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## Psalm 116

(2019)

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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Psalm 116.

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### Topics.

- Death encompassed me; I called on the LORD: deliver my soul.
- All mankind are liars." I will call on God in the presence of all His people.
- Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of the faithful.

**FOR INFORMATION:** concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

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### INTRODUCTION

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Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

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### BOOK FIVE (PSALM 107-150)

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### PSALM 116:1-6

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#### Death Encompassed Me; I called on the LORD: Deliver My Soul.

- **Psalm 116:1-6:** love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. <sup>2</sup>Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. <sup>3</sup>The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. <sup>4</sup>Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!" <sup>5</sup>Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful. <sup>6</sup>The LORD preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.

Verse eleven shows that the Psalmist was the son of a very faithful woman which means that he would have known the love and blessing of the LORD throughout his life. At the time of writing this Psalm it seems God has answered his prayer for mercy and delivered him from great sufferings, affliction and distress. He is overjoyed and throughout the Psalm continually praises God for His kindness and goodness.

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### PSALM 116:7-14

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#### All Mankind Lie." I will call on God in the Presence of His People.

- **Psalm 116:7-14:** Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you. <sup>8</sup>For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling; <sup>9</sup>I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living. <sup>10</sup>I believed, even when I spoke, "I am greatly afflicted"; <sup>11</sup>I said in my alarm, "All mankind are liars." <sup>12</sup>What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me? <sup>13</sup>I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD, <sup>14</sup>I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

The words, "All mankind are liars" (v11) could apply to the following three things:

1. He was deceitfully and cruelly betrayed by close friends who were seeking to harm him in some way.
2. His enemies were so powerful that all who knew him told him he would be defeated and put to death.
3. He was suffering some type of very serious sickness that everyone who knew him and saw how close he was to death said Sheol would swallow him up.

Anyone of these three scenarios is a possibility if the LORD had not answered his prayer and saved him from his affliction, his distress and his anguish and the snares of death. Now that he has been delivered from what seemed like certain death and from his extreme distress and anxiety he speaks to his heart and mind to return to the calm and peace that he once had. This is most likely because during his troubles and perhaps betrayal he had harboured attitudes and thoughts of bitterness, anger resentment and maybe a craving for revenge and the desire to see those causing him anxiety and distress hurt or even killed. Whatever it may have been it is often the case that once a person is set free from all their troubles they have to then deal with any wrong attitude or thought that may have entered the mind and the heart during such times of hardship, grief and troubles. The words, "You have delivered my feet from stumbling," (v8) imply that whatever anxieties and distresses he may have been suffering they almost brought him to a stage of doubting and stumbling in his faith toward the LORD. This of course would be another reason he would need to speak to his heart and mind and repent of all the wrongful thoughts he may have had toward the LORD during his sufferings and troubles.

**I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living:** (v9) these words clearly show that he thought he was going to die. In these ancient times there were no hospitals, doctors' surgeons and medications to cure sickness's their only hope when facing death was the LORD.

**I will lift up the cup of salvation:** (v13) this refers to his salvation from his grief, troubles, anxieties and near-death experience and also to the salvation he has by his faith in the LORD, the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob.

**What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me?** (v12) the overflowing joy of the Psalmist who penned this Psalm is so great that he desires to pay God back in some way for the blessings. He rewards the LORD in the only way he knows to do which is to walk faithfully before Him and proclaim the goodness of His name. Today it is the same for all those saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ there is nothing those in Christ can do to repay their Lord and King for the brutal, bloody and cruel death that he suffered so that whoever comes to him would be saved from their sin, delivered from death and raised to eternal life and everlasting glory. The only thing they can do to in some small way repay the Lord (since we can never truly pay the debt) is the same as the writer of this Psalm set his mind to do and that is to do everything possible to live a life that honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith and always have a heart that is filled with gratitude and thanksgiving for the free gift of righteousness that leads to eternal life and everlasting happiness.

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## PSALM 116:15-19

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### Precious in the Sight of the LORD is the Death of the Faithful.

- **Psalm 116:15-19:** Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints. <sup>16</sup>O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds. <sup>17</sup>I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD. <sup>18</sup>I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people, <sup>19</sup>in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

Obviously there is grief and sorrow at Christian funerals because of the loved ones left behind and the deep loss and sadness they will have in not being able to share their life with the loved one that has passed on into glory, but such sorrow is also mixed with a sense of underlying comfort and joy because of Scriptures such as this, "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of the faithful, (v15). All who belong to the Kingdom of God know that they will once again see the loved one they have laid to rest in Christ on that day when he returns in glory to gather the faithful to himself. Clearly the Psalmist is so overjoyed that his greatest desire is to do all he can to honour the name of the LORD and proclaim His goodness amongst His people. This heartfelt thankfulness should be the attitude of all those who have been born again into the global family of Christ, not just because they may have been delivered from some sickness, hardship or trouble, but because the promised Messiah the Christ the Son of God their Saviour and King willing laid down his life to a brutal, bloody and cruel death so that they would be:

- Delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of God's beloved Son (Col. 1:13)
- Not perish to the darkness of the grave, but have eternal life and everlasting happiness (John 3:16)

The key to being filled with overflowing Christian joy that fills the heart regardless of circumstances good or bad embrace the following three aspects:

1. To have a heart free of malice and full of the fruits of the Spirit (i.e., love, kindness, compassion, mercy, grace, a willingness to forgive and such like things.
2. To be always full of thankfulness and gratitude toward the King and Saviour who suffered death upon the bloodstained cross of Calvary not for himself, but so that all might be united to the love and grace of God and saved to eternal life and everlasting happiness.
3. To endeavour to do all we can to live a life that honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith.

Some today are taught that they have the right to demand and claim that God heals them and delivers them from all their sorrows and troubles for the following two reasons:

1. They are a child of the King and a king's child has the right to everything.
2. Isaiah wrote, "He was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5)

From these verses they reason that because all in Christ are a King's child and Isaiah's proclaims that all in Christ are healed by his stripes no Christian should suffer from any type of sickness, because Christ through his brutal and cruel death has healed them therefore they have every right to go before the throne of God and claim and demand their healing. But is this reasoning in harmony with the Bible? As one travels through the Psalms and the Old Testament Scriptures the following becomes very clear:

- Not one of the faithful commanded or demanded God to do anything for them rather they came to Him in great humbleness with a prayer that prays He will be merciful to them and answer their prayer.

Isaiah's words, "By his stripes we are healed," does not mean that all the people of Israel were healed from their sicknesses, but that they were all healed from their sins, it means that instead of God being against them as a nation He was now for them.

3. Today these beautiful words of Isaiah mean the same thing, anyone who looks with open eyes will clearly see that not every faithful man, woman and child in the global body of Christ lives a life free of sickness, but they are all healed from the demand of the law that states whoever sins is guilty and condemned to the darkness of death never to rise again.

It is in this way that every faithful believer in Christ has been healed by Christ's brutal sufferings and his death on the bloodstained cross of Calvary. Isaiah's beautiful prophetic words, "with his stripes we are healed." Means that we have been completely and utterly set free from the law of sin and death which states:

- For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23).
- All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:23-24).
- There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:1-2).

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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