

*v1 Praise the LORD. Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD. v2 Let the name of the LORD be praised, both now and forevermore. v3 From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the LORD is to be praised. v4 The LORD is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens. v5 Who is like the LORD our God, the One who sits enthroned on high, v6 who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth? v7 He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; v8 he seats them with princes, with the princes of their people. v9 He settles the barren woman in her home as a happy mother of children. Praise the LORD.*

***Psalm 113:1-9***

## **WHEN IT COMES TO PRAISING THE LORD, JUST DO IT!!!**

**Psalms 113-118** are known as the "*Hallel Psalms*". The word "*Hallel*" simply means "*To Praise*." This group of Psalms were sung throughout the year as part of the Jewish worship ritual. However, they took on special significance at Passover, since they reflected back to the Lord's deliverance of the children of Israel from bondage in Egypt. I think we can correctly assume that Jesus and His disciples sang these Psalms when they celebrated Passover just before Jesus went to the cross.

### **I THE HOW, WHY, WHO, WHAT and WHEN of PRAISE.**

#### **1 THE HOW OF PRAISE** – v1 “Praise the LORD.”

To Hebrew word translated “PRAISE” can be translated in many different ways:

**1) to shine**

1a) (Qal) to shine (figuratively of God’s favour)

1b) (Hiphil) to flash forth light

**2) to praise, boast, be boastful**

2a) (Qal) to be boastful, boastful ones, boasters (participle)

2b) (Piel) to praise, to boast, make a boast

2c) (Pual) to be praised, be made praiseworthy, be commended, be worthy of praise

2d) (Hithpael) to boast, glory, make one’s boast

2e) (Poel) **to make a fool of, make into a fool**

2f) (Hithpoel) to act madly, act like a madman

#### **2 THE WHY OF PRAISE** – v1 “Praise the LORD.”

To Hebrew word is a command. We are called to lift our hearts and our voices in praise in many places in Scripture

**Hebrews 13:15** *Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess his name.*

**Psalm 47:1** *Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.*

**Psalms 135:1-3** *Praise the LORD. Praise the name of the LORD; praise him, you servants of the LORD, v3 Praise the LORD, ... sing praise to his name, for that is pleasant.*

3 **THE WHO OF PRAISE** – v1 “Praise the LORD. Praise, **O servants of the LORD.**”

We above all people are bound to do so by our calling and profession. If God's own servants do not praise him, who will? We are a people near to him, and should be loudest in our loving gratitude.

Of course the Psalm was originally aimed at the nation of Israel, who were saved out of slavery in Egypt. But surely, we who have been saved from slavery to sin should praise even more.

4 **THE WHAT OF PRAISE** – v1 “Praise the LORD. Praise, O servants of the LORD, **praise the name of the LORD. v2 Let the name of the LORD be praised**”

The name does not refer to the LABEL by which God is known, although there are many such labels on which we can call.

By mentioning *the name*, the Psalmist is teaching us to bless each of the attributes of the Most High. For the NAMES of God are given in Scripture to reveal the very character of GOD. We must not give the Lord a new name nor invent a new nature, for that would be the setting up of a false god. Every time we think of the God of Scripture we should bless him, and his name should never be pronounced without joyful reverence.

5 **THE WHEN OF PRAISE** – “v2 *Let the name of the LORD be praised, both now and forevermore. v3 From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the LORD is to be praised*”

i. **PRAISE MUST BE PART OF OUR CURRENT LIFE** - v2 *Let the name of the LORD be praised, both now* - The NOW means during this life.

ii. **PRAISE WILL BE PART OF OUR FUTURE LIFE** - v2 *Let the name of the LORD be praised, both now and forevermore* - This is a hint of what we will be doing in Heaven.

*Revelation 4:8 Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." v11 "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."*

*Revelation 5:11-14 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. v12 In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" v13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" v14 The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.*

iii. **PRAISE WILL BE UNCEASING** - v3 *From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the LORD is to be praised* – This

verse tells us that every waking moment is to be spent in the praise of the Lord. In other words, praise is not supposed to be something we do when "*the Spirit hits us.*" Praise is supposed to be something that we are engaged in at all times. (**Note:** God's praise is constant as the sun arcs its way across the heavens. As its course brings light to the world, praise is to be heaped on the Lord! Before we ever awoke this morning, God was being exalted in Europe and Africa. After we retire tonight, the sun will still find people lifting the praises of God in America.)

Having looked at **THE HOW, WHY, WHO, WHAT and WHEN of PRAISE.**

## **II THE WONDER of PRAISE.**

- 1 **WE PRAISE BECAUSE HE IS ON HIGH** – "*v5 Who is like the LORD our God, the One who sits enthroned on high.*"

God is greater than all the glory of the nations. He is greater than all the glories of Heaven

*Isaiah 6:1-3 'In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. v2 Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. v3 And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."*

- 2 **WE PRAISE BECAUSE HE WAS ON EARTH** – "*v6 who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth?*"

The Psalmist did not know that he was talking about Jesus when he wrote these words. The writer of the Book of Hebrews reminds us why we worship Jesus:

*Hebrews 4:14-16 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. v15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. v16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

Having looked at

- I **THE HOW, WHY, WHO, WHAT and WHEN of PRAISE.**  
II **THE WONDER of PRAISE.**

## **III THE MOTIVATION of PRAISE.**

*v7 He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; v8 he seats them with princes, with the princes of their people. v9 He settles the barren woman in her home as a happy mother of children.*

This comes out of the Song of Hannah in *1 Samuel 2:1-8*

*v1 Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the LORD; in the LORD my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance. v2 "There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. v3 "Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the LORD is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed. v4 "The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength. v5 Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry hunger no more. She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away. v6 "The LORD brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up. v7 The LORD sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts. **v8 He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor.** "For the foundations of the earth are the LORD's; upon them he has set the world.*

- 1 **WE PRAISE BECAUSE WE ARE SAVED** – “*v7 He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap;*”  
NLT “and he lifts the poor from the dirt and the needy from the garbage dump.”  
KJV “He raises up the poor out of the dust, *and* lifts the needy out of the dunghill”  
Hannah rejoiced that God had heard her prayer
- 2 **WE PRAISE BECAUSE WE ARE SANTIFIED** – “*v8 he seats them with princes, with the princes of their people.*”  
Hannah rejoiced that her son would serve God like she did
- 3 **WE PRAISE BECAUSE WE ARE SATISFIED** – “*v9 He settles the barren woman in her home as a happy mother of children. Praise the LORD*”  
Hannah’s greatest achievement was fulfilled. **He Cancels Our Pasts** - He takes the worst of humanity and uses them greatly. **He Conquers Our Problems** - Here, the image of a childless woman is used to illustrate despair and distress.

## CONCLUSION

**THERE IS JUST ONE FINAL PHRASE**

***Praise the LORD!***