

YOU WHO FEAR THE LORD, BLESS THE LORD!

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PSALM 135 Praise to God in Creation and Redemption

Psalm 135 135:1-7

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, for the Lord is good; sing praises to His name, for it is pleasant.

For the Lord has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel for His special treasure. For I know that the Lord is great, and our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the Lord pleases He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deep places. 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 135:13-21

Your name, O Lord, endures forever, Your fame, O Lord, throughout all generations. For the Lord will judge His people, and He will have compassion on His servants.

The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak; eyes they have, but they do not see; they have ears, but they do not hear; nor is there any breath in their mouths. Those who make them are like them; so is everyone who trusts in them.

Bless the Lord, O house of Israel! Bless the Lord, O house of Aaron! Bless the Lord, O house of Levi! You who fear the Lord, bless the Lord! Blessed be the Lord out of Zion, Who dwells in Jerusalem!

Praise the Lord!

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This Psalm is subtitled as "Praise to God in Creation and Redemption". It is not attributed to David or the sons of Korah, or anyone else that we know of who wrote a Psalm or two or more. It is also not one of the Psalms that people tend to quote from. It is not considered by many or possibly by anyone to be their favorite Psalm. It is not one of the Messianic Psalms that prophesies of God the Savior through Jesus the Christ. It is not one of the "Penitential Psalms" that does a confessing of sin and asking for God's forgiveness and mercy. Those are all good and worthy of our spending time in reading them and meditating on them and then taking them to the Lord in prayer. It is also not part of what is considered to be the "Hallelujah Psalms", even though it does start with "Praise the Lord" and ends with "Praise the Lord". You would think it should be a "Hallelujah Psalm" then, right?

The primary reason for picking this Psalm to study and to meditate on, and to then take to the Lord in prayer, is from the phrase "Whatever the Lord pleases He does". There is but one God Almighty. There is but one El Elyon (God most high). God spoke to Isaiah, the prophet, saying, "Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,'" (**Isaiah 46:9-10**)

Once again, for us, not only can we read of what God has done in the past, and get an idea of who God is, from the Word of God, but we are also reminded that we are not to be trying to get God on our plan and purpose but it is up to us to get on His plan and purpose. God alone knows where He is heading with His creation and all that is in it. That indeed speaks to the Sovereignty of God. He alone is the one and only true God. We know too, from Scripture, that God is comprised of three persons, but is one God. "For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one." (**1 John 5:7**)

Another important phrase in this Psalm says, "You who fear the Lord, bless the Lord!" As we cannot manipulate God into bending to our will, that God already sees the end from the beginning, it should become us to fear the Lord. David, in Psalm 86, said "unite my heart to fear Your name." (**Psalm 86:11**) While it is clear that David was asking God FOR the fear of the Lord, he was asking specifically for God to unite his heart to fear the Lord. [Gotquestions.org](https://www.gotquestions.org/unite-my-heart-to-fear-your-name.html) gave this as a response to David's prayer for God to unite his heart to fear Him. "The words unite my heart may sound a bit peculiar to modern-day Bible readers. The plea to "unite my heart to fear Your name" can also be rendered "give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name" (NIV) or "grant me purity of heart, so that I may honor you" (NLT). Like all of us, David was flawed. His affections were often inclined to roam. But David recognized this tendency in himself and continually sought to reorient his heart and compel it toward the single-minded pursuit of God."¹ That should sound familiar to us from the teachings of Jesus. Jesus said, "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." (**Matthew 6:24**)

That fear of the Lord essentially is putting God at the top of our priority list. It should become us to want to do God's will more than anything else. We have been given a great secret to the mystery of life that really is revealed in this Psalm in combining the two phrases, "Whatever the Lord pleases He does" and then "You who fear the Lord, bless the Lord!" You tie that in with Christ being the one

1 <https://www.gotquestions.org/unite-my-heart-to-fear-your-name.html>

who works in us TO bless the Lord and we have a greater understanding than practically all of the people on this earth. There are a great number of people that won't believe that, or just don't want to accept that, since it goes against their holding onto their own will and their own loving of their "mammon". According to gotquestions.org "The word mammon comes from the Greek word mammonas. Similar root words exist in Hebrew, Latin, Aramaic, Chaldean, and Syriac. They all translate to "money, wealth, and material possessions.""² As we know though from Scripture, anything that hinders our relationship with God, is sin and must be dealt with. The fear of the Lord then begins with recognizing that we all have sinned against God. A true test, as I have mentioned before, for anyone who may contest to the Lord that they are blameless, is in what Jesus said was the Great Commandment of God's and that the second is like it. Jesus said that the Great Commandment is that we are to love God with all of our heart, soul, strength and mind" and then the second, which is called the Royal Law, is that we are to love our neighbors as ourselves.

There is but one way that we can **wholeheartedly** accept that "whatever the Lord pleases He does" and then "You who fear the Lord, bless the Lord!" It is truly in Christ alone. In **1 Corinthians 1:30** we know that it is in Christ, that He is our **Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption**. When we have believed on Christ and received Him, by being born-again, and as Jesus clarified, born of the Spirit, where we have received the Holy Spirit, He then works in us the **Fruit of the Spirit** which is "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law." (**Galatians 5:22-23**)

Again, as David prayed to God, "unite my heart to fear Your name", he was praying for God to change his heart. Similarly, pulling together the fear of the Lord together with how God working is in us, through the Holy Spirit, the Apostle Paul said, "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." (**Philippians 2:12-13**) Interestingly, the next verses Paul says is, "Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, **holding fast the word of life**, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain."

Our responsibility is in holding onto our faith, that comes from God, which is in Christ Jesus. As the Israelites were told to cling to God, for He is their life, we are cling to Jesus, for HE IS OUR LIFE. We are to be "holding fast [to] the word of life"! The Word of God

2 <https://www.gotquestions.org/what-is-mammon.html>

has a two-fold meaning for us. It is in the written Word of God, the Holy Bible, and then the Word is also Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God. So we are holding onto His Word and His promises and we are clinging to Jesus, trusting that He IS going to get us to the finish line, so to speak. We are told to continue to "lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (**Hebrews 12:1-2**)

Throughout our study of the Psalms we have recognized that the one true God, the Creator of all things, our Creator, is to be our Lord, our God, and our Savior. We also learn from the Psalms that we are to

1. know God, which comes from seeking Him in His Word and in prayer,
2. trust God, which comes really from the faith that we have, that we take God at His Word that He is perfect in all of His ways.

Deuteronomy 32:4 says, "He is the Rock, **His work is perfect**; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He." Just think of this---if His work is perfect and He is working in you, what does that tell us? We are and will be perfected in Christ Jesus! 3. we learn the Psalms that we are to honor God, revere Him, and yes to even fear Him for He is "A God of truth and without injustice". God can't change who He is because we don't want to change who we are. God is eventually bringing us into His full glory and perfection and He will not and cannot allow anything less than perfect into His place of dwelling. Can you imagine, being in God's full glory and in His perfection? For those who are in Christ, what a glorious day that will be!

He is to be our Lord, God, and Savior. We are to know Him, trust Him, and fear Him. Yet, for us, the great news is that Jesus took our sins upon Himself so that we can have fellowship with God, and inherit eternal life in His glorious kingdom. Yet if we have just a perspective of just wanting to be saved, we are very much missing what God is telling us in His Word and most especially in the Psalms. He wants us to know HIM, to trust HIM, and to honor, revere, and fear HIM for who HE IS! HE ALONE IS GOD AND IS WORTHY OF ALL OF OUR PRAISE! "Your name, O Lord, endures forever, Your fame, O Lord, throughout all generations. For the Lord will judge His people, and He will have compassion on His servants."

You are not alone. As Paul said of Christ Jesus, in **Ephesians 4:11-16**, "He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, **till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ**; that we should no longer be

children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth **in love**, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the **edifying of itself in love.**"

1 John 4:8 says, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love." What does that mean in relation to being told TO fear the Lord and then bless the Lord? As we are abiding in the love of God in Christ Jesus, as we are allowing Him to work in us His fruit of the Spirit, which includes His love, and then letting Him become us, we are being perfected in the love of God that cast out the fear and leaves us saying, "Praise the name of the Lord!" For He IS worthy of all of our praise and "Whatever the Lord pleases He does"! Praise the Lord!