

Psalm 138 (A Psalm of David)

¹ LORD God ,

I thank and praise You with every ounce of my being. Yes, I will lift up my voice and sing praises to Your wonderful name in the hearing of all who believe in other so-called gods. ² I will bow down in submission toward Your holy temple in Jerusalem. It is Your dwelling place, and it is holy. There I will thank and praise You for the truth that You are always faithful to Your Word and for Your unfailing tender love and kindness. Your Word is so important to You that You have elevated it even above Your own person and reputation.

³ I praise You because You answered me on the day I cried out in prayer begging You to come to my aid. You gave me inner strength that I could not find anywhere else. It gave me the encouragement and confidence I needed to go on when I might otherwise have given up under the pressures which were wearing me down. ⁴ Someday when the rulers and authorities of the world have heard and understood Your great glory, splendor, and majesty, ⁵ they will sing aloud telling about the wonderful God You are and the wonderful things You do. After all, praising the LORD is the normal response of those who have heard the truth and have understood it. ⁶ There is even more reason to praise You because though You are so great and so far above men in power, position, and authority, You are still intimately concerned about those who are of a low social status and of a humble spirit. On the other hand, You understand the evil of proud and haughty men, so You distance Yourself from them.

⁷ LORD, there is trouble all around me, and I am weighed down with all kinds of severe hurts, distresses, and troubles. Even so, You have preserved my life, and I know that You will give me the strength I need to go on. My enemies continually vent their anger toward me by doing many hurtful and destructive things, but I know that someday You will reach down and punish them for their wickedness. I believe that at the time of Your choosing You will rescue me from these evil men. ⁸ LORD God, I know that according to Your faithfulness You will do all that You have promised because Your tender love and kindness is forever being poured out upon those You love. Please don't leave me to my oppressors, but shower me with Your tender love and kindness. Save me from those evil men. Please don't abandon the good things You have promised to do for me.