

“The Exalted God Who Stoops to the Dust”

Psalm 113

- The first of the “Hallel” psalms (113-118)
- Sung or recited at the three great feasts, at the Dedication, and at the new moons
- This likely was one of those psalms sung by our Lord at the Last Supper

The Glory of God shines brightest in His Saving Grace

1. The Call to Praise God

vv. 1-3

(1) The LORD is worthy to be praised (1)

“Praise the LORD!

- He is especially to be praised by His servants,
the redeemed

*Praise, O servants of the LORD,
Praise the name of the LORD!”*

- He is to be praised for the excellence of His name
– according to the greatness of His being and character.

(2) His name is to be praised *at all times* (2)

*“Blessed be the name of the LORD
from this time forth and forevermore!”*

(3) His name is to be praised *across the whole earth* (3)

*“From the rising of the sun
to its going down”*

2. The Reason to Praise God

vv. 4-9

(1) He is Incomparably High and Exalted

*“The LORD is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens.”*

- He is incomparably greater than all of the nations! (cf. Is. 40:15)

- He is incomparably greater than the whole of the created order! (cf. Is. 40:12)

(2) While being so High and Exalted, He looks so far down! (5-9)

-1- He humbles himself in order to consider the created order! 5-6

- Nothing in all the realm of the creatures
that are beneath him escapes his sight! *“Who is like the LORD our God,
who is seated on high,
who looks far down on the heavens
and on the earth?”*
- He is entirely sovereign over all of the creation
- As He is infinite in His exalted nature,
so the humbling of Himself is of a vast and astonishing measure!

-2- He humbles himself in His saving work! Two “Gospel Portraits” 7-9

- God’s bounty and grace
lavished upon the outcast and beggar. *“He raises the poor from the dust,
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people.”*
- Those in deepest poverty and need,
forgotten by society!
- God raises them up out of a state of misery and seats them with princes!

- God’s bounty and grace
shown toward the barren woman. *“He gives the barren woman a home,
making her the joyous mother of children.”*
- cf. Hannah’s exaltation out of sorrow and reproach (1 Sam 1)
- God looks upon such a one and entirely changes her circumstance.

Further Application