'this day' also refers to the thousand years Jesus Christ will rule *before* the eternity (Rev 20). And, we also learned, when 'that day' comes (Jesus' return) those who did not refuse Him as the 'head stone of the corner' (Messiah, vs 22) will indeed rejoice *greatly* and be blithe and gleesome! For Jesus' return *will reward* those who remained *faithful* servants to Him but *punish all* those who are wicked, and work iniquity (2 Cor 5:10, 2 Thess 1:6-10, Jude 14-15, etc.). So, we *shouldn't* be grieved at the persecutions we must endure now, but "Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you" (Matt 5:10-12). And, as Paul also pointed out, "*the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us*" (Rom 8:18) - for when Jesus Christ returns, He will give us **eternal** life (Phil 3:21, Rev 20:4-6, etc.).

And then we learned how the Psalmist besought the Lord (YHVH) to 'save now' so he could see prosperity (or good things) come to pass. And we also learned how he prophesied that the Messiah (Jesus Christ) would 'come in the name of the Lord' and be blessed. Indeed, Jesus Christ did come *in His Father's name* (John 5:43), and the miracles He did *were* done *in His Father's name* (John 10:25), and He also *declared His Father's name* to His apostles (and all who would believe upon Him, John 17:26). And, Jesus' declaring His Father's Name (Yehovah, i.e. YHVH, #3068) means He *explained who He is*, i.e. His character, honor and authority. And so, Jesus Christ *did* come 'in Yehovah's name' - not only because His own name included Yehovah's name, but also because *He was sent of the Father* (Yehovah, i.e. YHVH) *and* because He taught others *who the true* God (YHVH) really is, i.e. what He's like (ex: Mth 6:48, John 4:23, 5:36, 45-48) and explained the authority He has (ex: John 5:27). And then, we also learned how the Messiah, who would come 'in the name' of the Lord (YHVH), would be worshiped in the Temple... and this *did* happen! In fact, verses 25-26 were actually *quoted* when this verse

was *being fulfilled*. For, these verses were spoken *by the people* when Jesus Christ entered into Jerusalem (*and while He was in the Temple, Mth 21:9-15*), *shortly before* the Passover, where He would *become* the ‘Great Sacrifice’ which atones for our sins, *once and for all times* (Rom 5:11, Heb 10:10). And so, the fulfilling of these Scriptures (Ps 118:25-26) *further proves* how our Heavenly Father is *perfectly* able to make His Will (Word) come to pass, *exactly* as it is written. And that *should* give us *great* confidence that, what He’s prophesied (promised), regarding His Second Advent, *will come to pass exactly* as it is written.

In part 7 we learned that the ‘Almighty’ (‘El) IS Yehovah (i.e. YHVH). And, therefore, it is *only* He who can show us (help us to see) ‘**light**’, which the truth (Ps 4:6, 18:28, 27:1, 36:9, 37:6, 119:105, 130, Prov 6:23, Isa 8:20, Dan 2:23, Hosea 6:5, Micah 7:8-9, Mth 5:14-16, Eph 5:8-14, 1 Thess 5:5, 1 Pt 2:9). And we need the ‘light’ (the truth, i.e. God’s Word, John 17:17) in order to live *eternally*. For truth is what *frees us* from being enslaved *to lies*, which keeps us *in slavery to sin*. As Paul explained so very beautifully, in Rom 6, we are either a servant *to sin* (lies, Satan) or to righteousness (truth, Jesus Christ). And that’s *why* Jesus told us that **if** we continue (stay in) His Word (the Light, i.e. truth) then we *will* know the truth (see the Light) *and* be free from lies (deception) that keep us in *bondage to sin*! And, in 1 John 2:28, John explains why it’s *so important* to continue (stay) in God’s Word; for if we do ‘abide’ in God’s Word then, when Jesus Christ returns, *we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming*.

And then, after declaring that Almighty God is Yehovah (YHVH), and has showed us light (i.e. the truth), the Psalmist then wrote, “*bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar*”. And we learned this means he called for the sacrifice to be made ready, by decorating it with garlands, *until* it was burned (consummated) on the altar of burnt offering, which had horns on it. So, essentially the Psalmist was calling for a ‘thanksgiving’ offering to be given - to thank *and* praise - our Heavenly Father for ‘becoming our salvation’, i.e. saving us (verses 14-21) by ‘showing us His Light’, i.e. the truth. Therefore, this ‘sacrifice’ (in verse 27) is truly *prophetical* (as all the blood sacrifices were) of the *true* ‘Great Sacrifice’ which was to come, i.e. Jesus Christ. Indeed, Jesus Christ was the true “Passover Lamb” (1 Cor 5:7) which atones for our sins, *once and for all* (Heb 10:10). So, in the *prophetical* sense, this verse also urges us to *continue* to receive (and dwell in) ‘the light’ (the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is the Word of God), for only by the ‘great Sacrifice’ (Jesus Christ) can we *truly* overcome the darkness (lies and deception) of Satan, who is the ‘father’ of lies (John 8:44). Thus, this 27th verse is also *looking forward* to the return of the *true* ‘sacrifice’ who will reveal the truth when He returns (1 Cor 4:5).

And then we saw the Psalmist declare that, *because* Yehovah (#3068, i.e. YHVH) is his **Almighty God**, the *omnipotent* One (‘El, #410), he will ‘**praise**’ Him, which means (in the context of this verse) **to revere** and/or to **worship** (#3034). And then he goes on to state that, *because* Yehovah (#3068, i.e. YHVH) is his **Supreme God**, and **Creator** (‘Elohyim, #430) he will ‘**exalt**’ Him, which means (in the context of this verses) **to raise** (#7311), which is simply saying the Psalmist promises to *raise up* (or *lift up*) God’s name. And that truly is what this very Psalm 118 does! For

it ‘lifts up’ God’s Holy name (Yehovah, #3068, i.e YHVH) *by explaining* (even through the different ‘titles’ being used) how good (and faithful) He is to *continue* to show us His great mercy, and save us (become our salvation) when we need help. As Psalms 145:1-2 explains, this is actually how we ‘bless’ God’s name, i.e. by praising Him *and* declaring His wonderful works, and characteristics, to others. And truly, our Heavenly Father (YHVH) *does* deserve all our praise *and* exaltation. For He not only created heaven, the earth, the sea (and everything else), He’s also *so very* loving, gracious, merciful and kind to give us what we need, *and* help us out of all our troubles and temptations (1 Cor 10:13).

And then the Psalmist ended this precious Psalm *exactly* as he began it, i.e. by praising the Lord (YHVH). And this (again) reveals *why* the title of this chapter is “**Praise**”. And this is important because it points out the *timeless truth* that our Heavenly Father’s mercy *always* exists and truly does endure *forever*. But (as we’ve learned), that’s *only* to those who are willing to face themselves, repent for their sins, seek Him (via His Word) and strive *earnestly* to obey Him. With those who refuse Him (His Word, i.e. the ‘light’) He doesn’t show mercy (kindness or forgiveness) *because* they are *not* repentant (Prov 1:31). Thus, they *have* to be punished for their sins and, He *always* punishes people **righteously**. Therefore, we must *never* forget what *we must do* in order to obtain His great mercy, i.e. *earnestly* repent for our sins when we see Him, *diligently* study His Word (2 Tim 2:15) and strive *to obey* it! And when we continue to *earnestly* do that, the ‘gates of righteousness’ (Ps 118:19-20) *will* indeed be ‘opened’ unto us, so we can *forever* praise, and exalt, our Heavenly Father (YHVH) for His ever-enduring goodness and mercy - through our Lord, and Savior, Jesus Christ - who *is* the ‘Great Sacrifice’ *and* ‘head stone of the corner’...

*1 And in **that day** thou shalt say, O LORD, **I will praise thee**: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me.*

*2 Behold, **God is my salvation**; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my **strength and my song**; he also is **become my salvation**.*

3 Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

*4 And in **that day** shall ye say, **Praise the LORD**, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, **make mention that his name is exalted**.*

*5 Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: **this is known in all the earth**.*

*6 Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: **for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee**.*

Isa 12

AMEN.