

PSALM 118: 19-29

THIS IS THE DAY!

Introduction:

From a human perspective not all days are equal. There are days marked by the routines of life with little excitement, and then there are days of significant events that change things. This Psalm points us to some spiritual realities that make every day a significant day.

This is probably a post-exilic psalm written in connection with the dedication of the second temple. However this psalm was given a special place in the worship of Israel. It was the last of the psalms that were sung by the pilgrims as they made their way to Jerusalem for Passover. In fact, it is probably the last Psalm that Jesus ever sang on earth. He would have sung it with His disciples as they completed the Passover celebration in the upper room, and went out into the night toward the Garden of Gethsemane. The section that I have read for us takes on special significance when you put it into this context.

Martin Luther loved this Psalm. It was a source of comfort to him in his many battles with depression. He would be brought by the Psalm to the place that he could sing, "This is the day!"

The chorus writer has taken these words and made them into a little chorus that we have sung with gusto through the years. But the chorus ignores the context. A text without a context is a pretext. Consider the context of these moving words, “This is the day that the Lord has made and we will rejoice and be glad in it.”

- I. THIS IS THE DAY OF THE SON’S EXALTATION.
- II. THIS IS THE DAY OF THE SINNER’S SALVATION.
- III. THIS IS THE DAY OF THE SUPPLICANT'S ACCEPTANCE.