

“Praise the Lord! Praise the name of the Lord; praise Him, O you servants of the Lord!” —Psalm 135:1

Psalm 135 is a powerful hymn of worship that begins and ends with the word “Hallelujah”—a joyful command to *praise the LORD*. It’s a psalm that lifts our hearts upward to worship the one true and living God, who is active in creation, sovereign in history, and full of lovingkindness toward His people. But it’s also a warning against false worship and the idolatry that deforms the soul.

Verses 1–3: A Call to Praise

“Praise the Lord! Praise the name of the Lord; praise Him, O you servants of the Lord! You who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God, praise the Lord!”

The psalm opens with an invitation—really, a command—to praise the LORD. This isn’t just religious formalism or ritual. This is heartfelt worship from those who know the Lord personally and serve Him faithfully.

Personal Application:

If you’ve experienced God’s goodness, you have reason to praise. Worship isn’t reserved for church leaders or musicians. Every follower of Christ—every servant of the Lord—is called to lift their voice in praise. Are you praising God out of habit, or out of love? Do you recognize that *praise is part of your priesthood* as a believer (1 Peter 2:9)?

Verses 4–7: He Chose You, He Reigns Over All

“For the Lord has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel for His special treasure.”

God chose Israel as His possession—not because they were great, but because He is gracious. His greatness is displayed not just in election but also in His control over nature—vapors, lightning, rain, wind—all obey His voice.

Personal Application:

If you belong to God, it is not because of your merit, but because of His mercy. You are His “treasured possession.” This truth should humble you and cause you to rest securely in His love. You are not forgotten. The Creator of the winds has called you His own.

Verses 8–14: God’s Saving Acts in History

“He struck down the firstborn of Egypt... He gave their land as a heritage... For the Lord will judge His people, and He will have compassion on His servants.”

Here, the psalmist recounts the mighty acts of deliverance that God performed for Israel. From Egypt to Canaan, God’s hand was evident in every victory. But verse 14 is key: *“He will have compassion on His servants.”*

Personal Application:

God is not only powerful—He is compassionate. He intervenes on behalf of His people and redeems

them. This same God who delivered Israel still delivers today. What has He brought you through? What Red Sea has He parted in your life? Praise Him—not just for what He has done, but for who He is.

Verses 15–18: The Folly of Idols

“The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands... Those who make them are like them; so is everyone who trusts in them.”

This contrast is sharp. Man-made gods may have mouths, eyes, and ears—but they are lifeless. Worse yet, *those who trust in them become like them—spiritually dull, blind, cold, hard, and lifeless.*

Personal Application:

The principle here is sobering: You become like the god you worship.

If you chase idols—whether materialism, success, sex, power, or even religious tradition without relationship—you will become spiritually numb. But if you seek the living God, the image of Christ is formed in you (2 Corinthians 3:18). Examine your heart: *Who—or what—is shaping you?*

Verses 19–21: Everyone, Praise the LORD

“Bless the Lord, O house of Israel... O house of Aaron... O house of Levi... You who fear the Lord, bless the Lord!”

No one is left out. From priests to everyday believers, all are summoned to bless the Lord—to declare His worth and respond in worship.

Personal Application:

Are you a worshipper in name only, or in truth? God is not looking for spectators—He desires worshippers who bless Him from the heart. You don’t need a stage or a sanctuary. You can praise Him right now, wherever you are.

Final Reflection: True Worship Transforms

Psalms 135 reminds us that worship is both a declaration and a transformation. It centers us in truth: God is sovereign, powerful, good, and merciful. He is not like the false gods of this world—He is alive and active.

When we choose to bless the Lord, we realign our hearts with the truth of who He is—and we become more like Him in the process. Worship isn’t for God’s benefit—it’s for ours. It changes us from the inside out.

Prayer:

*Lord, You are good, and Your name is worthy to be praised.
Thank You for calling me Your treasured possession.
Help me turn from lifeless idols and fix my heart on You.
May I bless You not just with words, but with a life surrendered in love.
In Jesus’ name, Amen.*