

Psalm 135

This glorious hymn of praise is no doubt composed to be part of public worship and deliberately designed to evoke memories and associations of other songs of praise.

Psalms 135:1-4 [New King James] *“Praise the LORD! 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.”*

The invitation to the Creator God’s servants, all true Christians today, to praise Him, rests firstly on the revealed nature of the Triune God as good and gracious, secondly that He had chosen them to be His people, His elect, as all true Christians are today, [Matthew 24:21-22].

“Good” expresses what the Creator God is in Himself, utter moral purity and “pleasant” the Hebrew “nâ’êm” means beautiful and delightful, [James 1:17].

Psalms 135:5-14 [New King James] *“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 vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes lightning for the rain; He brings the wind out of His treasuries. He destroyed the firstborn of Egypt, both of man and beast. He sent signs and wonders into the midst of you, O Egypt, upon Pharaoh and all his servants. He defeated many nations and slew mighty kings, Sihon king of the Amorites, Og king of Bashan, and all the kingdoms of Canaan, and gave their land as a heritage, a heritage to Israel His people. 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 realities of their election are then listed.

The Creator God’s supremacy, [verse 5] so His choice cannot be reversed by others, [John 10:27-28].

The Creator God’s sovereign independence made His choice an act of personal will, [verse 6].

James 1:18 [New King James] *“Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.”*

Every true Christian can claim what has happened to them to make them part of the Creator God’s elect is the will of God, [John 15:16].

The Creator God’s almightiness finds its expression all over the world and the whole universe, things visible and invisible, [verse 7].

The historical facts of the Creator God’s intervention on behalf of His people covering deliverance, [verses 8 and 9] conquest, [verses 10 and 11] and settlement, [verse 12] are clear proof of His choice of them as His own people.

The changelessness, [verses 13 and 14] whereby He never alters in Himself, and His attitudes of power and pity towards His people.

Psalms 135:15-21 [New King James] *“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!”*

The predicament of all people who do not know the One and only true Triune God is exposed in these verses by considering their gods.

Their origin, [verse 15].

Their lifelessness, [verses 16 and 17].

The effect they have on all who trust in them, foolishness, [Psalms 14:1; Romans 1:20-22].

All other objects or people who are revered taking on the name of reverent that is the object of worship are creations of the human mind and looked on by the true Creator God as idols.

1 John 5:19-21 [New King James] *“We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.”*

Every true Christian is warned to avoid such idols both physical objects or those who do **not** worship the true Creator God, but are false ministers of Satan, [2 Corinthians 11:13-15].

We must choose carefully because we take on the characteristics of whatever we worship, [Psalms 135:18].

Only a worshipful fear of the true Creator God will save us from all the deceptions of Satan in society, [2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 5:19; Revelation 12:9].

Romans 12:1 [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.”*

A complete surrender to the will of the One and only true Creator God out of gratitude for what He has done for all humanity.

John 3:16-21 [New King James] *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”*

We all need to walk in the light of God’s Word, the Christian Bible, especially the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ, [John 1:1-4, 14].