

Psalm 114: God's Power.

1-4: He recalled the mighty power of God that was displayed in Israel's past history. He announced that when God brought them out of Egypt. Judah became the tribe in which He placed the temple. When He brought them out of Egypt and into Canaan, the Red Sea and the Jordan River turned back and quaked.

5-6: He talks to the sea and the mountains, challenging them to explain why they reacted to the Lord as they did. This bold personification was designed to say that all Creation recognized and obeyed the Creator's will. The Lord's presence in the Old and New Testaments is frequently evidenced by His display of power.

7-8: He instructed the earth to continue to tremble before the Lord. The reason is that the Lord had turned the rock, a dry solid, into, water, beneficial to His people. Fear and trembling should always be the response to God's presence and awesome power.

Luke 15:10 – *Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.*

This Psalm celebrates the deliverance of God's people at the Exodus - a fitting song to be sung at Passover which was instituted at that time in Exodus 12. The Psalmist recalled how the sea fled and the mountains trembled when Israel escaped from Egypt. In a bold poetic stroke, he interrogated the mountains and the sea concerning their reaction, and then called on the earth to tremble at the presence of the Lord who brought water from the rock.

Psalm 115: Trust the LORD.

1-2: The Psalmist declares the unworthiness of the people in contrast with God's glory, love and faithfulness. There was no reason that the idolaters of the nations should taunt believers with their question, Where is their God?

3-8: God is sovereign. He alone is in heaven, and He does whatever He desires. The significance of this is seen in contrast with the pagans' idols. Made of metal, they are only the works of men's hands so they are totally inactive. Though idols have mouths, eyes, ears, noses, hands, feet and throats, they cannot speak, see, hear, smell, feel, walk or talk. People who construct idols and those who trust in them become like them - powerless before the Lord God.

9-11: The Psalmist exhorted Israel to trust in the LORD, not in idols, for only He can protect them - as their Help and Shield. Everyone in Israel - including priests (house of Aaron) and other worshipers (those who fear Him) - should trust in Him.

12-15. God's people are encouraged to trust the living God because He will bless them all including priests and other worshipers. The Psalmist then prayed for blessings on the people and their children by God. The title Maker of heaven and earth points to His sovereign work in Creation.

16-18. The Psalm ends by exalting the LORD. Unlike the idols He owns the highest heavens and has given the earth to man. Since the dead do not praise, the Psalmist and his fellow believers praised Him. He was confident that God would deliver them from their idolatrous enemies, so that they could continue to praise Him then and forevermore. The psalm ends with Praise the LORD.

Hebrews 6:11 – *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a reward of those who diligently seek Him.*

Proverbs 3:1ff

The Psalmist called on the Lord to take His honor among the nations. After demonstrating God's sovereignty and voicing contempt against pagan idols, he invited all to trust in the Lord for He would bless them abundantly. The Psalm instructs people to trust in the Lord, not in worthless idols.

Psalm 116: Personal Worship & Testimony.

1-2: This is an expression that came from someone delivered by God

3-6. He testifies to his deliverance by the Lord. He recalled how he was in danger of death. He had almost died.

The deliverance he experienced prompted him to instruct the congregation about the LORD. God is gracious and compassionate, protecting and saving those in great need, including the psalmist.

7-11. He then drew lessons from his experience for others to follow.

First (7), believers can return and rest because God delivers from death. The Psalmist's suffering and anxiety had been removed so that he could lead a peaceful and tranquil life of service.

Second (8), God delivers those in need so that they may live obediently before Him.

Third (10-11), God is the only One who is completely trustworthy. This was his confidence, even though he was greatly afflicted, and felt that he had been deceived by all (who apparently had said he would not be delivered).

12-14: The writer, asking what he could give the LORD in repayment for His goodness (cf. v. 7; 13:6; 142:7), vowed to praise Him in the congregation. It has been suggested that the cup refers to the part of the sacrifice he would give for having been given salvation (deliverance). This is probably correct; otherwise, the expression would be completely figurative, that is, he would praise (lift up) God for his lot (his "cup") which was "salvation." In either case he would praise God, which was a paying of vows (cf. 116:18). Others would hear him and be edified, which is one of the purposes of public praise.

15-19: The Psalmist, knowing that the LORD cares intensely about the death of His saints, acknowledged that he was a servant of the LORD and would praise Him publicly. The death of a saint is not something the LORD considers as cheap; He does not let His people die for no reason. Here the deliverance of a saint from the brink of death resounded to God's praise and the edification of saints for ages to come. The psalm ends with Praise the LORD.

The Psalmist recalled how the Lord delivered him from certain death and enabled him to have a prolonged life of service. Because of this he vowed to acknowledge the Lord in the Temple.