**1 Chronicles 16:34-36 Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for *He is* good! For His mercy endures forever. 35And say, “Save us, O God of our salvation; Gather us together, and deliver us from the Gentiles, To give thanks to Your holy name, To triumph in Your praise.” 36Blessed *be* the Lord God of Israel From everlasting to everlasting!**

God is always to be thanked. God is to be thanked in the bright times and in the dark times, in the healthy times and in the sick times, in the rich times and in the poor times. Because God’s goodness is not grounded in this world. God’s goodness is grounded in eternity. When we think of God’s mercy, it has nothing to do with the imperfection of man and it has everything to do with the perfection of God. The salvation we cling to isn’t found in the strength of this earth, but the strength of the Maker of this Earth. We’ve nothing to fear when our faith is found in Jesus Christ. Our triumph is found in His praise. Praising God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit regardless of our circumstances… that is when we know He has given us true triumph.

Our scripture this morning is found as David and Israel have just brought the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem, after the Philistines took it in war in 1 Samuel 4, the Philistines took it into their temple and, in the morning, Dagon their god was on his face before the Ark, the next morning, Dagon was broken in pieces and the Philistines started to get very sick. It ended up in Kirjath Jearim and now it’s home in Jerusalem. David settles it into the Tabernacle and gives thanks to God in what has become known as his Song of Thanksgiving. It’s a joyful time for Israel.

Anytime that we get to come before the Lord is a time for Thanksgiving. Even when worldly elections are pending, we give thanks to the Lord. Even when sickness is around us that we don’t understand, we give thanks to the Lord. Even when the economy is sputtering, we give thanks to the Lord. Why? Well, the answer is in verse 34 there - *Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.* God is good – therefore we give thanks! Psalm 145:9 says *The Lord is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works.* Luke 18:19 says - *So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.* Nahum 1:7 says - *The Lord is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He (God) knows those who trust in Him.* Why do we wake up in the morning with Thanksgiving in our hearts and praise on our minds? Because God is good all the days of our lives, He is infinitely merciful to those who seek Him, and He has given us another day that we did nothing to deserve.

Verse 35 goes on - *And say, “Save us, O God of our salvation; Gather us together, and deliver us from the Gentiles, To give thanks to Your holy name, To triumph in Your praise.”* David continues his song. He is thankful for the salvation that God has given to them. God is their Salvation, just as He is ours. God the Son offers that Salvation to Jew and Gentile alike.

David is thankful for the way that Israel has been able to gather together, delivered from the heathen Philistines. But David realizes why they’ve gathered together. It’s not so David’s name can be praised and his kingdom uplifted. It is so that thanksgiving and praise can be given to God’s Name for the triumph of His people. The purpose of worship in that day and the purpose of worship in this day is exactly the same - to uplift God and His Kingdom and prepare ourselves to meet the unbeliever just outside the front doors. The church isn’t supposed to be a safe base, but a launching pad. We’re not here to complain about the week behind, but prepare for the week ahead! God has exciting things for His people to do. Are we here this morning to retreat or to recharge? My hope is recharge, reinvigorate, realign and launch back into the world.

Verse 36 *Blessed be the Lord God of Israel From everlasting to everlasting!* David finishes with blessing God’s name. The word used here for blessed has the idea of kneeling down with face to the ground in humble praise. David was on his knees praising his God for goodness, mercy, and salvation.

How often do we find ourselves tearful, crying in Thanksgiving for God’s greatness? Does the church still possess that gratefulness to God or have we outgrown it? I hope not. I hope not.

Thanksgiving Day is 39 days away. As we enter into this season of Thanksgiving, let’s focus less on the turkey, the elephant, the donkey of America and a little more on the Lion of Judah… let’s be less concerned with the distractions that steal our thankfulness, rob our peace. This week, let’s think instead about God’s greatness, His goodness, His mercy, His salvation, His forgiveness, and His kindness to wake us up and bring us to a place where we feel loved, so we might go out and help others find that same love this week. If we’re not here for God’s Kingdom… then why are we here at all? Let’s start our Thanksgiving season with the triumph of Praise as we leave this place today.