

## **Psalm Chapter 138 NKJV**

**Psalm 138 can be divided into 3 parts: (1) Vss. 1-3 Thanksgiving for Salvation; (2) Vss. 4-6 Kings Give Thanks to God; (3) Vss. 7-8 God Accomplishes His Work.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The remnant cried out to the LORD in their distress – that is during the exile of Psalm 137 – and the LORD answered their prayer (Ps. 138:3). Over this break out in jubilation (Ps. 138:1), for the LORD has given them strength (Ps. 138:3b; 7) to return to the promised land. We find here thanksgiving from the returning remnant in connection with the LORD's lovingkindness, the covenant truth. In singing this psalm we must in like manner devote ourselves to God's praise and glory and rest ourselves in His power and goodness.

### **Thanksgiving for the LORD's Favor. A Psalm of David.**

- 1) I Will praise You with my whole heart; Before the gods I will sing praises to You.**
- 2) I will worship toward Your holy temple and praise Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; for You have magnified Your word above all Your name.**
- 3) In the day when I cried out, You answered me, and made me bold with strength in my soul**
- 4) All the kings of the earth shall praise You, O LORD, when they hear the words of Your mouth.**
- 5) Yes, they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.**
- 6) Though the LORD is on high, Yet He regards the lowly; But the proud He knows from afar.**

- 7) **Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You revive me; You will stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and Your right hand will save me.**
- 8) **The LORD will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy, O LORD, endures forever; Do not forsake the works of Your hands.**

### **Thanksgiving For Salvation.**

**Vs.1) I will praise You with my whole heart; Before the gods I will sing praises to You.**

Cordially and sincerely, in the uprightness and integrity of his heart, which imply not the perfection of his service, but the sincerity of it.

**David said he will praise God with his whole heart;** all the powers and faculties of his soul were engaged in his praise to God, being deeply aware of the great favors and high honors bestowed upon him by Jehovah, the Being of beings, the Father of mercies.

There is no room in his heart for other gods or anything else. He expresses his thanksgiving openly, for, he says: **"I will sing praises to you before the gods."** The gods are bearers of an authority given to them by God, such as earthly princes and kings and heavenly rulers such as angels. **Ps. 95:3) For the LORD is the great God, And the great King above all gods.**

David said in **Ps.35:18) I will give You thanks in the great assembly: I will praise You among a mighty people.**

**Ps. 119:46) I will speak of Your testimonies also before Kings and will not be ashamed.**

**Ps. 111:1) I will praise the LORD with all my heart, in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation.**

**2) I will worship toward Your holy temple and praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.**

**I will worship toward Your holy temple,** Or the place of God's dwelling where the ark abode. David would worship God in God's own way. Even so, we, the true hearted believers of these days, must not fall into the will-worship of superstition, or wild worship of skepticism, but reverently worship as the LORD Himself prescribes.

We are not only to adore the true God, but to do so in His own appointed way. The Jews looked to the temple, but we are to look to Jesus. The living temple of the Godhead. David said in **Ps. 28:2) Hear the voice of my supplications when I cry to You, when I left my hands towards Your holy sanctuary.**

David also said in **Ps. 29:1-2) Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

**Praise Your name for thy loving kindness and for thy truth;** Praise would be the main part of David's worship and it must be ours also. The person of Jesus is the temple of the Godhead and in Him we behold the glory of the Father "**full of grace and mercy**". His grace is sufficient for us, and His mercy is renewed and is available to us every morning; Great is His faithfulness. **Lam. 5:22-23)**

**For Thou has magnified Thy word above all Thy name.** It is His word which creates, sustains, quickens, enlightens, and comforts. As a word of command, it is supreme; and in the person of the incarnate word, it is above all the works of God's hands. Let us adore the LORD who has spoken to us by His written word, and by His Son. In the presence of unbelievers let us both praise His holy name and extol His holy words. Jesus said in **Luke 16:17) And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle of the law to fail.**

We also read in **Ps. 119:89) Forever, O, LORD Thy word is settled in heaven.** In this respect His word has pre-eminence over every other form of manifestation.

As witness-bearers for the truth, we must have bold, unflinching, lion-like hearts, loving Christ first, and His truth next, and Christ and His truth beyond the world.

**Vs.3) In the day when I cried out, You answered me and made me bold with strength in my soul.**

David communicated with God through prayer, he cried out to God and prayed to Him in earnest and God answered him. It was a speedy answer because David said, "**in the day when I cried out;** God accepted his prayer and answered him while he was yet speaking.

The answer to David prayer was that God made, “**him bold with strength in his soul**”; It was a spiritual answer. God gave him strength in his soul, and that is a real and valuable answer to the prayer of faith in the day of affliction. When we cry out to God in earnest, He promise us that while we are still speaking, He will hear and answer us. **Isa.58:9) Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, ‘here I am’.**

**Isa.65:24) It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear.**

**Ps.20:6) Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven with the saving strength of His right hand.**

**Heb.11:6) But without faith it is impossible to pleas Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

### **Kings Give Thanks to God**

**4) All the Kings of the earth shall praise You, O LORD, when they hear the words of Your mouth.**

Kings and those in high places usually have small care to hear the word of the LORD; but King David feels assured that if they do hear it, they will feel its power “David himself rehearses the word of Jehovah”.

The way of conversion for Kings and those in high places is the same for everyone else; faith for conversion cometh to all of us by hearing and hearing the word of God. **Acts. 2:21) And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be saved (delivered).**

Kings and those in high places are as gods below, and they will do well when they worship the God above, then the people they lead will live a more peaceful life.

**1 Tim. 2:1-4) Therefore I exhort first of all, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, (2) for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and**

reverence. **(3) for this is good and acceptable in the sight of God.**

**5) Yes, they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, For great is the glory of the LORD.**

The ways of the LORD are all mercy and truth, ways of pleasantness, paths of peace and of the excellency, pleasure, and usefulness in them.

In the ways of the LORD, He reveals His glory and His greatness. When the kings of the nation's see this, they will give thanks for it, and they will acknowledge that the glory of the LORD and **their** earthly glory pales in comparison.

**The glory of the LORD;** is shown in the works of creation, especially in the person of Christ and in the glorious work of redemption and salvation by Him; and of which there will be a great display throughout the earth in the latter day. The great spread of the gospel and the multitude of people converted by it will make the ways of the LORD more glorious and transforming to mankind. Father God said in **Num.14:21) Truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.**

Solomon said in **Ps.72:18-19) Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, who only does wondrous things! 19) And blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen.**

**6) Though the LORD is on high, Yet He regards the lowly; But the proud He knows from afar.**

In Vss. 4-5 we see that "**God is exalted**". But in this verse (6) we see that though "**He is on high, Yet He regards the lowly**"; In most cases the earthy rulers have no regards for the lowly; (the meek, the cast down) and those that they think are beneath them. Father God attention and care goes out to all mankind especially the poor and the destitute.

The haughty and the proud should not think that he escapes God's attention because "**God knows him from afar**"; this is to say that God knows the enemy plans against His people as he devises.

**Ps. 72:12-14) For He will deliver the needy when he cries, the poor also, and him who has no helper. 13) He will spare the poor and needy and will save the souls of the needy. 14) He will redeem their life from oppression and violence; and precious shall be their blood in His sight.**

**Luk. 1:51-52) ....He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. 52) He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.**

**1 Sam. 2:8) He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the beggar from the ash heap, to set them among princes and make them inherit the thrown of glory.**

**Ps. 113:4-6) The LORD is high above all nations, His glory above the heavens. 5) Who is like the LORD our God who dwells on high, 6) Who humbles Himself to behold the things that are in the heavens and in the earth.**

### **God Accomplishes His Work**

**7) Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and Your right will save me.**

**Though I walk in the midst of trouble;** Though I am in the valley of sorrow, I shall not be moved, overlooked or forgotten by my LORD. Whenever David was in trouble, he knew how to cry out to God, and he knew how to express with deep conviction his need for Him to **revive and strengthen** him to go through whatever the situation was. David knew that if he put his trust in the LORD that He would remember him and give him life and strength due to his many past experiences with Him.

David said in **Ps. 23:4) Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort.**

David declared with confidence that **You will revive me;** You will cause me to live; You will give me life. The meaning is, You will give me life- vigor- strength- to bear the trouble. **Ps. 30:3) O LORD You brought my soul up from the grave; You have kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.**

**You will stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies and Your right hand shall save me;** David in confidence again said, in spite of all the attempts of the enemies to destroy him, that You O LORD will meet their wrath by Your power, and I shall be safe.

David said in **Ps. 55:16-19) As for me, I will call upon God, And the LORD shall save me. 17) Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice. 18) He has redeemed my soul in peace from the battle that was against me, for there were many against me. 19) God will hear, and afflict them, Even He who abides from of old. Selah.**

**8) The LORD will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy, O LORD, endures forever; Do not forsake the works of Your hands.**

God has a purpose for the life of each of His own. David expresses confidence that the LORD will accomplish what concerns him, that God will accomplish His purpose with him. For God not to do so would mean that His lovingkindness would cease somewhere. That is impossible, because the LORD's lovingkindness is everlasting. Therefore, He will complete the works of hands and "**not forsake them**".

Paul expresses the same confidence regarding God's work in **Phil. 1:6) being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Christ.** The blessing is God's business. We may trust Him to finish His work with us because are "**the works of His hands**".

In this psalm we see where David truly trusted God. To trust in God means to lean on Him, to believe in Him, committing all and confidently looking to Him without fear or misgiving.

**Pro. 3:5-6) Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your path straight.**

No one is hopeless whose hope is in God.

References: NKJ Bible; Bible Hub Commentary Online; Barnes Noted on the Bible; King comments Bible Studies; The Treasure of David Commentary.