

Lesson 143  
Psalm 135

I. Introduction

- A. Psalms 135 and 136 are the last two “Great Hallel Psalms.” Remember, we said the “song of ascents” were included in the Hallelis which simply mean to praise the LORD or hallelujah! Psalm 135 is also considered a “mosaic” because parts of this Psalm are taken from other scriptures. For example, verses one and two from this Psalm closely resemble Psalm 134, the end of verse two and beginning of verse three duplicate Psalm 116:9, verse four reminds us of Deuteronomy 7:6, verse six is similar to Psalm 115:3, and lastly, verses fifteen through eighteen are almost exact to Psalm 115:4-8.
- B. The Psalm is most likely a post-exilic one with no human author given. The theme of the Psalm is to praise the LORD! The Psalm calls us to praise: (1) His goodness, (2) His election, (3) His greatness, (4) His sovereignty, (5) His name, (6) He is the living LORD and (7) He is LORD overall.

II. Call to praise (v1,2)

- A. Three-fold repeat of praise. Lawson states, “repeating something three times raises what is said to be the superlative degree. Praising God should be one’s highest goal, greatest passion, and noblest activity.” We are to boast about the LORD, or brag about Him alone. (Gal 6:14; 2 Cor 12:1-6; Rev 1:6, 4:11, 5:9-15)
- B. From his servants, those who stand in the house of the LORD. God has so designed that leaders should be accountable, responsible, and should model Godly attitudes and behaviors. This encourages and builds up all of God’s people! So, the call to praise the LORD must start from leadership within the church and so trickle down to everyone. (Psalm 134:1)

III. We praise Him for: (v3-14)

- A. His Name (v1,3,13) As we have learned multiple times in Psalms, the name of God represents His character, His attributes, His personality, His nature, His promises etc....When the Psalmist tells us to praise His name, he tells us to remember, be thankful for, meditate on, have confidence in who God is! He is always faithful, immutable, trustworthy, present, Holy, gracious, merciful, empathetic to us. (Ps 83:18, 103:8-14; Is 48:9-11, 54:5-10,17; Ex 34:5-7) It endures forever along with His fame!
- B. His Goodness (v3) His goodness flows from His nature and character. There is no possibility of anything that is sinful, that defiles, which has any evil within it! His purposes, His methods, His motivations all spring from a perfect deity! (Ps 16:2, 25:8, 34:8, 73:1, 86:5, 100:5, 106:1, 107:1, 118:1, 136:1, 145:9)
- C. His Election. (v4) God chose the nation for Himself. Out of all the nations of the earth, Israel is the only nation that God has chosen. (Dt 4:29-37, 7:6-8, 9:29; Ps 65:4,147:20; Amos 3:2; Rom 9:1-5, 11:11-18) As this parallels the church, God also has chosen Gentiles for salvation! (Eph 1:4; Rom 8:29,30, 9:11-16; John 15:16; 1 Thess1:4; II Thess 2:13; II Tim 2:10; I Pet 1:2)
  - 1. Notice the difference election makes. Jacob was born a deceiver, supplanter. God changed him to a prince! We are new in Christ Jesus, the old passes away and all things become new. (2 Cor 5:17; 1 Cor 6:9-11; Eph 2:1-10)
  - 2. Special treasure. Thomas Brooks helps with this comment, “the Hebrew word sequallah signifies God’s special jewels, God’s proper ones, or God’s secret ones, that he keeps in store for himself, and for his own special treasure.” (Is 62:2-5; Mal 3:17; Dt 14:2, 26:18; Ex 19:5)
- D. His Greatness (v5) The “I Know” is emphatic in the Hebrew! The Psalmist had a personal and precious experience of the greatness of Jehovah’s power, and of his infinite supremacy above all gods. (Henry Cowles) This is an assured confidence, undoubting, calm that should penetrate all our hearts! Do you have this understanding of His power!
  - 1. He is sovereign! (v6, Ps 115:3; Is 40:10-11,13,15,17,18,28-30, 42:1-9, 43:10-13, 44:6-8)
  - 2. Demonstrated to Israel (v7-14)
    - a. Nature
    - b. Deliverance from Egypt
    - c. Defeat of mighty kings (Num 21)
    - d. Giving of land. (Gen 15:18-21; Ps 78:55, 136:21,22)
    - e. Compassion to his servants.
- E. The distinction between idols and God (v15-18; Ps 115:4-8)
  - 1. Idols are the work of men’s hands; God is an uncreated, eternal, being!
  - 2. Idols are perishable; God is eternal.
  - 3. Idols do not communicate; God is omniscient!
  - 4. Idols are not alive; God has always been!
  - 5. Idols are untrustworthy; God can be trusted.

F. Final exhortations (v19-21)

IV. Application to us today!

- A. Do we praise the LORD as we should?
- B. Do you know why you praise the LORD? Can you communicate these truths to a lost world? Your neighbor? Family?
- C. What humbles you about this Psalm?

