





I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down towards your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;

for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

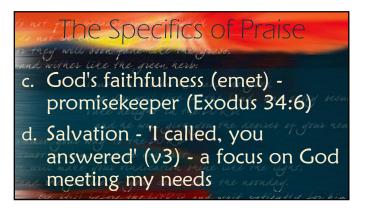
On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

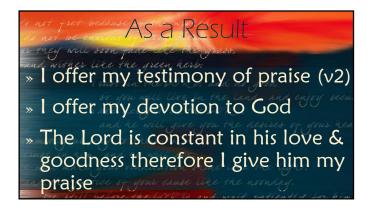
Psalm 138:1-3

# » Give thanks - 3x (v1,2,4 'praise') » 'Whole heart" - all of one's life » The importance of gratitude

## » Music as intensive speech » Making melody to God » "God is inviting us to enjoy Him" (C.S. Lewis) » Rejoice in the person and nature of God

## a. The qualities of God's name (healer, provider, protector, shepherd) - v2 b. Praising for his 'steadfast love' (hesed - grace)







All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth. They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord.

For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away.

Psalm 138:4-6

#### All the Nations (v4-5)

- » God is worthy of praise from all nations not only Israel
- » Now and in the future Messianic age
- Amidst a world of polytheism
   (v1) God is the one true God

#### God's fidelity to the Poor (v6)

- » The Lord is high but he regards the lowly
- » The proud of heart are distant from God
- » The extraordinary message of God's value of the poor

#### And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;... He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

Luke 1:46-48,52



Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

The Lord will fulfil his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures for ever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

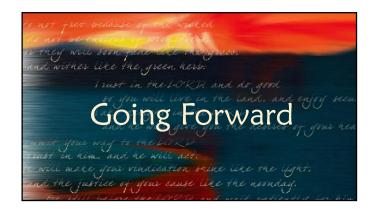
Psalm 138:7-8

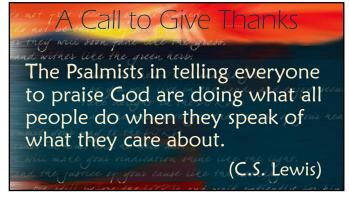
### God's Shepherding & Protection (v7)

- Beautiful image of warding off and gathering in - left hand and right arm
- » Walking through the shadow of the valley of death - you are with me. (Psalm 23)

- » Confidence in God's redemptive work

  » God accomplishes his purposes for us
- » I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:6)
- » God does not forsake us





#### God's Committed to the Poor

- » God's concern for those the world easily disregards, the lowly, marginalized
- » Think of our world's refugees, displaced peoples
- » Forgotten by governments but not by God

### God's Committed to Completing His Work

- » His work of perfection in us
- » 'The foolishness of God' to raise up the lowly (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)
- » We are important in the eyes of the most high God