

“WORD OF LIFE”

September 17, 2023

39. CHRIST IN HIS PERSON (19) – In the Fulfillment of the OT Prophecies

N 56. The **Victor** Ascending to the Height, Leading Captive Those Taken Captive, and **Giving** Gifts to Men

Hymns: #1100 / #296 / #26

✚ “...the words which I have spoken to you are **spirit** and are **life**” (John 6:63)

[Prophecy]

Psa. 68:18 - You have **ascended** on high; You have led captive those taken captive; You have **received gifts** among men, Even the rebellious ones also, That Jehovah God may dwell among them.

[Psa. 68:1 - Let **God arise**; let **His enemies be scattered**; And let those who hate Him flee before Him.]

[Num. 10:35 - And when the Ark set out, Moses said, **Rise up**, O Jehovah, and let **Your enemies be scattered**; And let those who hate You flee before You.]

[Fulfillment]

Eph. 4:8 - Therefore the Scripture says, “Having **ascended** to the **height**, He led captive those taken captive and **gave gifts** to men.”

✚ “...to **reveal** His Son in me...” (Gal. 1:16a)

❖ Christ the **Victor** ascending to the **height**, leading captive those taken **captive**, and giving **gifts** to men.

➤ Psalm 68:18 prophesied, Christ is the Victor ascending to the **height**, **leading captive** those taken captive, and **giving gifts** to men.

- The **background** of Psalm 68 is **God’s move** in the **tabernacle** with the **ark** as its center (Num. 10:35).
- Psalm 68 **implies** that it was in the **ark** that God ascended to **Mount Zion** **after** the ark had led the way to victory.
 - The **ark** was a clear type of Christ. Wherever the **ark** went, the victory was won.
 - Eventually this **ark** ascended triumphantly to the top of Mount Zion.
 - This **portrays** how Christ has won the victory and has **ascended** triumphantly to the heavens.
 - This Psalm **begins** with the **move** of God and **continues** with the **victory** gained by Christ.
 - When God moves with the tabernacle and the ark, the enemies will always be vanquished.

➤ The **fulfillment** is in **Ephesians 4:8**:

“Wherefore He says, Having **ascended** to the **height**, He **led captive** those taken captive and gave gifts to men.”

- “**Height**” refers to **Mount Zion**, **symbolizing** the third heaven where God dwells.
- In His **ascension** Christ **led** us who had been taken captive by Satan.
 - “He led a train of vanquished foes” for “He led captive those taken captive.”
 - He **rescued** us from Satan’s captivity and took us to Himself.
 - He has **conquered** and overcome Satan, who had captured us by sin and death.

✚ “...let all the peoples **speak praise** to Him ...” (Rom. 15:11)

✚ Christ has ascended on high, all His enemies have been defeated. He vanquished every foe, leading a train of vanquished foes.

- ✓ The **issue** of Christ’s ascension is that **we** have been **given as gifts** by the **Father** to Christ for His Body.
- ✓ After conquering and rescuing **us** from Satan and death through His own death and resurrection, **Christ** made us, such **gifts** with His resurrection life to His Body for its building up.

✚ Psalm 68:18, says that the **ascended Christ** **received** gifts. But Ephesians 4:8, tells us that the **ascended Christ** **gave** gifts.

- ✓ On the one hand, when Christ ascended on high, He **received** gifts;
- ✓ on the other hand, the ascended Christ **gave** gifts.

All the gifted persons were **received** by Christ when He ascended to the height, and then He **gave** them to the church.

Hymn 1100

- 1** God shall rise, His foes be **scattered**,
All that hate Him **flee away**. [Psa. 68:1]
As the wax before the fire,
All the wicked He shall slay.
But the righteous shall rejoice
With a loud, triumphant voice,
Singing praises, singing praises,
Singing praises unto **God!!**
- 4** Now the **Lord** in mighty **triumph**
Sends the news of **victory**;
We the “women”
spread the tidings — [Psa. 68:11]
“Kings of armies flee, they flee!”
No more sweat and dreary toil;
We at home divide the **spoil**! [Psa. 68:12]
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
Hallelujah, Amen!
- 5** Lo, on high **Christ** hath **ascended**,
Leading **captives in His train**; [Psa. 68:18]
These as **gifts** He has perfected
That the **Lord** may dwell with them.
Brothers, sisters, we are those,
We’re those **transformed**,
vanquished foes!
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
Hallelujah, Amen!
- 6** Blessed be the **Lord** forever:
Day by day He loads with good,
E’en the **God** of our salvation—
Spread His worthy praise abroad.
His the goings forth from death,
Every **foe He conquereth**!
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
Hallelujah, Amen!
- 7** They have seen, O **God**, Thy goings
In Thy holy dwelling place,
Thy **triumphal**, high **processions**
Midst a mighty voice of praise.
See the **singers** go before,
Praising, praising o’er and o’er:
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
Hallelujah, Amen!

Hymn 296

- 1** And can it be that I should gain
An int’rest in the Savior’s **blood**?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to **death** pursued?
Amazing **love**! how can it be
That Thou, my **God**,
shouldst **die** for me?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my **God**,
shouldst **die** for me?
- 2** ’Tis **mystery** all! The **Immortal dies**!
Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love **Divine**!
’Tis **mercy** all! let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.
’Tis **mercy** all! let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.
- 3** He left His **Father’s** throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And **bled** for Adam’s helpless race:
’Tis **mercy** all, immense and free;
For, O my **God**, it found out me.
’Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my **God**, it found out me.
- 4** Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in **sin** and nature’s night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains **fell off**, my heart was **free**,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
- 5** No **condemnation** now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness **Divine**,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown,
through **Christ** my own.
Bold I **approach** the eternal throne,
And claim the crown,
through **Christ** my own.

Hymn 26

- 1** **God**, we praise Thee
for Thy **mercy**,
’Tis so great and so profound!
In our weakness and our failures;
With its greatness it abounds.
We adore Thee! we adore Thee!
With such **mercy**
we’ve been crowned!
- 2** How we marvel at this **mercy**
So far-reaching and so vast!
It has reached us, e’en the sinners,
And will ever hold us fast.
From this **mercy**, from this **mercy**,
What can cause us to be cast?
- 3** For Thy **mercy** we are grateful,
’Tis so rich, so plenteous!
Thru Thy **mercy** in redemption,
Thou hast richly favored us.
If without this, if without this,
How could we be favored thus?
- 4** Oh, Thy **mercy**, so inspiring!
Gentle, tender, dear and sweet!
With Thy patience
and Thy kindness,
Us in all our need it meets.
It we treasure, it we treasure,
Nothing can with it compete.
- 5** **Father**, we enjoy Thy **mercy**,
Ever fresh and ever new;
Every morning shed upon us,
It refreshes as the dew.
How we taste it! how we taste it!
Giving Thee the praises due.
- 6** We can never cease to praise Thee,
As Thy **mercy** e’er endures;
All Thy grace and all Thy favor,
Ever for us it secures.
Trusting in it, trusting in it,
Thy sure **mercy** us assures.