
Hallelujah!

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.
Psalm 118:1*



Oil flowed into the Gulf of Mexico like water over Niagara Falls. Anarchists revolted at a meeting of the world's leaders and set police cruisers on fire. "God is good? He has enduring love? Show me."

Children are born with birth defects. Convenience store clerks are shot. The economy is uncertain. Unemployment threatens the stability of millions of families. People still die. I am lonely. "God is good? He has enduring love? Show me."

Has anyone, or anything, ever let you down? Plenty of times. Has your love ever gone unreturned? You've stopped counting. Many

times you've probably wondered where to turn; you've asked, "Who can I trust?"

This psalm calls out to you, to me. It's an "Hallelujah" psalm, meaning "Praise the LORD!" Long ago, God's people sang the words of this psalm toward the end of their Passover meal. That special occasion was a time for the people to remember how God rescued their nation from slavery in Egypt; it was a picture of God's rescue of all people from their slavery to sin. The Passover meal was a way that God showed each generation how much he truly loved them.

Would disaster continue to interrupt their lives? Would prosperity be withheld? Would earthly death continue to pick away at their loved ones? Yes, yes, and yes. Yet the people sang out praise and thanks to their merciful God for deliverance from all these trials of life. . . and more:

"Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved" (Ephesians 2:4,5).

It is the custom in North America to gather this time of year to celebrate *Thanksgiving*. Whether you are with family, friends, or celebrating alone, take the time to give thanks to our Savior God for his mercy and deliverance from death through Jesus. Jesus shows us that God is good. Jesus proves that his love for us endures forever.