

PSALM 135 – Praise to God in Creation and Redemption!

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PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY, THE KING OF CREATION

Joachim Neander (1650-80) (1:41)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near; Praise Him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, oh, let all that is in me adore Him! All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him; Let the Amen sound from His people again, Gladly for aye we adore Him. Praise to the Lord, oh, praise to the Lord

Psalm 135 - This Psalm is a psalm that begins and ends with the Hebrew word Hallelujah, Praise ye the Lord.

Your Name, O Lord, Endures Forever – (First four verses – “Praise the LORD” vs. 5-21 to “Bless the LORD”)

Psa 135:1 Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD; Praise Him, O you servants of the LORD!

- The exhortation to praise. It seems rather sad and pathetic to me that people have to be exhorted to praise the Lord. It seems to me that this would be one of the most natural things for redeemed man. The Lord has done so much for us you think that praise would just be an automatic natural thing. Every time we think about God, we would be praising the Lord! Every time we would think about what God has done we would be praising the Lord.
- I'm afraid lest we are much like those ten lepers who came to Jesus for healing. He said, “Go show yourself to the priests” which was the first step of restoration to society. They had to go be accounted by the priests, be put in the house for seven days and examine them again. If there was no further development then they would be declared clean and bring the sacrifice. They could go back home, they could live in the community once more. So, it was the first step of being restored to the community life. As they went to go show themselves to the priests, they were cleansed. One of them when he looked down and he saw it's gone and realized that he was healed, he came running back to Jesus giving thanks to the Lord. The Lord said, “Were there not ten who were cleansed? Where are the nine?” I wonder how many times the Lord is saying, “Where are the nine?” Are you among the nine?

Psa 135:2 You who stand in the house of the LORD, In the courts of the house of our God,

Psa 135:3 Praise the LORD, (Why?) for the LORD is good; Sing praises to His name, (Why?) for it is pleasant.

- Why? for it is pleasant! It's good.

Psa 135:4 For the LORD has chosen (salvation) Jacob for Himself, Israel for His special treasure.

- Peter tells us that the Lord has chosen you for his peculiar treasure He said, “We are a royal priesthood, we are a chosen nation that we should bring forth praise to H We are His peculiar treasure That is one of the most amazing things to me of all, the fact that God treasures me. Now I have every reason in the world to treasure God and to consider him as a glorious treasure. For God to consider me as his treasure is something that I find hard to really grasp.
- Paul prayed for the Ephesians that you might know what is his exceeding inheritance in the same. How much God does treasure you? If you only knew how much God treasured you, how much He values you; God's treasure.

Psa 135:5 For I know that the LORD is great, And our Lord is above all gods.

- He is great! He is to be praised above all gods. There are other gods and men have worshiped other gods. Men today do worship other gods, but Jehovah is above all gods.

Psa 135:6 Whatever the LORD pleases He does, In heaven and in earth, In the seas and in all deep places.

- He reigns in heaven, He's sovereign over the universe. This is intended to take everything in the universe. The Lord does what he pleases, he's sovereign. He reigns. He rules.

Psa 135:7 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 treasures.

- Beautiful, picturesque. It's interesting how he sees the rain, the vapors arising from the ends of the earth. How the sun beating down on the ocean; the hydrogen and oxygen are turned into gas forms and carried into the atmosphere. Then He takes His wind out of His treasures and moves these clouds with the gasses. He designs them so that as they cool in the ratio to their cooling, the gasses again are condensed to water molecules. Then they drop. Thus, God has designed to water the earth.
- Can you see a design in that at all? Can you see any wisdom in that? In order that we might have water during the long summer times, He lets it drop as snow on the mountains preserving it. Keeping it cold so that gradually during the summer the longer days and light hours it melts in the streams. I cannot fathom the audacity of the evolutionists that can look at all of this and think that it all just so happened by chance, fortunately, that this is the way it works. How much better is it that a person can look at this and worship God who designed and created it?

***Psa 135:8 He destroyed the firstborn of Egypt, Both of man and beast.* (His long history of faithfulness – how much power did it take to save you and me?)**

Psa 135:9 He sent signs and wonders into the midst of you, O Egypt, Upon Pharaoh and all his servants.

Psa 135:10 He defeated many nations And slew mighty kings—

Psa 135:11 Sihon king of the Amorites, Og king of Bashan, And all the kingdoms of Canaan—

Psa 135:12 And gave their land (promised land our spiritual promised land) as a heritage, A heritage to Israel His people.

Psa 135:13 Your name, O LORD, endures forever, Your fame, O LORD, throughout all generations.

Psa 135:14 For the LORD will judge His people, And He will have compassion (perfectly just and right now and forever) on His servants.

- It's so irrational to worship nature, to look at these things and say, "Marvelous, that's god". There are a lot of gods but the God who made them is above them all. These men who are willing to worship these other things, they become the gods in their lives. There is one true and living God who is above all gods.
- We've talked before of this phrase of God repenting. We have a difficulty in talking about God, His nature and characteristics because the only way we can talk about them is in human language. Thus you have that problem of trying to define or to describe an infinite God in finite terms. You can see at the beginning that we are doomed for a real problem. All we can describe God with is terms that we use for ourselves, in terms that we can relate to. God, the infinite God, dwelling in the eternal. We don't have words to define or describe because we can't even think. It's to us to think around the infinite or the eternal or whatever.
- In describing God in using human terms, when there seems to be an apparent change, and the word repent in its root is to change, then we say then God repented in that he didn't destroy. He didn't wipe out. To actually say that God repents is wrong because the Bible tells us that "God is not a man that he should repent has he not said and shall he not do it". When we are expecting God to move a certain way and he doesn't, he doesn't follow our patterns we say, "God changed his mind". It would appear that that may

have happened but we can only describe it in human terms so we have problems with that. The word is used but in reality God doesn't change. "Behold I'm the Lord God, I change not." From our side, so many times, there seems to be an apparent change

• ***Psa 135:15 The idols of the nations are silver and gold, The work of men's hands.***

- He goes on to contrast the living true God, the Creator of the universe, with the gods of the heathen. In other words there are man-created gods. Many people are trying to say today that God is the invention of man. The idea of God was created by man because man needed to believe in something so he made up God. God is sort of a creation of man. What a ridiculous thing! That's a part of this whole humanism that makes the world revolve around man, man is the top of all things.
- It is acknowledged that men did make idols and they did worship these idols. The idols were representative to them of their gods. Ancient man lived closer to the truth than we live. We have created so many facades upon façade upon façade that man it's hard to find the real person. You have to dig through one façade after another to get to the real person. They live closer to nature, closer to earth, closer to reality, closer to truth. We hide the truth, so many times, behind the facades.
- They marveled at the reproductive capacity of man, the power to create new life. Thus they began to worship the reproductive organs of the body. They made idols to represent these things. They would worship that because, after all, they mystery of the origin of life, new life, a new child; it was marvelous, it was mysterious.
- Now in our world today we have many people who worship sex, it's their god or goddess. They don't carve out little idols anymore, they have pictures maybe in magazines that would be an equivalent in a sense to the idols. If you look at a person's life, their whole life revolves around sex and sexual encounters. That's what they live for and that's what they talk about. It is really the god that controls their life.
- In those days they enjoyed pleasure also and so they had their god of pleasure, Molech. The little idols of Molech actually represented the fact that they live for pleasure, their whole life was geared around the pleasure principle. There are people today whose lives are all centered around pleasure.
- There were those in those days who worshipped power. I want to have, I want to possess, I want to rule and thus they had their little god of Mammon that represented their chief goal of life. This was to possess to control and to rule.
- There were those who worshipped the intellect. They said. "The most important thing in life is to know". They were constantly studying, constantly reading, constantly trying to gain as much insight and knowledge as they possible could.
- Men have made these gods themselves, our God made us.

Psa 135:16 They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; (they are all lifeless!)

Psa 135:17 They have ears, but they do not hear; Nor is there any breath in their mouths.

- In other words when man makes a god he makes it like himself. If a man does not worship the true and the living god then he does worship a projection of himself. Self-worship. If I were god this is what I would do. This is how I would be. This is what I feel is the most important thing in life. This is what I worship. This is the thing that rules me. This is the ideal that governs me. This is my master passion; a projection of me. It's sort of like me. So when a man makes a god he makes it like himself. Because I have eyes I carve eyes on my little god. Because I have ears I carve ears. Because I have a mouth I carve a mouth.
- When a man makes a god he makes it like himself but he makes it less than himself. Though I carve the ears the little god still can't hear. Though I carve the eyes the little god still can't see. Though I carve a mouth it still cannot count. So I've made it like me but in reality, I've made it less than me.

Psa 135:18 Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them. (we become like what we worship – what great news to those that worship Him!)

- The inescapable truth of life is that you become like your god. If your god can't see you are becoming blind to the truth yourself. If your god can't hear you are becoming deaf to the voice of nature. If your

god is insensate you are becoming insensate. If your god is false you are becoming false. A man becomes like his god. Remember when you made your god you made your god like yourself, but you made it less than yourself thus if you are becoming like your god you're on the road down if your god is a false god. Becoming like your god you are degrading. So I want you to observe all of those who have rejected the true and the living God and watch their life. Their lives are in the process of being degraded. Sin is degraded and to worship pleasure is degrading, to worship money is degrading.

- On the other hand if a man becomes like his God, if you are worshiping the true and the living God and you are becoming like your God think of how wonderful that is! The scripture affirms that that is true! "Beloved now are we the sons of God it doesn't yet appear what we are going to be but we know when He appears we are going to be like Him." Why? Because I am becoming like my God. If you are worshiping the false God you are going down, you are being degraded.
- If you make power your God and you become a slave. You make intellect your god and you become an ignoramus. You make pleasure your god and you become filled with lust. You begin to have an unfilled desire or worse than that, an unfulfillable desire. The desire is still there but you can't fulfill it. So you go around in a continual lust, never being satisfied, always seeking more and yet you've made fulfillment for that moment as your God. You become jaded! It's tragic! They that worship them become like them and so does everyone who trusts in them.

Psa 135:19 Bless the LORD, O house of Israel! Bless the LORD, O house of Aaron!

Psa 135:20 Bless the LORD, O house of Levi! You who fear the LORD, bless the LORD!

- How wonderful it is to worship and to serve the true and the living God to becoming like Him. A God of love, I'm becoming loving. The God of purity, I'm becoming pure. A God of holiness, I'm becoming holy. A God of righteousness, I'm becoming righteous. A God of peace, I'm filled with peace.

Psa 135:21 Blessed be the LORD out of Zion, Who dwells in Jerusalem! Praise the LORD!

- May the Lord be with you and keep you in His love and grace this week as you walk in fellowship with Jesus Christ. May the spirit of God work in you as He is conforming you into the image of Jesus. I pray that this week you'll spend a lot of time in the spiritual development growing spiritually in the things of the Lord and the ways of the Lord, walking in His path.

10,000 REASONS – BLESS THE LORD! – Redman (5:42)

Bless the Lord oh my soul, Oh my soul, Worship His Holy name. Sing like never before, Oh my soul. I'll worship Your Holy name

The sun comes up. It's a new day dawning. It's time to sing Your song again.

Whatever may pass And whatever lies before me, Let me be singing When the evening comes

Refrain: Bless the Lord oh my soul Oh my soul, Worship His Holy name. Sing like never before, Oh my soul. I'll worship Your Holy name

You're rich in love And You're slow to anger. Your name is great And Your heart is kind.

For all Your goodness I will keep on singing, Ten thousand reasons For my heart to find (Refrain)

And on that day, When my strength is failing, The end draws near And my time has come.

Still my soul will Sing Your praise unending, Ten thousand years And then forevermore. Forevermore - Refrain (2X)

I'll worship Your Holy name Jesus I will worship Your Holy name, Sing like never before Oh my soul I'll worship your holy name

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE OFFICERS/MILITARY; ISRAEL:

PRAY FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD LEADERS: - Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation!