

Psalm 113

We will understand Psalm 113 best if we suppose that it is written to answer the question, what is distinctive about the God of Israel?

The Psalm answers this question in three ways.

Psalms 113:1 [New King James] *“Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD!”*

While those who serve the Creator God and know His nature as revealed in His name may well encourage each other to praise Him, He is worthy of praise also for all time and from every place, [verses 2-3].

“Blessed and praised” – the form of each verb suggests **“worthy to be ...”**

To **“praise”** is to acknowledge with joy what the Creator God is.

To **“bless”** has the added suggestion of kneeling or prostrating in worship.

Psalms 113:4-6 [New King James] *“The LORD is high above all nations, His glory above the heavens. Who is like the LORD our God, Who dwells on high, Who humbles Himself to behold the things that are in the heavens and in the earth?”*

We are reminded in these verses that the heavens are all part of God’s creation.

John 1:1-3 [New King James] *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”*

The Triune God existed before the universe was created.

Hebrews 11:3 [New King James] *“By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”*

That God existed before any visual universe existed, has to be by faith for no other being was yet in existence, other than the Triune God Himself.

So we are told in this Psalm that the Triune God had to humble Himself to see what He had created in the heavens and in the earth.

Psalms 113:7-9 [New King James] *“He raises the poor out of the dust, and lifts the needy out of the ash heap, that He may seat him with princes, with the princes of His people. He grants the barren woman a home, like a joyful mother of children. Praise the LORD!”*

This is the true uniqueness of the Creator God, not His transcendence but His relationship with the human beings whom He has made in His “image” and desires to be changed into His “likeness.”

Genesis 1:26-27 [New King James] *“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”*

Note that **only** the “*image*” is created in the human being. The Hebrew word used is “*tselem*” meaning resemblance, shadow, outward form, material representation.

The ultimate goal is “*likeness*” the translation of a Hebrew word with a completely different meaning, “*demûwth*” meaning manner, model, attributes that is character.

As we know character is only developed in a person over a period of time spent in the intimate relationship with the One whose character we wish to reflect.

This is why the Creator God gives every human being, with the ability to make decisions and change, a period of time, that is physical life.

Every human being who is to take on the very “*likeness*” of the Creator God must be influenced by the Holy Spirit, who is one person of the Triune God, so that the “*fruits*” of that relationship may become theirs, [**Galatians 5:22-25**].

These final verses of Psalm 113 point to this transformation of a human being from “*image*” to “*likeness*”, the first stage of human response is to recognise the mercy of the Creator God, and out of gratitude surrender our lives to Him to be re-educated by Him.

Romans 12:1-2 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

This is something we can praise the Creator God for throughout eternity, for it will satisfy all our needs and desires.