

June 25
Psalm 138

**for thou hast magnified
thy word above all thy name.**

Great Psalms Scroll, c. A.D. 30-50
Found 1956, Qumran, Dead Sea
more on this in Psalm 1 presentation

Our Response



FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
see
PreciousHeart.net/SS



Psalms – Songs to or about God

| | | | |
|--------------|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. June 4 | The Path | <u>1</u> | Tree Planted by Streams |
| 2. June 11 | The Past | <u>78</u> | God was Their Rock |
| 3. June 18 | The Shepherd | <u>23</u> | Lord is My Shepherd |
| ★ 4. June 25 | Our Response | <u>138</u> | Gratitude for Keeping Thy Word |
| 5. July 2 | His Presence | <u>84</u> | How Lovely Your House |
| 6. July 9 | The Creator | <u>95</u> | TODAY, if you Hear, Harden Not |
| 7. July 16 | God Revealed | <u>19</u> | Heavens Declare God's Glory |
| 8. July 23 | His Love | <u>136</u> | Love Endures Forever |
| 9. July 30 | His Faithfulness | <u>146</u> | Whose Help is God |
| 10. Aug 6 | The Confession | <u>51</u> | Whiter than Snow |
| 11. Aug 13 | The Cleansing | <u>32</u> | My Hiding Place |
| 12. Aug 20 | The Protector | <u>141</u> | Protect Me from the Trap |
| 13. Aug 27 | The Longing | <u>42</u> | Deep Calls unto Deep |





Theme

**Thanksgiving is the proper response to
God's answer to our prayers**

Psalm 138

1-3 I will Thank – I will Bow

4-6 They will Bow – Hearing His Promises

7-8 God will Fulfill – Your Love is Eternal



Key Verse Psalm 138:2, KJV

**for thou hast magnified
thy word above all thy name.**

Yes, that means what you THINK it means.

**yet ... as we travel through this Psalm roughly in English,
that verse has another meaning NOT apparent by its lonesome!**



Alternate Title

Gratitude

for Keeping Thy Word



Gratitude ... for Keeping Thy Word ...

I know you all know the difference between

“Thank you for the **PEPPERMINT.**”

and

“Thank you, boss, for the **RAISE!**”

and

“Thank you ... officer for saving my **LIFE!**”

Gratitude has degrees ... degrees we KNOW but can't calculate

Even trying to analyze GRATITUDE cheapens it a bit ...

Complicated MORE ... cause EACH & EVERY one us

***FEEL* Gratitude similarly**



Psalms 138 – Another Tree in the

The Enchanted Forest

this tree ...
does not stand as tall
like the Dogwood
rather unassuming

Its OVERALL purpose allusive

138 has NO easily seen motif ...

Far from Psalm 23's "Shepherd's Psalm"



The Enchanted Forest

Psalm 138

we cannot see the Hebrew
English is dusty
might tempt us to ...

Do NOT read it like a list ...

Do NOT read it like a list of proverbs!

If you view it like a LOOSE list of sayings—for SHAME!



The Enchanted Forest

Psalm 138 is a SONG of King David

One of—*perhaps*—4,000+

That is, it's a SONG that was **REMEMBERED**

Despite the difficulty, there **IS** a **theme**



The Enchanted Forest

All GOOD songs have a theme
that's WHY they're REMEMBERED
I chose GRATITUDE ... a specific *form* of praise
That may NOT be it ... that is **NOT ALL**

138:1-8 ... Gratitude for Keeping They Word

¹ I will praise thee with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praise unto thee. ² I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth:

for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

NOTE: ^ seems no one translates this the same

³ In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul.

⁴ All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O LORD, when they hear the words of thy mouth.

⁵ Yea, they [*kings*] shall sing in the ways of the LORD: for great is the glory of the LORD.



138:1-8 ... Gratitude for Keeping They Word

⁶ Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.

[^] Does v. 7 appear to be like an early version of Psalm 23's Valley of the Shadow of Death?

⁸ The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever:
forsake not the works of thine own hands.



LIFE magazine special in 2000

The Greatest Adventures of All Time

Included in the harrowing stories:

- ❖ **William Beebe's Bathysphere**
- ❖ **Jacques Cousteau, "The Manfish"**
- ❖ **Piccard & Walsh's 35,800-foot descent into the Marianas Trench**
- ❖ **Bob Ballard's Titanic find**
- ❖ **Perry's & Cook's races to North Pole**
- ❖ **Edmund Hillary & Tenzing Norgay—first to top Everest in 1953**
- ❖ **Several others on land, air and sea ...**



FIRST in the 2000 LIFE book ... Shackleton!

Men Wanted for Hazardous Journey.

Small wages, bitter cold.

Long months of complete darkness.

Constant danger, safe return doubtful.

Honor and recognition in case of success.

That was *alleged* to be the ad

Ernest Shackleton placed in 1914 for

Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition

27 men signed on ... left August 1914

Two years of very great struggle ...



The *Endurance* ... left ... Aug. 1914

Named after his family's Latin motto:

“By endurance we conquer”

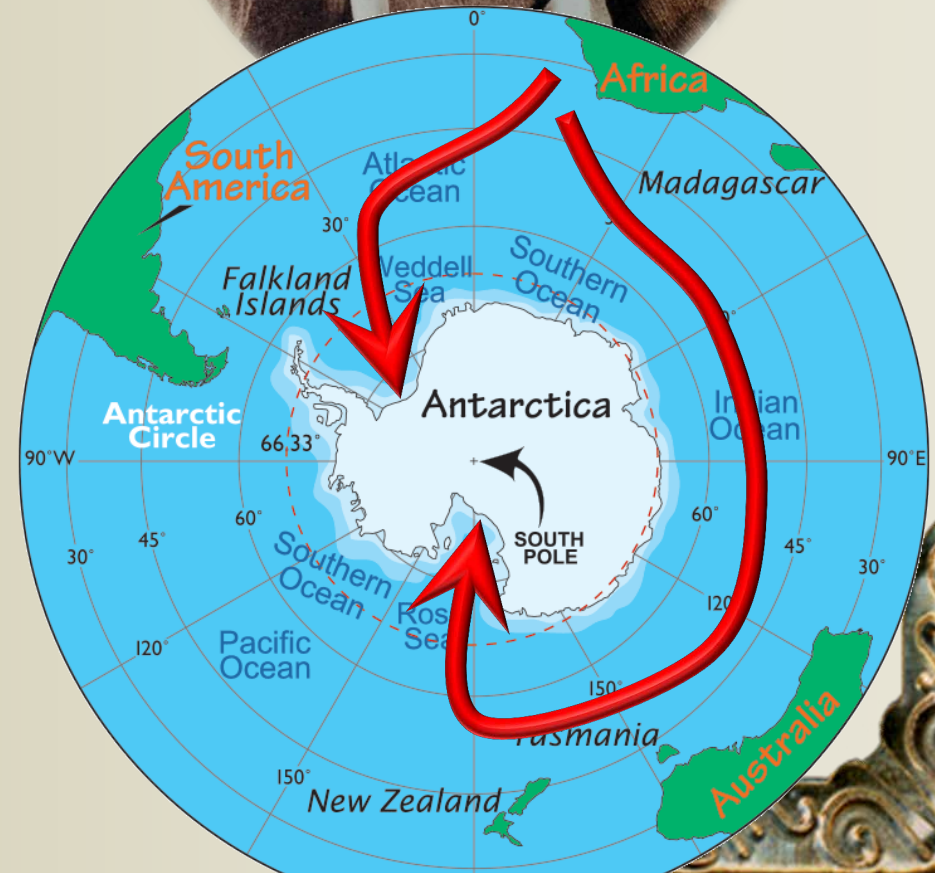
28 in all ... the PLAN

Endurance to sail to Weddell Sea and
land at Vahsel Bay

Second ship, *Aurora*, to sail to Ross Sea
to deposit supplies

Shackleton's PLAN ... be the FIRST
to go **OVERLAND** across the Antarctic

He hoped to reach the South Pole by
by Christmas 1914 ...



The *Endurance* ... made in Norway

Specially built ... by master shipbuilder
Christian Jacobsen

Looked on the outside like any other ship

On the INSIDE ... Keel was 4 pieces of oak
for a total of 85 inches thick

Sides were 30" & 18" thick ... with
twice as many frames double thick

Antarctic Summer is September-March
w aver. Temp in **Jan. -15°F**

Winter is March-September ...

Lowest temp. 1982, **June 23** **-117.0°F**



138 a Psalm of David

Psalm 138 follows the 15 “Psalms of Ascent” 120-134
of these, 121 of Solomon, rest by David

Psalms 135 & 136 are great “Thank God” psalms

Yet ... hold your breath ...

Psalm 138 follows the most depressing Psalm 137

137:1, **By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept....**

Kind of reminds me of some old Steppenwolf songs ...

Pusher Man ... Desperation ... whew

These DRAG you down ...

bring a tear to your eye



138 a Psalm of David

137:1, **By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept....**

Their captors wanted Israel to SING songs of JOY to them ...

How COULD they ... ⁶ **May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not consider Jerusalem my highest joy.**

Then vs. 8, **Daughter Babylon, doomed to destruction, happy is the one who repays you according to what you have done to us.**

Verse 9 becoming the **WORST WORDS** in the Bible:

⁹ **Happy is the one who seizes your infants and dashes them against the rocks.**

Yes, an Imprecatory Psalm ... asking for destruction

138 a Psalm of David

Who knows for sure if David meant for Psalm 138 to follow 137?

The compiler did place 138 after 137 ...

maybe there is something to that ...

Psalm 138 *LIFTS the soul* ...

Psalm 138 is the first of 8 psalms, 138 to 145 ... all of David

These follow the 15 “Psalms of Ascent” 120-134

with 121 of Solomon, the rest by David ...

Most see the Psalms of Ascent as **SONGS** the Israelites **SANG**
as they came from all over **UP** to Jerusalem

All roads lead

UP to Jerusalem



2 Samuel 7:1-29 – Messianic Promise to David

Many relate Psalms 138-145 to Messianic Promise in 2 Sa 7:1-29

**1-3, To the Prophet Nathan, King David laments that
he is in a palace, but the Ark of God in a tent**

**4-6, Word to Nathan, God saying he's not had a
house since Egypt ...**

⁷ “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”

8-17 Nathan reports to David on what God said:

8, took David from pasture ... made king ... been w him

**⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone ...
cut off all your enemies from before you. Now
I will make your name great, like ... the greatest men on earth.**

Was 2 Sam. 7 in David's heart during Psalm 138?

2 Samuel 7:1-29 – Messianic Promise to David

**10-11, God will provide a place for Israel ...
no more oppressed ... REST....**

**11-12, LORD himself will establish a house for ...
I will raise up your offspring ... establish his kingdom.**

**¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name,
and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.**

14-15, I will be his father ... my love will never be taken away!

**¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever
before me; your throne will be established forever.**

**18-19, King David sits before LORD ... humbled ...
that the Sovereign LORD decreed such for his house**

2 Samuel 7:1-29 – Messianic Promise to David

²⁰ “What more can David say to you?...

Then an intriguing ... informative declaration:

²¹ For the sake of your **WORD** and according to your **WILL**, you have done this great thing and made it known to your servant.

22-24 David praises God & God's people, Israel, God established

25-26, Keep your promise ... your name will be great forever ...

²⁹ Now be pleased to **BLESS** the house of your servant ...
and with your **BLESSING**
the house of your servant will be **BLESSED FOREVER.**”

Was 2 Sam. 7 in David's heart during Psalm 138?

138:1-3 I will Thank – I will Bow

¹ I will give you thanks with ALL MY HEART;
I will sing your praise before the heavenly beings.

KJV, I will praise thee with my WHOLE HEART

Spurgeon* said,

If ever our heart is whole and wholly occupied with one thing,
it should be when we are praising the Lord.

David Dickson* (c.1583–1663), Scottish theologian,
accused of non-conformity to state church, said,

Sometimes the believer will find his heart set at liberty in God's
worship ... then he should take the opportunity of an enlarged
heart to run in the way of God's service.

138:1-3 I will Thank – I will Bow

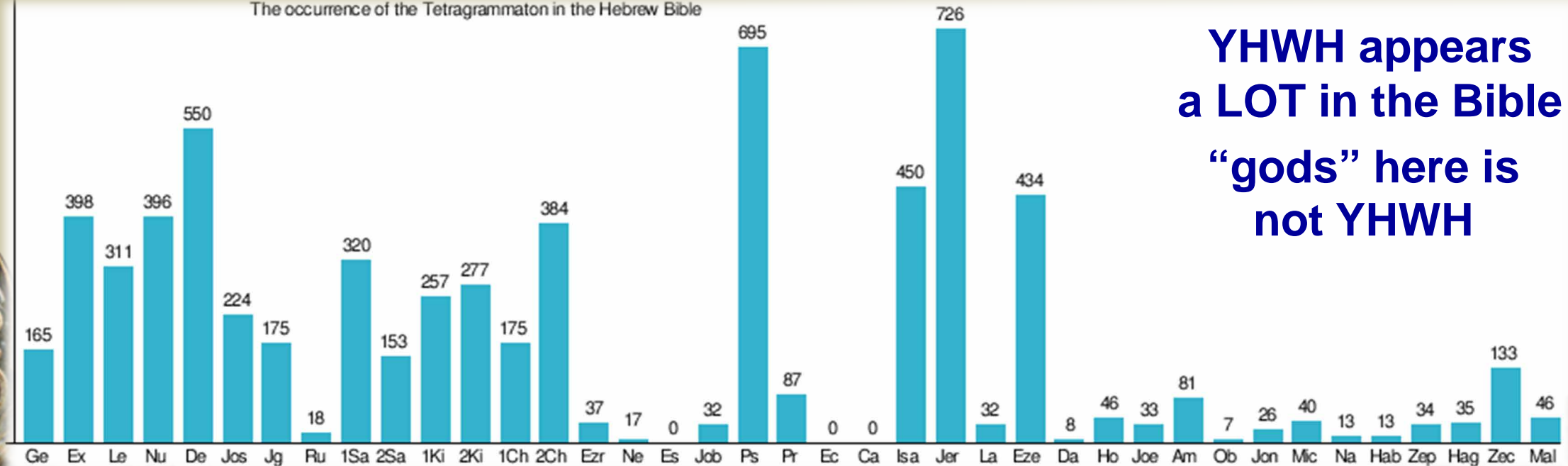
¹ I will give you thanks with all my heart;
I will sing your praise before the heavenly beings.

NIV & KJV, before the “gods” I will sing your praise.

You know YHWH – trans. LORD or Jehovah or Yahweh
Holy word to the Jews that do NOT pronounce it ...

יהוה
YHWH

The occurrence of the Tetragrammaton in the Hebrew Bible



YHWH appears
a LOT in the Bible
“gods” here is
not YHWH

138:1-3 I will Thank – I will Bow

¹ I will give you thanks with all my heart; I will sing
your praise before the heavenly beings. [as in angels]

NIV & KJV, before the “gods” I will sing your praise.

Word is “*elohim*” – “gods” though singular too in Hebrew
elohim as a plural of *eloah* – *El*, chief deity of Canaanite
Aramaic *’Ēlāhā* and Arabic *’ilāh* or *Allah* = single God ...
elohim frequent in Torah ... >2,500x in whole Bible

אלהים
elohim

Ex. 3:4, “**God** called unto him out of the midst of the bush”
elohim

Ex. 12:12, “**gods of Egypt**” ...
elohim

Ex. 20:3, “You shall have no other **gods** before me.”
elohim

138:1-3 I will Thank – I will Bow

¹ I will sing your praise before the heavenly beings. [as in angels]

NIV & KJV, before the “gods” I will sing your praise.

אלהים
elohim

Psalm 8:4-6 in quoted in Hebrews 2:6-8 ...

Psalm 8:4-5, what is mankind that you are mindful of
them ...you have made them a little lower than the angels
and crowned them with glory and honor. *elohim*

LXX, Septuagint – Greek Translation of the Old Testament

LXX = 70 = 70 Jewish scholars started trans. Torah (1st 5 of OT)

Torah started c. 250 B.C. and whole finished 132 B.C. ...

Psalm 8:5, when trans in Greek 200 years before Christ

Hebrew *elohim* is translated as God, god/s or angels
by Jewish Greek Scholars 200 years before Christ

138:1-3 I will Thank – I will Bow

¹ I will sing your praise before the heavenly beings. [as in angels]

NIV & KJV, before the “gods” I will sing your praise.

אלהים
elohim

Exodus 22:9 ... adds ANOTHER use ...

In all cases of illegal possession of an ox,
a donkey, a sheep, a garment, or any other
lost property about which somebody says, “This is mine,”
both parties are to bring their cases before the **judges**. **elohim**
The one whom the **judges** declare guilty must pay back double to
the other. **elohim**

Psalms 8:5, when trans in Greek 200 years before Christ

**Hebrew *Elohim* trans as God, gods, judges or angels
by Jewish Greek Scholars**

Shackleton and the *Endurance*

But that year—1914—was extra cold ...

Ice formed early in the Weddell Sea

Weddell Sea—notorious for crushing ice!

August 1914 ... WWI started a month earlier

Dec. 7, 1914, ... first ICE appeared ...

6 weeks they pushed through the ice

Jan. 29 ... ICE WON ...

Endurance was held captive in ice sheets



Throughout the Antarctic summer from
Jan. 29 ... they struggled to free her

Feb. 24, they gave up trying to free her

Shackleton declared the *Endurance* a winter station ...

“The summer had left,” he wrote,
“the birds are leaving us.”

They had sailed 12,000 miles

Only 100 miles short of their goal

They would spend the winter
locked in ice ... set up Ocean Camp

For months ... they lived, played



Shackleton kept their spirits up ...

**They wagered cigarettes & chocolate
on dog races ... they had 60 or so dogs**

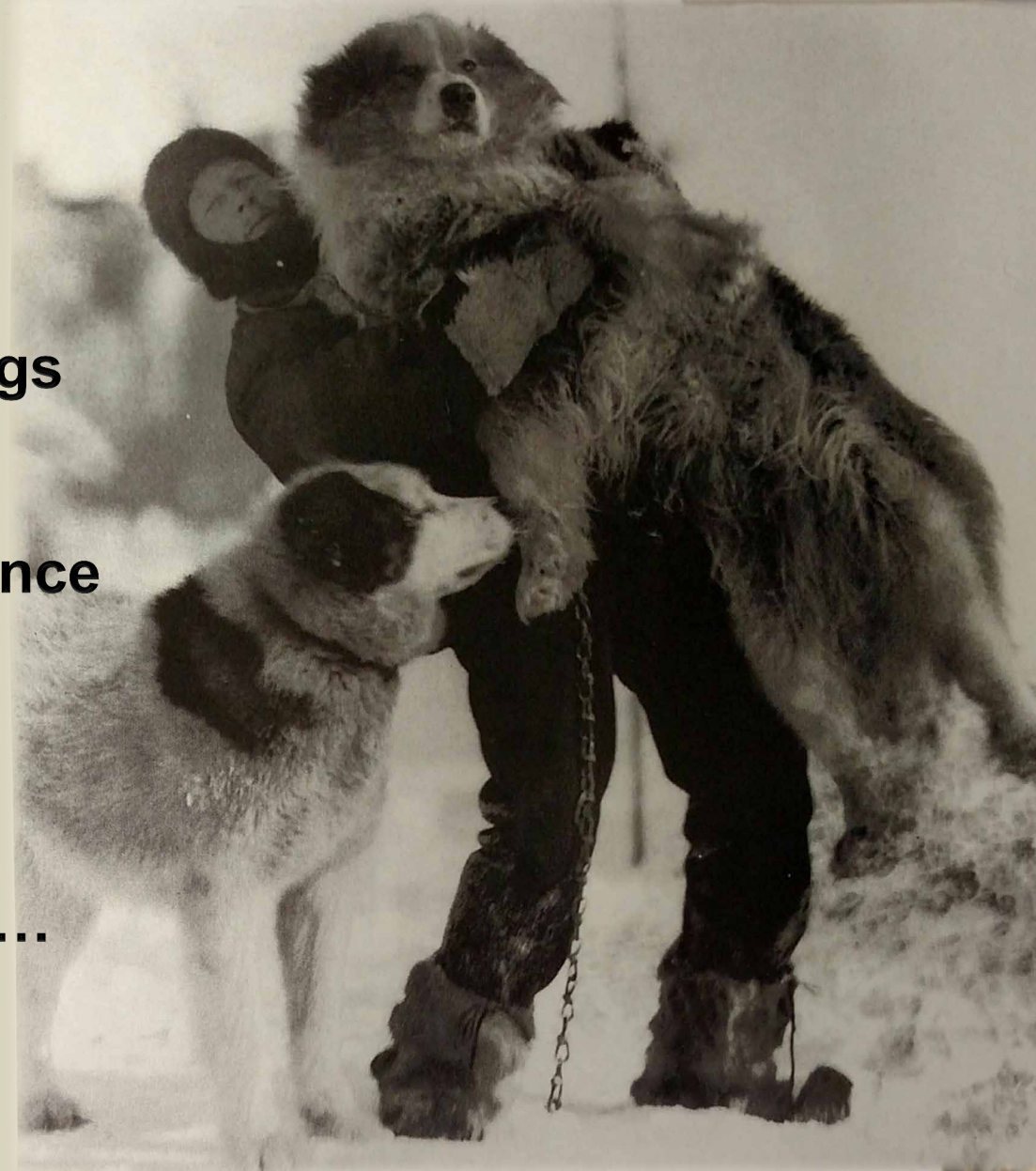
Some played chess ...

Shackleton never wavered in confidence

**They took tons of food & store off
ship ... built a shelter ...**

**By October 1915 ...
over a year after they first saw ice ...**

***Endurance* was being crushed ...**



**Crewman Leonard Hussy
lifting Samson**

Shackleton views his ship ...
Endurance, specially made for this ...
was being crushed ...

Oct. 19, 1915 ... *the crushing violent ...*

Shackleton ordered the men to haul
the three lifeboats to Ocean Camp
which was on an huge ice flow

Day by day ...

Crushing ice ... as Summer came
still cold and miserable
warming to -30s° F ...



Shackleton views
his ship being crushed

138:1-3 I will Thank – I will Bow

¹ I will give you thanks with all my heart; I will sing
your praise before the heavenly beings. [in angels]

NIV & KJV, before the “gods” I will sing your praise.

אלהים
elohim

Psalm 138:1 ... Elohim FOUR possible meanings

1. Angels like Holman Christian Standard Bible
2. God who is YHWH ... Creator God of the Bible
3. Gods as in OTHER gods as the NIV & KJV
4. Judges as in influential persons or kings

#4 – favored by renown OT scholars Keil & Delitzsch, reflecting
shepherd David who was lifted to an eternal kingship ...

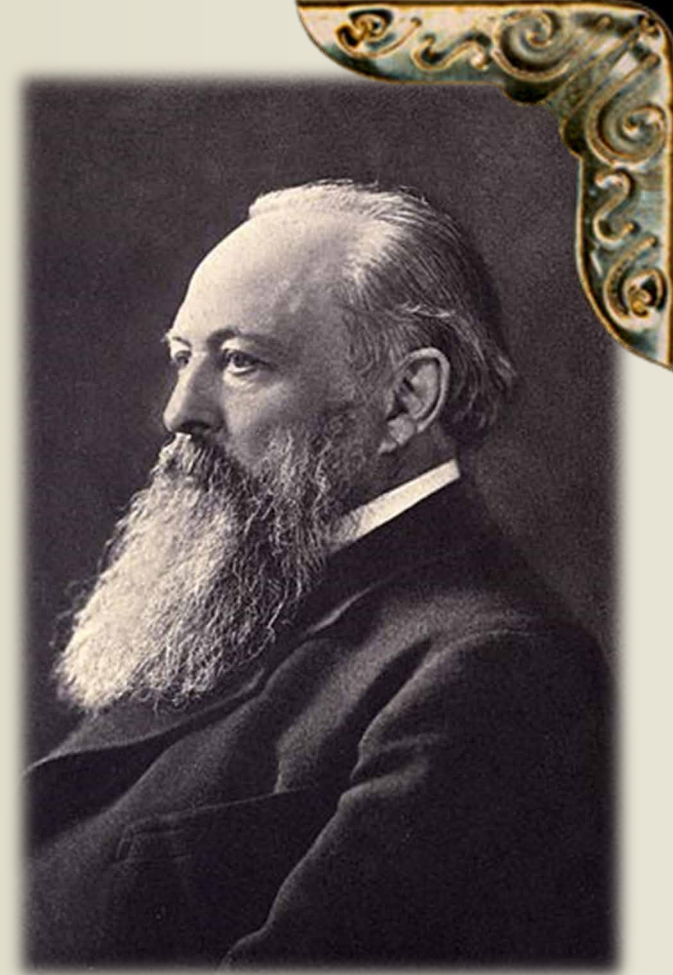
If **#4** – David is singing to God also **MOCKING** kings who
are like “gods” to their people

138:1-3 I will Thank – I will Bow

Take note ... I think we have ALL heard before ...
Lord Acton said,

**"Power tends to corrupt,
and absolute power corrupts absolutely.
Great men are almost always bad men."**

Great men often FEEL better than ALL others
What Caesar did NOT think they were God?
Ancient Rome & China ... ABSOLUTE POWER
Kings had the power to TAKE LIFE at will ...
Often, they DID KILL at will ...



Lord Acton (1834-1902)

138:1-3 I will Thank – I will Bow

Another Great Man said similar ...

Abraham Lincoln said,

**"Nearly all men can stand adversity,
but if you want to test a man's character,
give him power."**



Abraham Lincoln (1809-1863)

True over the millennia ... even in Washington D.C.

Sadly, we have seen it in the CHURCH too ...

That Great Kings appeared GOD-like to many

And those seeking FAVOR of the king ... will all too often

kiss the ring ... for money & influence ... a LOT of kissing

138:1-3 I will Thank – I will Bow

¹ I will give you thanks with all my heart; I will sing
your praise before the heavenly beings/gods.

If angels, that does not really make sense ...

If false gods of other nations ... WHY? ...

David *knows* the false gods are whispers in the ear

Yet, if you remember our journey through 1 Samuel,
you will recall David *STILL* had household “gods”

But WHY sing to the buggers? ... I have trouble with that

If “gods” as other kings ... as a testimony (with a dash of mockery)

If “gods” as other kings ... well then, that flows smooth ...

138:4-6 say others Kings JOIN in song too



138:1-3 I will Thank – I will Bow

¹ I will give you thanks with all my heart;
I will sing your praise before the gods (KJV & NIV).

² I will bow down toward your holy temple and
give thanks to your name for your constant love and faithfulness.

the latter part of verse 2 ... oh, another HARD verse, HCSB:
You have exalted your name and
your promise above everything else.

This latter part of verse 2 ... is a struggle

Translators try to EXACTLY bring the meaning over ...

Most of the time MOST of the Bible comes through spotless

ALL of the Bible's main points of doctrine are CLEAR

138:1-3 I will Thank – I will Bow

HCSB, you have exalted **your name** and
your promise **above everything else.**

KJV, for thou hast magnified thy **word** above all thy name.

1. Or is David singing about God LIFTING His **Name?**
2. David is singing about God LIFTING His **WORD?**

Let's add some confusion to that ...

NIV, for you have so exalted your solemn **decree**
that it surpasses your **fame**

NASB, you have magnified **your word ACCORDING** to all your name.

Calvin, thou hast magnified **thy name above all things BY** thy word.

What in the world is going on?

Does ANYONE know?



138:1-3 I will Thank – I will Bow

² I will bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your constant love and faithfulness.

Why ... why does David sing about his prostration before God?

HCSB, You have exalted your **NAME** & your **PROMISE** above everything else.

Or,

KJV, for thou hast magnified thy **WORD** above all thy name.

Or akin,

NIV, for you have so exalted your solemn **DECREE** that it surpasses your **FAME**

Think about those two ...

1. Exulted Name **or**
2. Exulted Word

138:1-3 I will Thank – I will Bow

Think about those two ...

1. Exulted Name **or**
2. Exulted Word

Or, you might be asking ...

IS THERE A POINT to that at all?

I suspect **EITHER** will work ...

EACH contradicts **NOTHING**

EACH will give something theologically sumptuous



138:1-3 I will Thank – I will Bow

You think that is tough ... Look at God *exulting* his NAME:

Philippians 2:9-10, Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every NAME, that at the NAME of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.

John 17:12, While I was with them, I protected them and guarded them by your NAME, the NAME you gave Me.

2 Thessalonians 1:12, So that the NAME of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of God.

Jesus ... a name above every name ... from Greek Ἰησοῦς

= from the Hebrew יְהוֹשֻׁעַ Yehoshua or Joshua
Christ from Greek Χριστός Christos “Anointed”



Jesus Christ

Spurgeon* eloquently weighs in on God LIFTING His Word:

Revelation excels creation in the clearness, definiteness, and fullness of its teaching....

Moreover, the Lord lays all the rest of his name under tribute to his word: his wisdom, power, love, and all his other attributes combine to carry out his word. It is his word which creates, sustains, quickens, enlightens, and comforts.





Add to Surgeon's view ... as the KJV notes,
for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

John 1:1-3 ... majestic, sublime, definitive words:

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word
was with God, and the Word was God.

² He was with God in the beginning.

³ Through him all things were made; without him
nothing was made that has been made.

⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

Maybe David is truly singing that God has exulted His WORD



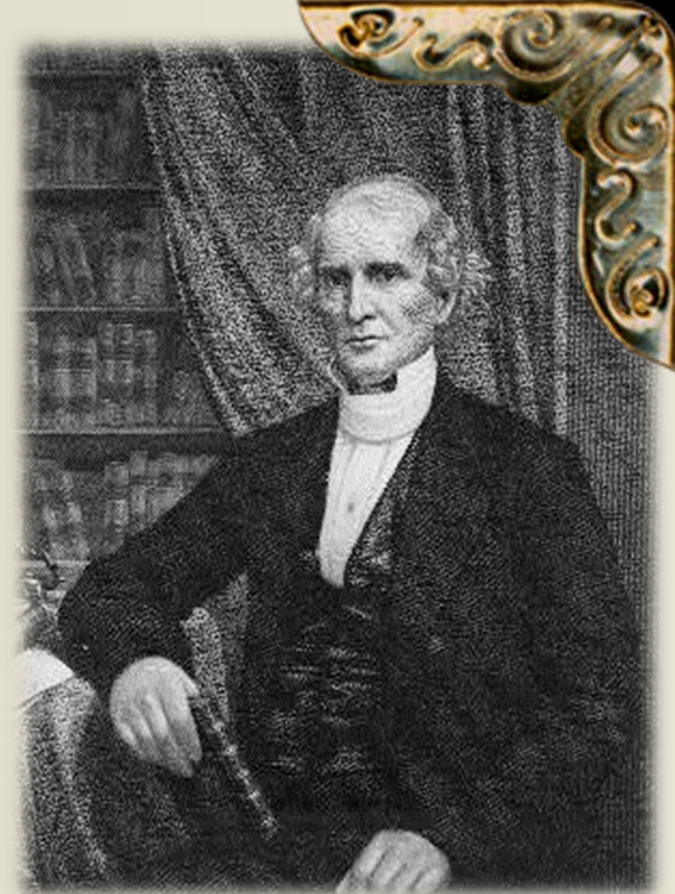
Professor Albert Barnes (1798-1870)
Great Presbyterian Theologian

**Barnes implies that “name” has some
GREATER implications THEN than today**

**The word *name* here would refer properly to all
that God had done to make himself known....**

meaning ... that the **WORD OF GOD*—the
revelation which he has made of himself and
of his gracious purposes to mankind—**

is superior in clearness ... to **ALL* the other
manifestations which he has made of himself;
all that can be known of him in his works.**



Albert Barnes (1798-1870)
Great Presbyterian Theologian

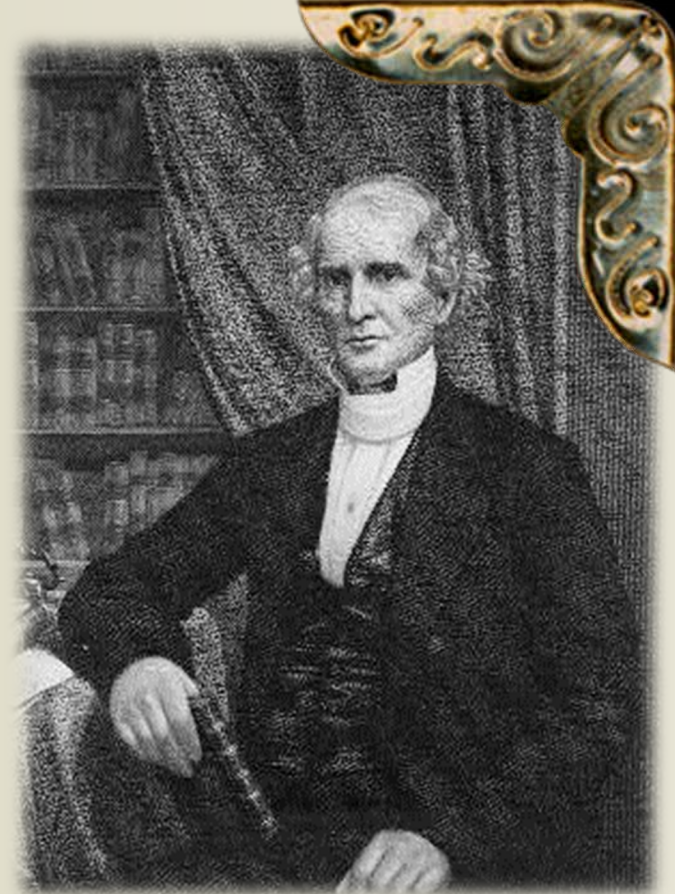
*** All caps mine**

Professor Albert Barnes (1798-1870)
Great Presbyterian Theologian

Beyond all question there are higher and clearer manifestations of himself, of his being ... in the **VOLUME OF REVELATION*, than any which his **WORKS*** have disclosed or can disclose.**

Compare Psalm 19:1-14....

There are very many points in relation to God, of the highest interest to mankind, on which the disclosures of science shed no light....



Albert Barnes (1798-1870)
Great Presbyterian Theologian

*** All caps mine**

138:1-3 I will Thank – I will Bow

Let's just use the KJV with a tad of NIV plus a dash of clarification

¹ I will give you thanks with all my heart;
I will sing your praise before the **gods** or **godlike kings**.

² I will bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to
your name for your constant love and faithfulness.
For thou hast magnified thy **word** **above** all thy **name** or **fame**.

There is no need to press one above the other ...

No version contradicts ... though I suspect the one above
connects to the rest of Psalm 138 in greater continuity ...

If “gods” are other gods, well, verse 1 stands alone ...

If “gods” *elohim* refer to godlike kings,
we see kings again in vs. 4-6

138:1-3 I will Thank – I will Bow

After praising God ... in the temple and before great kings

And after singing about God LIFTING up his word ...

David makes it personal ... God answers prayer ...

**³ On the day I called, you answered me;
you increased strength within me.**

In many respects, Psalm 138 is about God KEEPING his Word

Psalm 138 is about God keeping his Covenant ... his Promises

When David called ... as the anointed of Israel ...

God kept his PROMISE to help ... David CALLED ...

Keeping one's WORD ... Keeping one's PROMISE

138:4-6 **They will Bow** – Hearing His Promises

- ⁴ All the kings on earth will give you thanks, Lord,
WHEN THEY HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE PROMISED.**
- ⁵ They will sing of the Lord's ways, for the Lord's glory is great.**
- ⁶ Though the Lord is exalted, He takes note of the humble;
but He knows the haughty from afar.**

Did you see that?

The Kings will, shall, may ... no consequence ...

**What IS OF GREAT consequence ... is that the Kings will ALSO
give thanks ... WHEN ... WHEN WHAT?**

**WHEN THEY HEAR
what you have promised**

138:4-6 They will Bow – Hearing His Promises

We like to see verse 6 ALONE ... it is good alone ...

But it is MUCH more ... very much MORE ... in context

**⁶ Though the Lord is exalted, He takes note of the humble;
but He knows the haughty from afar.**

I prefer the KJV here too ...

**⁶ Though the LORD be high,
yet hath he respect unto the lowly:
but the proud he knoweth afar off.**

You see that now ... I know you do ...

Hard for a Rich Man to Enter Heaven

Hard for GOD-LIKE Kings to be Humble too

138:4-6 They will Bow – Hearing His Promises

Still ... though hard for a god-like kings to be truly humble

Regardless of how haughty the king may be ...

The point is clear ... Lord is ABOVE all ... and

**⁶ Though the LORD be high,
yet hath he respect unto the lowly.**

Though God reigns on high ... God prefers the humble

God is the Shepherd ... the Abba Father ...

God cares ... his heart reaches us ...

David praised God for HELPING ... but haughty kings, no

David's Kingdom ... through his heirs ... ETERNAL

Including the Good Shepherd – Jesus the Christ

138:4-6 **They will Bow** – Hearing His Promises

Now then ... **SEE** the context of our Key Verse

⁴ All the kings on earth will give you thanks, Lord, when they hear what you have promised.

⁵ They will sing of the Lord's ways, for the Lord's glory is great.

**⁶ Though the LORD be high,
yet hath he respect unto the lowly.**

but He knows the haughty from afar.

From our LORD's High Sitting ... God looks past the huaghty

Though there be Kings, even god-like Kings ... high Kings

Though this Psalm is also sung TO the KINGS ...

This Psalm is most of all sung PAST the Kings

138:4-6 **They will Bow** – Hearing His Promises

⁶ Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly.

This is said in several ways ...

Psalm 113:5-8, a psalm whose author is UNKNOWN!

**^{113:5-6} Who is like the LORD our God, the One who
sits enthroned on high, who stoops down to look on
the heavens and the earth?**

**^{113:7} He raises the poor from the dust and
lifts the needy from the ash heap;**

**^{113:8} he seats them with princes,
with the princes of his people.**

Ahhh ... but that is not all

138:4-6 They will Bow – Hearing His F

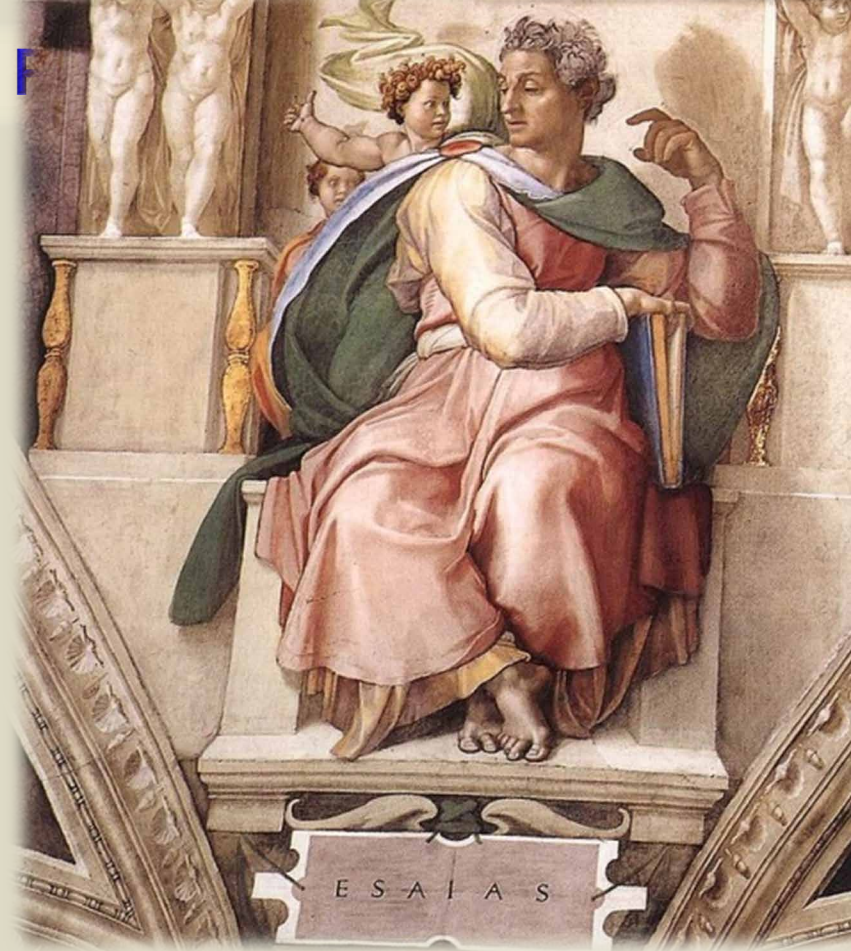
Mighty Major Prophet Isaiah weighs on
this in Isaiah 66:1-2

¹ This is what the LORD says: "Heaven is my
throne, and the earth is my footstool....
Where will my resting place be?

² Has not my hand made all these things,
and so they came into being?"
declares the LORD.

"These are the ones I look on with FAVOR:
those who are HUMBLE
and contrite in spirit,
and who TREMBLE at my WORD.

and *WHAT?* – “Tremble as My WORD!”



Isaiah, c. 1508, fresco from the Sistine
Chapel ceiling, by Michelangelo



And the last two verses of Psalm 138

**⁷ If I walk in the thick of danger, you will preserve
you life from the anger of my enemies. You will
extend your hand; your right hand will save me.**

**⁸ The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me. Lord, your
love is eternal; do not abandon the work of your hands.**

**A Psalm of David ... who can listen to David
singing verse 7 and NOT think of Psalm 23?**

**Yeah, though I walk through the Valley of the
Shadow of Death, I will fear no evil.**

For thou art with me.

**Maybe David wrote Psalm 138 BEFORE 23?
Psalm 23 being a more mature version?**



138:7-8 God will Fulfill – Your Love is Eternal

7 If I WALK IN THE THICK OF DANGER, you will preserve you life from the anger of my enemies. You will extend your HAND; your right HAND will save me.

As with its possible and more famous son in Ps. 23

**David is seeing God's HAND at work ... SAVING
There is FAITH ... and HOPE ...**

But what is this WHOLE Psalm 138 about?

What is the overall TENOR ... PURPOSE

**Unlike Psalm 23 whose clarity is part of its majesty
Psalm 23 is the "Shepherd's Psalm"**

What is the moniker or PURPOSE to Psalm 138?

138:7-8 God will Fulfill – Your Love is Eternal

⁸ The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me. Lord, your love is eternal; do not abandon the work of your hands.

KJV, ⁸ The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, *endureth* for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.

NIV, ⁸ The LORD will vindicate me; your love, LORD, endures forever—do not abandon the works of your hands.

Psalm 138 has no Shepherd motif ...

Psalm 138's OVERALL purpose seems much harder to see

From where we have travelled so far ... I propose the motif

Gratitude for Keeping Thy Word

Their ship crushed ...

Oct. 27, 1915 ...

Endurance sank ...

Shackleton stayed
up all night ...

Morning at 5:00 a.m.

Shackleton
served coffee ...

He said,

**“Ship and stores have gone—
so now we go home.”**

They had three life boats and some food left ...



Crew pulls a lifeboat
across the ice



With the *Endurance* sunk ...

Shackleton determines ...

Only way to survive is to get
to Elephant Island ...

They moved from Ocean Camp
to Patience Camp ...

April 1916—ice begins to break up

Three lifeboats & 28 men
sail & oar to Elephant Island

But who will KNOW?

They are STILL marooned ...



Shackleton sees the **ONLY** hope
REACH the whaling station on
South Georgia Island

800 naut. miles away in some of
the most treacherous seas ...

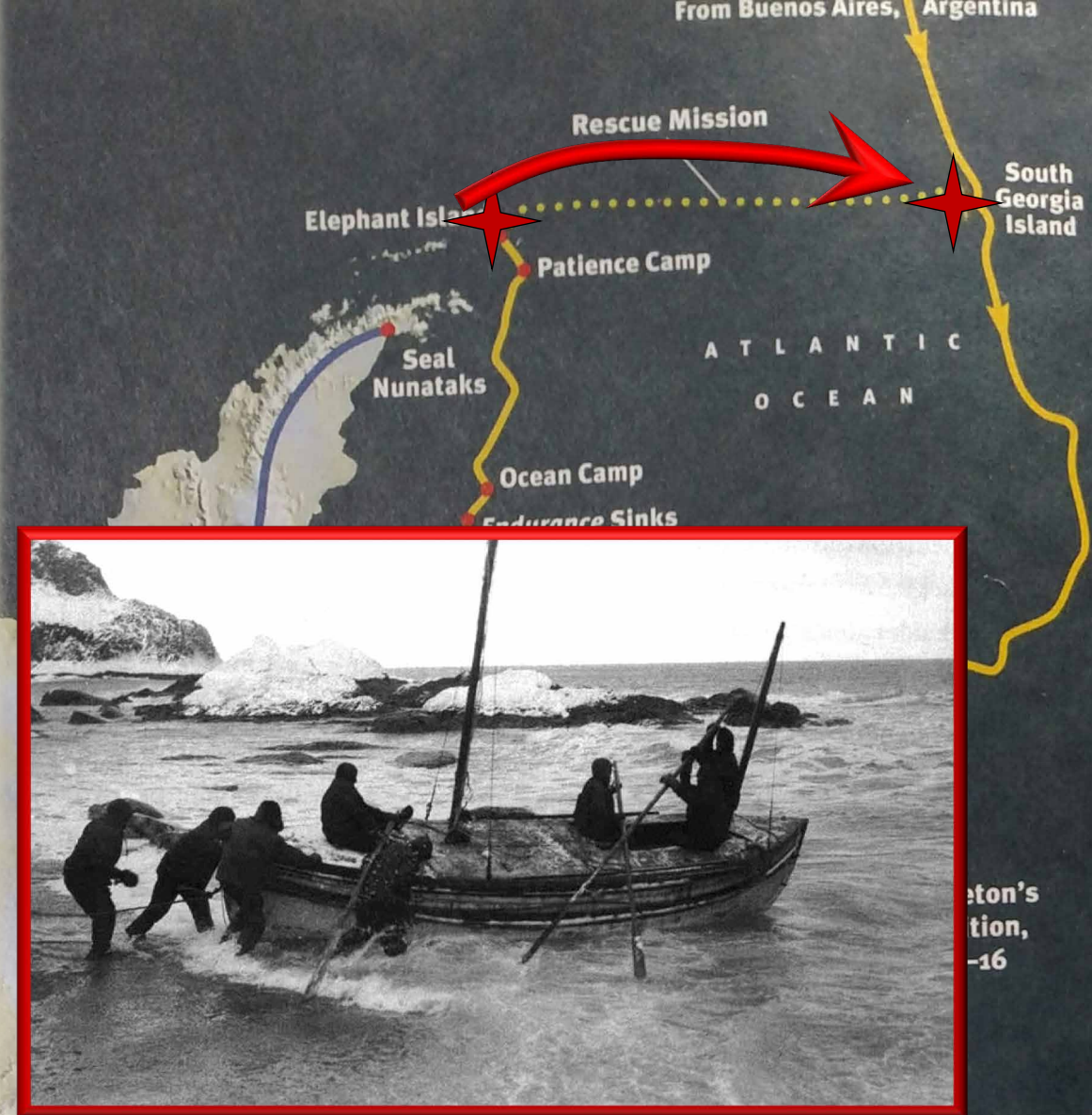
Shackleton & 4 others set sail
in the 22-ft *James Caird*

23 left behind ... their **ONLY** hope

Shackleton's skill & word ...
They Pray

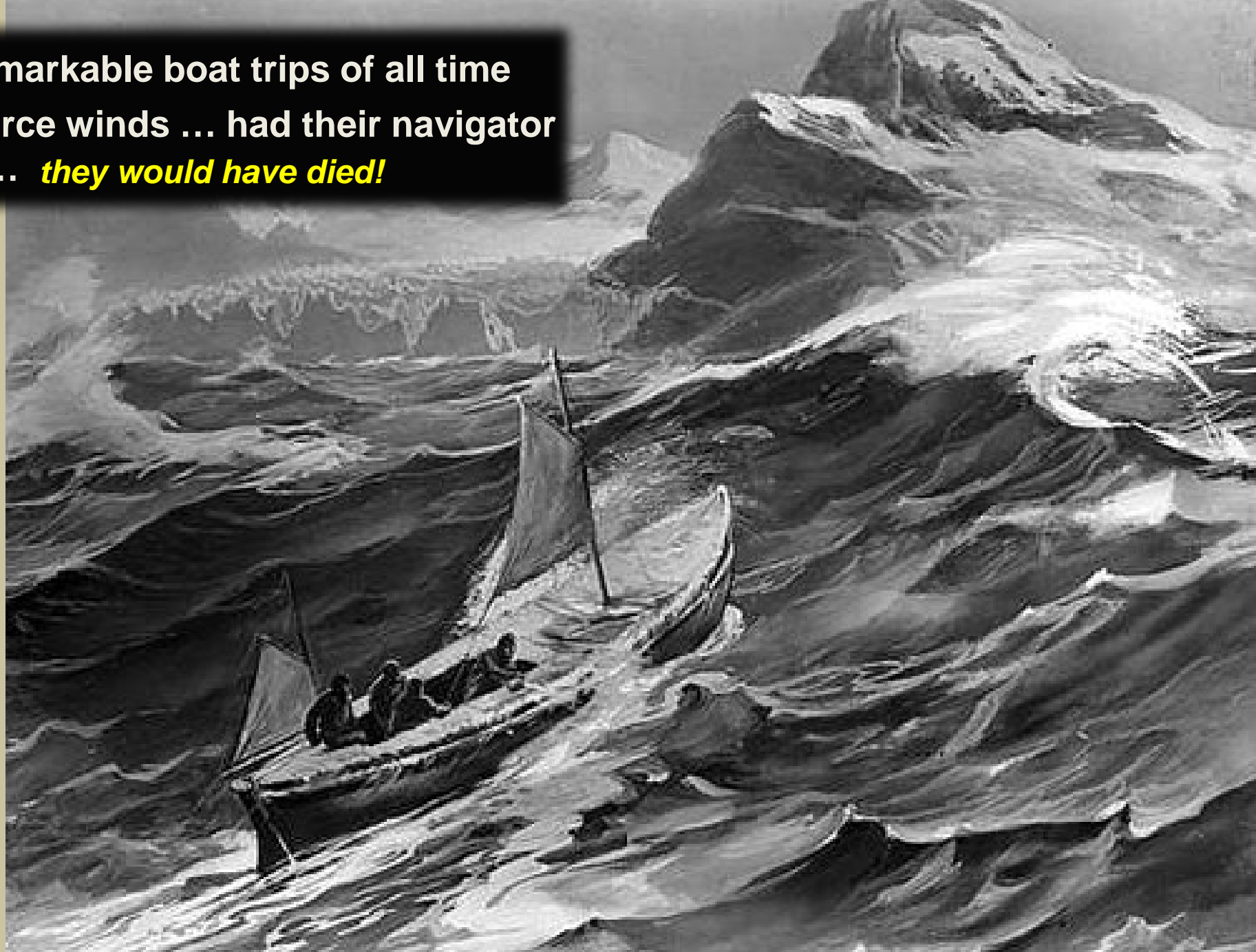
Took Shackleton 17 days to reach
South Georgia Island

cross 22 miles of glaciers to get to the whaling post



One of the most remarkable boat trips of all time
facing hurricane-force winds ... had their navigator
been off 1 degree ... *they would have died!*

Painting of
James Caird
nearing South
Georgia Island
in *South* (1919)
by William Heinemann



23 men made shelter of 2 lifeboats
Nearly starving ... cold, cold, cold
It would take THREE tries ...

James Caird left in April 1916 ...

23 were starving by August 1916

TWO YEARS since they left ...

Even the penguins stop coming

**They said they would have to
EAT the first man who died!**

Bleak ... terrible



800 miles away—Shackleton
Tried THREE times ...
FOUR MONTHS ... yet
Shackleton returned ...
On the third try ... success
While rescue ship itself
was running low food ...
11:40 am August, 30, 1916
the **FOG LIFTED** ...
Shackleton saw his men
They saw him ...



First believed a photo of Shackleton's return ...
later determined to be a photo of departure
Frank Hurley, renown photographer, forced leave
100s of photos behind in trek from Ocean Camp to
Patience Camp

for **FOUR MONTHS ...**

They waited ...

**Shackleton left them ... to do what
must have seemed IMPOSSIBLE**

As they are DYING ...

Waiting on SOMEONE to die ...

so they can finally ... sadly ...

... EAT ...

How do they cope?

How do they HOPE?



Day after day ...

They relied on SHACKLETON

His WORD ...

His LIFE backing up his WORD

There are DEGREES of Faith ...

There are DEGREES of Hope ...

Whatever HOPE they had left ...

Was in the character of that man
Ernest Shackleton

Then ... as the **FOG LIFTED**

they saw him



GRATITUDE ...

Like a spring ...

GRATITUDE ...

Like a fountain ...

**GRATITUDE ... is best ...
when it is not contrived ...**

**GRATITUDE ... the deepest ...
springs from the heart ...**

**11:40 am August, 30, 1916
the **FOG LIFTED** ...**

**Tears WANTED to come ... but they were too near death...
weakest one ... thankful too ... he would not be ...**



First believed a photo of Shackleton's return ...
later determined to be a photo of departure

In King David's case ...

Gratitude like a spring ...

GRATITUDE ...

Like a fountain ...

GRATITUDE ... not contrived

**GRATITUDE ... from deep ...
within his heart ...**

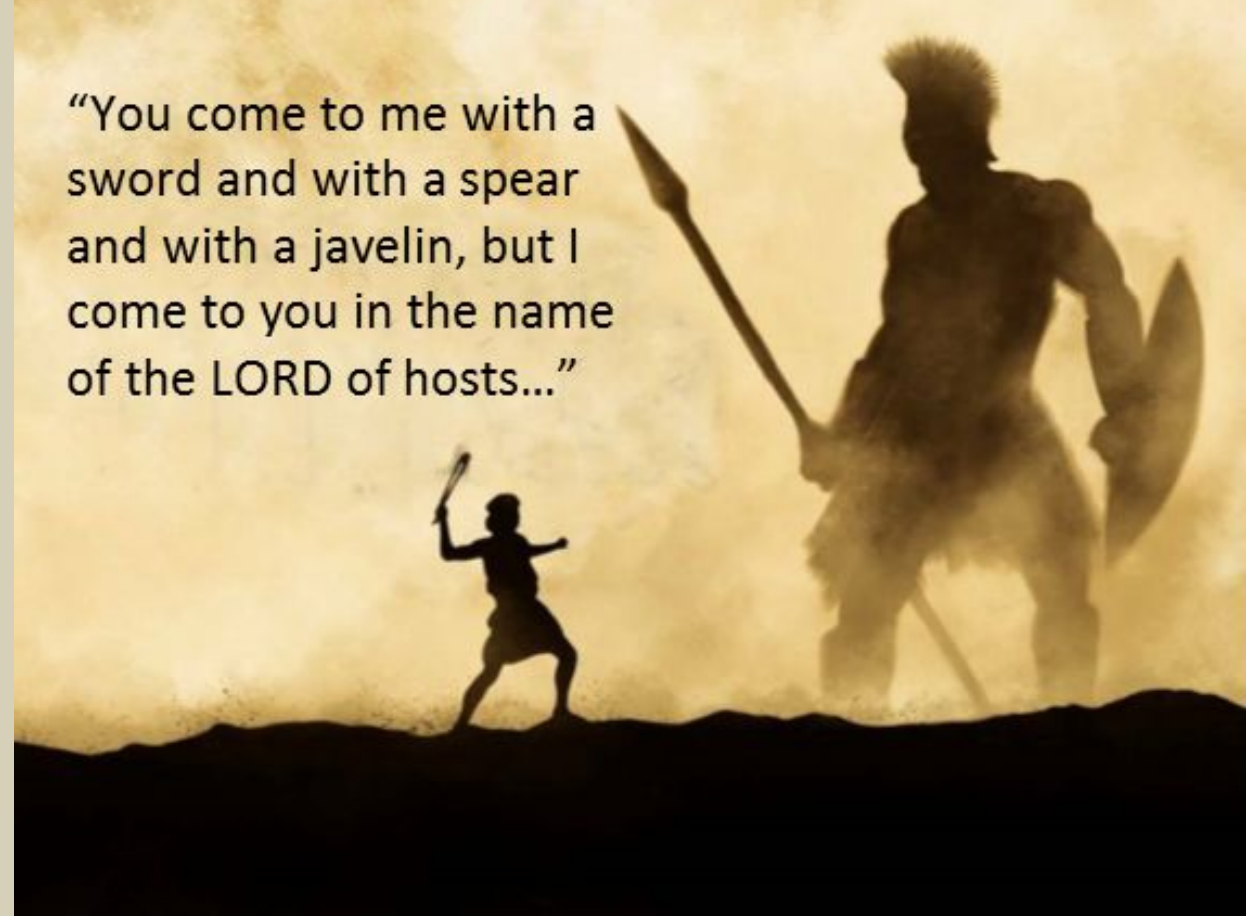
David was a WITNESS ...

God would KEEP his promises

David's GRATITUDE was NOT mere Faith ... NOT mere Hope ...

David KNEW God ... was a Friend of God

**"You come to me with a
sword and with a spear
and with a javelin, but I
come to you in the name
of the LORD of hosts..."**



Raymond Priestley ... who
knew Shackleton for decades

Who served under Shackleton on
an expedition before the *Endurance*
Priestley said,

“For swift and efficient travel,
give me Amundsen;

for scientific investigation, give me Scott;

but when you are at your wit's end
and all else fails, go down on your
knees and pray for Shackleton.”



First believed a photo of Shackleton's return ...
later determined to be a photo of departure

King David Sang

- ¹ I will praise thee with my **WHOLE HEART**: before the god-like **KINGs**—**anyone**—will I sing praise unto thee.
- ² I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy **lovingkindness** and for thy truth:
for thou hast magnified thy WORD
above all thy name.
- ³ In the day when I cried thou **answeredst** me,
and **strengthenedst** me with strength in my **soul**.
- ⁴ All the kings of the earth shall praise thee,
O LORD, **when they hear the words of thy mouth.**
- ⁵ Yea, they [*kings*] shall sing in the ways of the
LORD: for great is the glory of the LORD.

King David Sang

- ⁶ Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.
- ⁷ Though I walk in the **midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me:** thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.
- ⁸ The LORD **will perfect** that which concerneth me: thy **mercy**, O LORD, **endureth for ever:**
forsake not the works of thine own hands.

We Sing Too

We have HIS Word
Our Father ... Abba
His mercy endures
FOREVER

How humble would it be if ...

at least once in our lives we felt the **GRATITUDE**
felt by Shackleton's men ... **TO GOD**

We **WERE** sentenced to death and **MORE** hopeless too
TOTALLY dependent on the actions of **ONE SAVIOR**

FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
see

PreciousHeart.net/SS

