



**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
NINILCHIK

**WEDNESDAY PRAYER MEETING**

# **Mid-Week Devotional**

**SERIES:**

**“Christ in the Psalms”**

**April 17th, 2024**

**“Song of Whole-Hearted Gratitude”  
Psalm 138**

## PSALM 138

**TITLE** - *A Psalm of David*. This psalm is wisely placed. Whoever edited and arranged these sacred poems, he had an eye to apposition and contrast; for if in Ps. cxxxvii. we see the need of silence before revilers, here we see the excellence of a brave confession. There is a time to be silent, lest we cast pearls before swine; and there is a time to speak openly, lest we be found guilty of cowardly non-confession. The psalm is evidently of a Davidic character, exhibiting all the fidelity, courage, and decision of that King of Israel and Prince of Psalmists. Of course the critics have tried to rend the authorship from David on account of the mention of the temple, though it so happens that in one of the psalms which is allowed to be David's the same word occurs. Many modern critics are to the word of God what blow-flies are to the food of men: they cannot do any good, and unless relentlessly driven away they do great harm.

**DIVISION** - In full confidence David is prepared to own his God before the gods of the heathen, or before angels or rulers (1-3); he declares that he will instruct and convert kings and nations, till on every highway men shall sing the praises of the Lord (4 and 5). Having thus spoken, he utters his personal confidence in Jehovah, who will help his lowly servant, and preserve him from all the malice of wrathful foes.

### *The Treasury of David*

by Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)  
VOLUME VII, PASSMORE & ALABASTER EDITION  
(*emphasis in original*)

### **Devotional Thoughts from Psalm 138**

**REFLECTION.** While this psalm penned by David was eternally messianic, the revelation of YHVH God to the prophet-king concerning the promised Messiah is evident in the second verse. God's holy temple could not be built by David; therefore, David's utterance of YHVH God's holy temple not only looked forward to the building of that temple, this Word also looks forward in David's day to the Anointed One to come. King David submits himself to the plans of YHVH God (*bow down toward*) in all the LORD's future purposes. We should likewise reflect always, with praise and thanksgiving, upon the exalted things of Christ (vv1-2). As David called upon his God often because he recognized YHVH as his source of strength (v3), so should we also call upon our Lord Jesus for increased strength in our weakness (2 Cor 12:8-9). God's grace upon David's life influenced surrounding kings (vv4-6), so likewise, Christ's grace upon our lives will bring Jesus praise from leaders upon earth (Rom 10:18). David was surrounded by enemies both as a captain in Israel's army and as a king, God preserved his life and fulfilled His plans and purposes in him (vv7-8). Jesus will likewise do the same in you and me (Phil 1:6).

### **Devotional Meditations from Psalm 138**

- v1. There was no one more thankful person or one full of praise than the Lord Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry; and the demons knew it. **Deut 6:4-5; Heb 1:9** (Psa 45:7); **Mark 5:6-7** (KJV)
- v2. The Lord Jesus humbled Himself to bow down in God's holy temple, though He, the prophetic Word incarnate, was magnified above the name of YHVH. **Phil 2:5-11; Rev 19:10**
- v3. Jesus' prayers were always answered by the heavenly Father (**John 11:42**); yet the day spoken here is during Christ's prayer in Gethsemane, as the angels strengthened Him afterward. **Luke 22:42-43**
- vv4-5. Jesus is the lamp of the New Jerusalem, to which all the kings of the new earth will give thanks and bring their praise. **Rev 21:23-26**
- v6. The Lord Jesus was the most humble Man who ever lived, regarded by the heavenly Father with infinite love; while the arrogant were far from Christ's kingdom. **John 1:18; Matt 21:31-32**
- v7. Until He fulfilled His mission to go to the cross, the Father's providential hand protected the Lord Jesus from harm. **Luke 4:28-30**
- v8. The purpose of the Lord Jesus was fulfilled because the steadfast love of the Father endures forever. **John 18:37; John 3:16** (Psa 136:1-26)

### **Devotional Challenge from Psalm 138**

1. Jesus is the fulfillment of all things from the Holy Scriptures. When are you most likely to praise God? When you are meditating upon how Christ has fulfilled God's Word or when Christ's Word is fulfilled in you? Explain which is most true for you to someone close to you.
2. David was strengthened when He called out to God (v3). Jesus was strengthened by angels when He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:43). Have you ever been strengthened in calling out to God in prayer? Have there been times when you haven't been strengthened? Be honest and think about each time. Why do you suppose there was a difference?
3. The purpose of Christ was to go to the cross. How do think this helps you to understand your purpose in life? Why do you think this?

# My Notes for Considering Psalm 138:

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