

Evening Sermon / February 13, 2022 / Psalm 135 “Praise the LORD!”

This Psalm is a compilation of many other Psalms and passages of Scripture: Verses :1 & 2 A are taken from Psalm 134, while :2 B and 3 A are similar to Psalm 116:19; :4 = Deuteronomy 7:6. Verse :5 corresponds to Psalm 95:3 / Verse :7 to Jeremiah 10:13 / Verse :13 to Exodus 3:15 / Verse :14 to Deuteronomy 32:36 / Verses :6 & :15-18 seem to be taken from Psalm 115 / the themes of verses :8-12 seem to be repeated in the next Psalm, Psalm 136! Why?

Psalms 135 (this Psalm) & 136 are the first Psalms after the Psalms of Ascent --- “When we all ... get to Heaven ... what a DAY of Rejoicing that will be ...”

*To me this seems a SONG / Psalm of Arrival, we have been ascending, now we are THERE!
We are living, rejoicing, in Heavenly Air!*

We have been singing these songs, on our way, all along!

What we sang on our climb, we will sing now, better, at HOME – Philippians 3:20

I. A call to worship, to praise the LORD, Hallelujah! –

¹ Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD; Praise Him, O you servants of the LORD! ² You who stand in the house of the LORD, In the courts of the house of our God, ³Praise the LORD, ... Psalm 135:1–3 A (NKJV)

II. Reasons for praising God:

1. God’s inherent goodness -

for the LORD is good;... Psalm 135:3 B *Two things I remember from Japan – (1) shu wa subarachi – God is so good / wonderful and (2) hanoch so ...*

2. The pleasure of worship itself -

Sing praises to His name, for it is pleasant. Psalm 135:3 C (NKJV)

3. Because of God’s gracious choice –

⁴ For the LORD has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel for His special treasure. Psalm 135:4 (NKJV)

A. God chose Jacob before he was born, and named for his future sin- supplanter - and despite his sin!

B. Yet, God choose Israel, (actually the same person) because of His PRAYER and his POWER; because of his dependence upon God –

³¹ But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV)

So, if He chooses any of us, He chooses us: despite our sin(s) and because of the holy person(s) He plans to make us –

³ Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Psalm 100:3 (NKJV)

¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)

4. *Because of His superiority over all false gods -*

⁵ For I know that the LORD is great, And our Lord is above all gods. Psalm 135:5 (NKJV)

Our God is superior to all others, because:

A. *He does as He pleases, no one can stop Him -*

⁶ Whatever the LORD pleases He does, In heaven and in earth, In the seas and in all deep places. Psalm 135:6 (NKJV)

B. *Because He controls and sustains His natural creation, even for our and its benefit -*

⁷ He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes lightning for the rain; He brings the wind out of His treasuries. Psalm 135:7 (NKJV)

C. *He defeats both His, and our enemies, and in doing so He displays both His power and justice -*

⁸ He destroyed the firstborn of Egypt, Both of man and beast. ⁹ He sent signs and wonders into the midst of you, O Egypt, Upon Pharaoh and all his servants. ¹⁰ He defeated many nations And slew mighty kings— ¹¹ Sihon king of the Amorites, Og king of Bashan, And all the kingdoms of Canaan— ¹² And gave their land as a heritage, A heritage to Israel His people. Psalm 135:8–12 (NKJV)

D. *Because the idols, themselves, are all NOTHINGS and NO-bodies -*

¹⁵ The idols of the nations are silver and gold, The work of men's hands. ¹⁶ They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; ¹⁷ They have ears, but they do not hear; Nor is there any breath in their mouths. ¹⁸ Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them. Psalm 135:15–18 (NKJV)

5. *Because His Name and Fame are FOREVER, praising God never grows old -*

¹³ Your name, O LORD, endures forever, Your fame, O LORD, throughout all generations. Psalm 135:13 (NKJV)

6. *He is both compassionate and just -*

¹⁴ For the LORD will judge His people, And He will have compassion on His servants. Psalm 135:14 (NKJV)

III. *Let us close our worship, praising God, all of us -*

¹⁹ Bless the LORD, O house of Israel! Bless the LORD, O house of Aaron! ²⁰ Bless the LORD, O house of Levi! You who fear the LORD, bless the LORD! ²¹ Blessed be the LORD out of Zion, Who dwells in Jerusalem! Praise the LORD! Psalm 135:19–21 (NKJV)

1. *Israel is the nation God chose - :19 A*

2. *Aaron & Levi - :19 B & :20 A are the priests God chose to lead worship*

3. *You who fear the LORD, God fearers, was a reference to Gentile believers - :20 B*

4. *Zion is symbolic of God's dwelling place, we dwell with Him, as Immanuel, He dwells with us - :21*

²³ "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." Matthew 1:23 (NKJV)

Praise God we will be with Him and His, this is a Seventh Reason for Praise -

³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Revelation 21:3–4 (NKJV)