

## **Praise the Lord at all times!**

### **Psalms 113**

1)Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord, Praise the name of the Lord!

2)Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore!

3)From the rising of the sun to its going down the Lord 's name is to be praised.

4)The Lord is high above all nations, His glory above the heavens.

5)Who is like the Lord our God, who dwells on high,

6)Who humbles Himself to behold the things that are in the heavens and in the earth?

7)He raises the poor out of the dust, and lifts the needy out of the ash heap,

8)That He may seat him with princes— With the princes of His people.

9)He grants the barren woman a home, Like a joyful mother of children.  
Praise the Lord! (Psalms 113:1-9 NKJV)

### **Praise the Lord at all times**

#### **Introduction**

Human beings were made to worship and praise. We praise our marital partners for being handsome or beautiful or strong or diligent or intelligent. We praise our fellow workers or employees when they do their work well and efficiently. We praise our sports teams and our favorite rugby, tennis, and football players when they compete well. We praise our dogs and cats when they obey and are friendly towards

us, and we praise our children when they obey us or do well on their tests and exams or when they develop their talents or for just being themselves. We even have Academy Awards and Music Awards and Sport aAard ceremonies where we give prizes for the best actors, best producers, and best sportsmen of the year, etc. We praise people all the time. That is part of our culture. Even in our churches, we praise Christian authors, like Spurgeon or Calvin or Piper or John Owen for great books and helpful books and commentaries that they have written over the ages. We will be lying if we say we are not bound to praise something or someone. We are slaves of praise. But all this praising going on is not all bad. We acknowledge people who excel in life because God has given them the talents and abilities to excel and achieve things. However, praise becomes sinful when we praise people for their talents and God-given abilities to commit sin. Praise becomes sin when God is not the ultimate object of our praise. When we don't praise people and things for the sake of God, then it becomes sin. As Augustine says: "He loves thee too little if he does not love all things for Thyself." We can also say: "He praises thee too little if he does not praise all things for Thyself."

Our text indicates that the Person to be praised above all and over all is God, the Lord. We will see today why it is fitting to praise God and why it should be a pleasure to praise God. Many Psalms in the Bible are dedicated to praising God like Psalm 97-100, 103,104, and 146-150. "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord" Psalm 150 commands. Today we are going to look at the who, the where, the when, the whom and the why of praising God.

So let's start:

### **1)Who should praise God?**

Verse 1 commands us: "Praise the Lord, all the servants of the Lord!" Only God's people can rightly praise Him because it is only His servants who have received spiritual life from Him. Yes, unbelievers and the ungodly have also received life and breath and clothes and many other things from God, but they have not received spiritual life. And what have the servants of the Lord received? Paul, the apostle,

helps us in this regard. He tells us what the Israelites of old received from God: "For I could wish that I myself was accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen" (Romans 9:3-5).

This is what the people of God received. But I say many Israelites didn't realize what they received. Many didn't praise God with their lives. Jesus even said to the Israelites of his day: "these people honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me." If you are a believer in Christ, you have received so much more than the Israelites did of old. Believers have received forgiveness of sins, deliverance from the slavery of sin, Satan and self, the gift of eternal life, the blessed Holy Spirit, the Treasure of Jesus Christ and an inheritance in heaven! Servant of God, are you praising God for all his benefits? Do you realize the blessing you have in Christ Jesus?

More important are you indeed a servant of God?

## **2)When should God be praised?**

"Blessed be the name of the Lord, from this time forth and forevermore" verse 2 declares!

There is not a time when God shouldn't be blessed and praised! Our text indicates that God is so magnificent and so marvelous and so wonderful as we will see later that not to praise and bless Him forever would be a sin. You would say to me, but you don't know what I've been through in my life. You don't know of the suffering I went through! You would ask me: but are you blind? Look at the evil in the world!! How can we always be praising God? I would reply: Haven't you heard of Romans 8:28 my friend? "God works all things for the good for those who love God and are called to His purposes!" We can praise God because He has a plan and purpose for everything. He is seated on His throne! He is working all things according to the counsel of His will! God will work your greatest nightmare for His greatest

glory and for your greatest good! If we look at Revelation 4,5,7 we see that the saints and the Angels will not stop to praise Him. In fact, since the creation of angels and mankind God has been praised and His praise will never stop!! Revelation states: "Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!" And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!" Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives FOREVER and EVER" (Revelation 5:8-14 NKJV). God is going to be praised and worshipped for all eternity! Are you part of this worship friend? Are you part of that blessed fellowship who are continually filled with praise unto God?

### **3)Where should God be praised?**

From the rising of the sun to it's going down verse 3 commands! Everywhere!!

There is not a place in all creation where God should not be praised. Where the sun rises and where the sun sets are at opposite ends of the earth. We believe that there is life only on planet earth. So it doesn't matter where you are going God is to be praised. That is so because God is omnipresent. There is no place where God is not present. Listen to what the writer of Psalm 139 says: "Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You

are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.” (Psalms 139:7-10 NKJV). Jeremiah said the following about God: "Am I a God near at hand,” says the LORD, “And not a God afar off? Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?” says the LORD; “Do I not fill heaven and earth?” says the LORD" (Jeremiah 23:23-24 NKJV). If you go to town, He is there. If you take a plane to Europe or Asia, He is there. If you take a boat and sail across the seas, He will be there. If you climb the highest mountain or go to the depths of the sea, He will be there! People on each continent and in each country are praising God. There is not a place unfit for praising God. God shouldn't only be praised in church or alone in your house. God should be praised wherever you go! When you walk, when you take a bus or taxi, when you do shopping, when you labor in the field or are washing dishes or when you drive in your motorcar etc. You don't have to praise out loud always. You can praise God in your heart! Always! Rejoice in the Lord! Rejoice always, Paul exhorted us in 1 Thessalonians 5:16).

#### **4) Whom should be praised?**

-- The Lord. Jah (the sacred Name) (Jahwe; the self-existent and eternal one, the Covenant God) the Name of the Lord.

There is only one God in this universe. There are not many gods. God said you shall have no other gods before Me (Exodus 20:1). Twice the word Jah is used for God which is His sacred name. And the rest of the time in this Psalm Jahwe is used which is God's covenant Name and the Name that signifies that He is the self-existent One, the eternal One. God had no beginning. He is in a class of His own. There was no one before Him! He is the uncreated Creator. The Beginner that had no beginning. He is the first and the last. He is the Alpha and Omega! And He is the God that wants a relationship with us. That is what it means when we speak of the Covenant God. God is there to help us, support us, save us, strengthen us and who wants to be there for us! God's other Name is Immanuel, meaning God with us! This God should be praised!

-- Our text says that we must praise the Name of the Lord. God's Name stands for His honor, authority, and character, especially His character. God's character refers to what He is like. So what does the Bible say about God? Here follows a short summary. Let's start with His transcendence: in other words, what makes God different from humans.

God is independent- self-sufficient. He does not need us. He is not deficient in any way (Acts 17:24-28). God is immutable and unchangeable (James 1:17). He does not change in His divine perfections. God is eternal as we said before (Psalm 90:1). He had no beginning, and He has no end. God is omnipresent as said before. There is not a place in space where He is not, in fact, He is greater than the space He created. God is a Unity. He cannot be divided. God is Almighty and Omniscient. There is nothing we can hide from God. He knows everything about everyone at the same time!! He is most powerful! No one has greater authority than He has. God is immovable, invincible, indestructible, unconquerable and unshakable. And as the Bible reveals His Name is Jesus Christ!!

-- Then we look at His immanence. What does God share with His creatures? God is holy and just. He cannot sin or lie or steal or murder or be evil. He is truthful and faithful and trustworthy. He is infinitely merciful and kind and gracious and He is love. He is infinite peace and joy! He is patient. He is infinitely wise and good and beautiful. He is infinitely glorious and perfect. As Hebrews 1:3 also says Jesus Christ is the exact representation of God and the brightness of His glory. "Jesus, who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His (God's) person, and upholding all things by the word of His power." This is the God of the Bible! The Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20), eternally existent in three Persons. This is the God to be praised!

### **5) Why should God be praised?**

Now our text gives us specific reasons why we should praise Him. That is apart from the reasons we already mentioned.



-- **Firstly:** He is high above the nations (verse 4). Although mankind were created in the image of God and is the pinnacle of creation the prophet Isaiah says that the nations together is like a drop in a bucket. God accounts the nations as nothing. The book of Isaiah declares: "Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust on the scales; Look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing. All nations before Him are as nothing, and they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless" (Isaiah 40:15, 17NKJV). God is infinitely more valuable and worthy and glorious than all that He has created! He is above all that He has created. He is, therefore, to be feared and revered!

-- **Secondly:** His glory is above the heavens (verse 4)

Have you ever looked at the stars at night? There are literally billions of stars in the sky, in the heavens! God knows all the stars by name! Psalm 147:4,5 reveals: "He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite." But God's worth and glory and majesty by far excel all those massive stars and galaxies in the sky! His glory is greater than them all put together.

-- **Thirdly:** Our text says that there is no one like Him. This is plain from what we said before, and there is especially no one like Him if we look at His humility! God is humble.

We sinners are in desperate need. We are not by nature as God. We are sinful. We are depraved, we are always looking for our own honor and comfort. We have rebelled against God's majesty and honor and glory. We deserve God's wrath. We have chosen to serve and worship and prize other things and people instead of Him. Listen to our text again: "He is high and exalted yet He humbles Himself to behold the things in heaven and on earth." God has to humble himself just to behold the things in heaven and on earth!

The peak and pinnacle of the humility of God we find in Jesus Christ. Listen to Phillippians 2:5-11 the revelation of Jesus Christ: "who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:6-11). God came down from heaven to save you and me from our destructions and sin. He did not have to save us. He was not obligated to become a human being. Yet, He humbled Himself to the point of death, death on a cross. Why? Because there is none like Him in love and mercy! God came down from heaven to save us from Himself! God did not only save us for Himself, that is to praise Him! But God came to save us from Himself, from His justice. Our sins deserved eternal punishment, but Jesus Christ satisfied the justice of God on the cross when He died as our substitute, in our place, for Himself.

-- ***Fourthly***: He raises the poor out of the dust. He lifts the needy out of the ash heap and gives him honor (verse 8).

The words here "dust" and "ash heap" can mean that God literally saves the destitute and homeless and poor and give them physically all that they need. However, these terms are rather meant metaphorically. The words "He lifts up the poor from the dust and the needy from the ash heap" mean that God can save us from the filth and grossest sins imaginable. The Bible makes it clear that God saves the worst of people. Prostitutes, murderers, adulterers, homosexuals, thieves, and Pharisees God has saved. The names Ragab and Maria Magdalena the prostitutes, Moses the murderer, David the adulterer and murderer, Peter the coward, Saul of Tarsus the murderer and persecutor of the church and Pharisee, etc. came to mind. God can save the worst of us! (See 1 Corinthians 6:9-11). He can lift you up from the dust of death! He can save you from your besetting sins! He can transform drug-addicts and pimps! Slave traders and blasphemers like John Newton and John Bunyan God has saved!



God can save you from the pit of hell! That is why there is no God like our God! God can save you from the guttermost to the uttermost! Come to this God my friend and be saved! And as our text says God then sits them among the princes of His people.

That means God makes the worst of us and brings us into the community with His saints of old. God is preparing for us a place in heaven (John 14:1,2). He is preparing for those who believe, a banquet in heaven! We will sit with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and with Paul and Peter and John the apostles and all the prophets in the kingdom of God! Many who are last shall be first. God changes our shame and gives us honor. He washes our sins and clothes us with His robe of righteousness so that we can be qualified to enter heaven!

-- ***Fifthly***: "He grants the barren woman a home, to make her a joyful mother of children." God does miracles and does community. In the Bible, we see that Hannah and Sarah in the Old Testament couldn't have children. But God opened their wombs and gave Sarah a child in old age. So did He with Hannah, the mother of Samuel and Rebecca and Elizabeth in the New Testament. God can do miracles! God is the God of miracles. God raised Jesus from the dead! God spoke the universe into being with a few words! God healed the sick and cleansed the lepers. Jesus raised the dead! God can also do miracles in your heart today! Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

--The greatest miracle, however, is receiving spiritual life from God: Eternal life through Jesus Christ! Have you received that my friend? God can heal your sicknesses and can solve your problems but what will that help if he doesn't heal and deliver your soul from eternal death!! Have you begun to praise the Lord? How can you if you do not belong to God? Jesus humbled Himself for this: To make His home within you so that You may glorify and praise and enjoy Him forever! As the Westminster Catechism asks: What is the chief end of man? Answer: To glorify God and enjoy Him forever! Are you doing this friend?

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That He may seat him with princes— with the princes of His people.

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