

# Psalms 116 and 117

These two Psalms are very personal prayers of praise to the Creator God.

**Psalms 116:1-2** [New King James] *“I love the LORD, because He has **heard** My voice and my supplications. Because He has **inclined** His ear to me, therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live.”*

**“Heard”** but also **“inclined,”** the Psalmist is recollecting how God not only heard the prayer but responded to this prayer for help. As a result of this experience the Psalmist will continue to pray to the Creator God for the rest of his life.

**Psalms 116:3** [New King James] *“The pains of death surrounded me, and the pangs of Sheol laid hold of me; I found trouble and sorrow.”*

Without being told the nature of his trouble we learn of its great severity, likely to end in death. [Sheol is the place name of the abode of the dead.]

**Psalms 116:4** [New King James] *“Then I called upon the name of the LORD: ‘O LORD, I implore You, deliver my soul!’”*

**Psalms 116:5-8** [New King James] *“Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yes, our God is merciful. The LORD preserves the simple; I was brought low, and He saved me. Return to your rest, O my soul, for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you. **For You have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from falling.**”*

The Psalmist laid hold of all he knew of God [His name] in this prayer, all that the Creator God had revealed of Himself.

**Psalms 116:9** [New King James] *“I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.”*

**The Psalmist dedicates himself to the Creator God’s way of life.**

**Psalms 116:10-11** [New King James] *“I believed, therefore I spoke, ‘I am greatly afflicted.’ I said in my haste, ‘All men are liars.’”*

**With such proof of the Creator God’s mercy, the Psalmist is bringing the near to death experience to his Saviour, ignoring anything that other humans may have said.**

**Psalms 116:12-14** [New King James] *“What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits toward me? I will take up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD. I will pay my vows to the LORD now in the presence of all His people.”*

**The “cup” refers to the personal life of the Psalmist, [Psalms 16:5] that had already included salvation from death on one occasion.**

**Psalms 116:15-16** [New King James] *“Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints. O LORD, truly I am Your servant; I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant; You have loosed my bonds.”*

**Even if he is not this time physically saved from death, the Psalmist knows that he is still precious to his Master, Whom he had faithfully served and whose sins had been forgiven, [no longer chained to a sinful life.]**

**Psalms 116:17-19** [New King James] *“I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD. I will pay my vows to the LORD now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the LORD’s house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!”*

Thank-offerings were peace-offerings, [**Leviticus 7:11-15**] and contained the elements of a fellowship meal, signifying peace with the Creator God and other human beings. Atonement with the Creator God [**Leviticus 3:2**] as the basis of peace and consecration to God, [**Leviticus 3:5**].

**All this was an act before the congregation of people within the courts of the Temple in Jerusalem.**

**Psalms 117:1-2** [New King James] *“Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples! For His merciful kindness is great toward us, and the truth of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!”*

This doxology is similar to **Psalm 100** and its comprehensiveness offset the personal prayer of **Psalm 116**, and referred to by Paul [**Romans 15:11**].

**The “us” in verse 2 refers to the acts of the Creator God for Israel are of worldwide significance as Israel exemplifies what the Creator God desires on a universal scale. The salvation the Creator God works for Israel is the salvation He desires for all humanity.**

**2 Peter 3:9** [New King James] *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”*

**This is why it is important for all humans to come to know the history of the Creator God’s work with and relationship with Israel for He does not change in His dealings with every generation of human beings, [Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8].**

**Ezekiel 33:11** [New King James] *“Say to them: ‘As I live,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?’”*

**The Creator God is pained by the eternal death of the unrepentant wicked but He will not compromise with His standards of holiness in His family of created children, [Kingdom of God.]**