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Psalm 138

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Learn the
Bible
at Home

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 138.

Topics.

- God has exalted His name and his word above all things.
- Kings of earth will give God thanks for great, is the glory of the LORD.
- The LORD regards the lowly, but the haughty He knows from afar.
- Though I walk in the midst of trouble, God will fulfil His purpose.

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.

INTRODUCTION

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.

BOOK FIVE (PSALM 107-150)

PSALM 1138:1-2

1

A Psalm of David.

God has Exalted His Name and His Word above All Things.

- **Psalm 138:1-2:** I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;²I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.

The expression, "God's steadfast love endures forever," is one of the most common expressions throughout the Psalms. Some Bibles say, "God's steadfast mercy endures forever," while others say, "God's love endures forever. The word mercy comes from the Hebrew word (*cheched*) and means to show, kind favour; to show merciful kindness; to be kind; to show one-self merciful and to pity which embraces such things as compassion, sympathy, empathy, comfort and forgiveness showing that love and mercy are bound together. The apostle Paul wrote,

- Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law (Romans. 13:10) and that love is patient and kind. (1 Cor. 13:4).

And John wrote:

- Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:8).
- God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (1 John 4:16).

The word mercy embraces all of the following, compassion, pity, kindness, sympathy, grace and forgiveness which means love and mercy cannot be separated, love without mercy is not love and mercy without love is not

mercy, which also means that Bibles that state, "God's mercy endures forever," and Bibles that say, "God's love endures forever," are both correct in their translations.

NOTE: love is not a part of God's character; God is love wherever love is God is present by His Spirit. This does not mean that wherever love is the people are saved to eternal life, it simply means God by His love is in that love.

God has exalted (magnified in the KJV) above all things His name and His word: (v2). some groups misunderstand what these verses mean and therefore divide and split from other Christians who love the Lord Jesus Christ, and who have the message of the cross and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ correct, but vary on some intellectual detail of doctrine that is not important to salvation or to a sinner being delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred into the Kingdom of His beloved Son. (Col. 1:13).

The word of God that He has exalted above all things is not every detail of doctrine, but the following two things:

- All those teachings that lead to God, the Lord Jesus Christ and eternal salvation.
- All Scriptures concerning right and godly behaviour and Jesus command to his followers to "Love their neighbours as themselves," (Mark 12:31). Next to loving God with all our heart, mind and strength the command to love your neighbours as yourself is not only the greatest commandment in the entire Bible and under sun, the moon, the stars and all the heavenly hosts, but also the greatest commandment before God and the Lord Jesus Christ. To love your neighbour as yourself, (Matt. 22:39) means do not deliberately do harm to other humans. No sane person deliberately does things to inflict pain on themselves, loving others as you love yourself is not about feeling some warm and fuzzy emotion towards others, it is about not hurting others as you would not hurt yourself.

2

James the brother of Jesus said:

- If you really fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself," you are doing well. (James 2:8).

James calls Jesus command, "Love your neighbour as yourself," the royal law and says if we are keeping this one law we are doing well. The thing God hates the most is when we deliberately do harm to another person, physically, verbally, financially sexually, emotionally or spiritually and the thing God loves the most is when we do-good to others. It is interesting to notice that the major crime that God points out in Noah's time and one of the main reasons for the flood was because of all the violence in the land.

- Micah wrote: "What the LORD requires of mankind is to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with their God" (Micah 6:5-10).
- Isaiah says: "The LORD loves justice, hates robbery and wrong doing." (Isaiah 61:8).
- Jeremiah said: "Those who know God practise steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, because it is in these things that God delights. (Jer. 9:24).

The great prophets Micah, Isaiah and Jeremiah not only show the law is about doing-good to others and protecting them from harm and hurt, but also clearly show that the spirit under-pinning the Ten Commandments, is love because each law protects another human from harm. Paul in his letter to the Romans wrote:

- Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans 13:10).

Paul shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that the spirit underpinning the law is love, because the spirit of the law is to protect the innocent from all types of harm and hurt, whoever keeps the law will do no wrong to a neighbour (neighbour embraces all mankind not just those in God's Kingdom). Those who belong to Christ aim to keep the law not to get saved, but because it honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of Jesus and the Christian faith and because it is the right and loving thing to do. The faithful in Christ's global Kingdom not only understand that righteousness that leads to eternal life is a free gift of God that comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and cannot be earned by self-effort, but also know that from the love of God dwelling within their heart and displayed on the bloodstained cross of Calvary they are called to live a lifestyle that honours the King and Saviour they worship and follow and called to treat others with decency, respect and honest justice.

Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount: the constant theme throughout Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount is doing what is right before God by seeking the way of peace in all situations. Jesus calls Christians to treat people fairly and with respect, dignity, decency grace compassion, kindness, mercy and to be quick to forgive. This means living a life that honours God and the Lord Jesus Christ is about doing right to those in the church and those outside of it. This is the reason the message Jesus spoke on the mountain is referred to as, "The Famous Sermon" because the principals if followed not only by Christians, but all humanity are the only way to peace (Matt 5). Based on the commandment, love your neighbour as yourself and the law it could be said that a wicked and evil person is one who deliberately and consciously denies the existence of God and deliberately does harm to other humans.

For further information on Jesus Famous Sermon see:

- Matthew 5 in, Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Those who do all they can to love God with all their heart, mind and strength and love their neighbour as themselves. (Mark 12:30-31) will hear the words of their Master, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." (Matt. 25:21). Love embraces patience and kindness; it does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. At the moment faith, hope, and love remain, but the greatest of these three is love. (1 Cor. 13:4-7, 13). Against love there is no law or judgment because if we live by love we can only bring life and good to other humans.

- The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (Gal. 5:22-23).

Love God with all your heart and all your soul, and love thy neighbour as thyself. It is the things regarding these two laws that God has exalted above everything. Certainly, all God's word is exalted, but those who understand the message of the cross and the Gospel and faithfully follow Christ should not divide over every difference. Those who belong to Christ by faith and God's grace are his brothers and sisters and adopted children of God and as such are part of His family. Even though an earthly family is bonded together by love for their parents and each other and do what they can to help and protect the family they do not always agree on various issues of life or all have the same world view, but their love cements them together for the good of the family. Likewise, brothers and sisters in the family of Christ who faithfully follow Christ and honour his heavenly Father will not always agree on all interpretations of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation, but that does not mean that they are not part of Christ's treasured possession.

For further information concerning this topic, see the title:

- Having the Same Mind in Articles (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Kings of Earth will Give God thanks for Great, is the LORD.

- **Psalm 138:3-5:** On the day I called, you answered me; my strength of soul you increased.
⁴All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth, ⁵and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

The words, "the nations have heard from the mouth of the LORD," most likely refer to that day when the LORD told Samuel to go to Bethlehem and anoint a son of Jesse King of Israel. On this day Jesse made seven of his strongest sons pass before Samuel and Samuel told Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these, because He does not look on outward appearance as man does, but looks on the heart." Then Samuel said to Jessie:

- There remains yet the youngest keeping the sheep and Samuel said to Jesse, send and get David the youngest of your sons who is keeping the sheep and he sent and brought him in and the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this he is to be King and Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers and the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. (1 Sam. 16:6-13).

There is no doubt this news and story would have quickly spread to all surrounding nations. The prayer most likely refers to David's prayer to be delivered from the hand of King Saul and his armies when Saul from a Spirit of jealousy aggressively sought to kill David and the LORD removed the Kingdom from Saul and gave it to David, so the words of the LORD'S mouth that the kings of the earth would have heard, would be that God has anointed David King of Israel. But the word the nations heard can also apply to God's promise to David that from his seed God would raise up a King to rule on David's throne forever which means the words, "Kings of the earth shall sing and give the LORD thanks saying great is the glory of the LORD, because they have heard the words of His mouth," are not limited to the anointing of David as king, but can also be seen to echo a future time when the Lord Jesus Christ will return in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to destroy the antichrist and his kingdom and establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign.

The dead in Christ (Old and New Testament) and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God. The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

In Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

The great prophet Isaiah wrote:

- They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information see titles:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

PSALM 113:6

The LORD Regards the Lowly, the Haughty He knows From Afar.

- **Psalm 138:6:** For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he knows from afar.

This verse shines a brilliant spotlight upon the heart of the invisible, immortal, Holy, Almighty God the creator of all things and source of all life. He cares about the poor, the lowly, the meek and humble and those the world considers of no importance and not the prideful who believe they are superior to others, are condescending, full of self-importance and treat people with arrogance.

NOTE: this does not mean it is wrong for a Christian brothers and sisters to be at the head of a multi-million dollar company or CEO of a global company or a successful employer of people, it only becomes wrong when because of their position of power and authority they see themselves as being superior to others and treat those under their authority as being of less value before God than they are. This principal is also true of ministers of religion that have a group of followers, large churches or global followings.

PSALM 113:7-8

Though I walk in the Midst of Trouble, God will fulfil His Purpose.

- **Psalm 138:7-8:** Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me. ⁸The LORD will fulfil his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

These verses are stunning for the following reason, it is certain they apply to David's life since God did deliver him from the strong hand of King Saul and his evil purpose to kill David and from many other powerful enemies, but they have a far greater application than David being delivered from the enemies of his generation. David's words, "The LORD will fulfil his purpose for me," (v8) also echo God fulfilling His eternal purpose for David through the Lord Jesus Christ. When the angel Gabriel came to Mary he said:

- Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. (Luke 1:30-33).

And in the book of Matthew it is written:

- The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham -- NOW GO TO VERSE TWENTY-ONE --- ²¹ Mary will bear a son, and call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. ²²All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel. (Matt. 1:1-25).

The statement, "Jesus Christ is the Son of David," means that Jesus is his offspring, his descendant and that he came from David's bloodline. The following verses also show that Jesus is the Son of David:

- The crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" (Matt. 21:9).
- When the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant. (Matt. 21:15).
- Jesus said, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." (Matt. 22:42).
- Jesus said, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (John 3:16-17).

Words of comfort and encouragement: since many believe the following words of the angel Gabriel, "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (Matt. 1:23) means that Jesus is God and this belief has such a strong hold on much of traditional Christianity the following will encourage and comfort faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who maybe in some doubt and unsure of what to believe concerning the Father and the Son. The Bible very clearly shows that even if Jesus was God no one has to know this to be saved to eternal life since there is not one verse in the entire Bible that states: -

- We must believe that Jesus is God to be saved.

Nor is there one verse from Genesis to Revelations that says:

- Whoever believes that Jesus is God will be saved.

In total contrast to this silence there are literally multitudes of Scriptures throughout the pages of the New Testament that very clearly proclaim:

- We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved.

And that say:

- Whoever believes that Jesus is the Son of God will be saved.

Surely if it was important to believe that Jesus was actually God to be saved to eternal life Jesus, the apostles and Paul would have told us at least once in all their teaching concerning salvation, but all we hear from Paul, the apostles and Jesus himself is them saying that we must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved to eternal life. Jesus himself said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3).

For further information see the title:

- Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity) in Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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.

Bible House of Grace