

LESSONS FROM PSALMS ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-EIGHT

Scripture: Psalms 138:1-8

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Introduction:

- A. This is identified as a Psalm of David.
- B. Praise is the key word. It is used four times in these 8 verses plus the synonym, worship, is used once.
- C. Praise is defined as “to express a favorable judgment of; to commend; to worship.”
- D. To worship means respect and reverence paid to God ... It is an act of expressing respect and reverence to God.

I. LEARN SOMETHING OF TRUE PRAISE AND WORSHIP.

- A. v. 1 It is willingly done. "I will ... "
- B. v. 1 It is also a determined act. "I will (not I shall)"
- C. It is courageous and unashamed v. 1 "before the gods" and before the people. (David's actions when the Ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem.)
- D. v. 2 It is rightly directed. "toward thy holy temple"
Now, toward God in His temple in the third heaven.
- E. It is all consuming "with my whole heart." v. 1

II. LEARN SOME INSPIRED REASONS FOR PRAISING AND WORSHIPPING GOD.

- A. v. 2 For God's lovingkindness (mercy) and truth.
 1. Mercy and truth are nearly always found together. There is a reason.
 2. Mercy without truth would destroy God.
 3. Truth without mercy would destroy man.
 4. Thus we praise God for His lovingkindness and His truth. His mercy is given in harmony with His truth, which is Jesus Christ.
- B. We praise God also for His WORD and His NAME v. 2
 1. The worth of His Name depends on the the truthfulness of His WORD.
 2. In always keeping His WORD, He elevates His NAME.
 3. God's acts magnify His WORD and lift up His NAME.
- C. vs. 3, 7 God gives strength for times of trouble and stress.
 1. He does not promise to remove trouble, but He does give strength to endure and rise above it.
 2. Like the Apostle Paul who prayed God to remove the throne in his flesh. "My grace is sufficient."
- D. v. 6 We praise God because He has respect unto the lowly. God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble.
- E. v. 7 Also we praise God because He will deal with those who trouble God's people.
 1. v. 7 He will revive His people; He will save His people; and He will stretch forth His hand against the enemies of God's people.
 2. II Thes. 1:5, 6
- F. v. 8 Because He will complete all that concerns His people - every promise made shall be fulfilled.

III. LEARN THAT IN DUE TIME ALL THE KINGS OF THE EARTH WILL PRAISE THE LORD. vs. 4, 5

- A. This evidently looks forward to the great millennial reign of our Lord when He shall be King of kings and Lord of lords. In that time all the earth's peoples shall praise the Lord.
- B. It must also look on to the time when "every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus is the Christ."