

Speaker: Steven Kum

Title: Sing of God's Sufficiency (Psalm 118)

Introduction

Songs often reflect our perception of our world. They tend to strengthen our emotional responses –either negative or positive (Exodus 15:20, 1 Samuel 8:6, Lamentations).

Songs can also transform our perception of our world. They remind us that things are not really as bleak as they seem (1 Sam. 16:16–23, Acts 16:25).

- a. Biblical songs go far beyond merely cheering lifting emotions. They strengthen faith and inner resolve to trust God.
- b. Those who know the Lord begin to sing new songs of hope and trust (Psalms 40:3, 96:1, 98:1, 144:9, 149:1, Isaiah 42:10, Revelation 5:9, 14:3)
- c. Paul encouraged believers to teach and strengthen one another by singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). Believers need not be overwhelmed by the rhythms of life. They march to the beat of a different drumbeat – God's heartbeat.

Specific songs were sung at significant feasts to remind the people of God's dealings with their lives. A special selection of Psalms was sung as part of the celebration of the Passover. These were the collection known as the Egyptian Hallel (Psalms 113-118). Psalms 113 and 114 were sung before the Passover Meal and Psalms 115-118 after the Passover Meal.

The last hymn that that Jesus and His disciples sang before proceeding to the Garden of Gethsemane was likely Psalm 118.

The hearts of the disciples would be heavy from the many revelations of Jesus during the last supper (Matthew 26:17-30)

- a. Their cherished dreams and ambitions were not going to come to pass.
- b. Their source of encouragement and strength was about to be cut off.
- c. Their future was uncertain.

They must have been troubled as they sang this closing hymn but would have drawn spiritual strength from its content.

A Call to Praise In Spite Of Circumstances (Psalm 118: 1-12)

God's love endures (vs. 1-4)

God's faithfulness is manifest (5-9)

God's Name is powerful (10-12)

A Call to Trust In Spite of Human Weaknesses (Psalm 118:13-16)

God is an active Helper (vs. 13)

God is our strength and song (vs. 14)

God does mighty things (vs. 15-16)

A Call to Hope In Spite of Personal Helplessness (Psalm 118:19-29)

God opens a gate to victory (vs.19-21)

God takes a liability and turns it into an asset (vs 23-24)

God blesses those who are His (vs. 25-29)