

## Part 1 – Give Glory unto the Lord, Yehovah

Now we come to the *third* of the ‘Great Hallel’ Psalms (Psalms 113-118). In olden times, Psalms 113-114 were sung by the congregation at the *beginning* of the Passover celebration while Psalms 115-118 were sung by the congregation at the *end* of the Passover celebration. As Math 26:30 tells us, after Jesus Christ, and the disciples, partook of the *first* Holy Communion, they “*sung an hymn*” and then went out to the mount of Olives to pray, before Jesus was then arrested and, eventually crucified. Therefore, it was likely one of these precious “Great Hallel” (Great Praise) Psalms that they sung. The *Companion Bible* suggests it may have been Psalm 118, which prophesies of Jesus becoming the ‘head stone’ (capstone, 1 Pt 2:1-10) of the Temple (i.e. the King of kings). This means that, our Lord and Savior (Jesus Christ) *prepared Himself to endure the sufferings* He would soon endure *by singing* praise for the enduring loving-kindness of our Heavenly Father (YHVVH)! So, these “Great Hallel” (Great Praise) Psalms should certainly be important for us today too (John 13:15, 1 Pt 2:21).

And let’s remember, in **Psalm 111** we saw the Lord (YHVVH) praised for His wonderful (and righteous) ‘works’, while **Psalm 112** praised the Lord (YHVVH) for His wonderful (and righteous) ‘ways’. These two Psalms were also ‘linked together’ through the perfect, and complete, Acrostics within them. And then, **Psalm 113** praised the Lord (YHVVH) ‘*Himself*’, which means His honorable (and righteous) character *and* His great power (authority). For while our Heavenly Father is ‘high above all nations’, He *still* cares for His creation *so much* He humbles Himself to watch what goes on in heaven, *and* in earth. And He does so to help those who are oppressed. And, prophetically, Jesus Christ will raise the afflicted ones up to reign with Him *because* they were spiritually barren because they did *not* worship the *false* Christ (Satan). And then, **Psalm 114** praised the Lord (YHVVH) by speaking of some of the *mighty* works the Lord (YHVVH) did when He delivered Israel from Egypt. So, the Psalmist pointed out how the Lord (YHVVH) parted *both* the Red Sea, *and* the River Jordan, so that Israel could cross over *on dry land*. And He also spoke of how Mount Sinai trembled (shook greatly) when the Lord (YHVVH) descended upon it (along with His holy angelic army), when He gave Israel the Law. And he also spoke of how the Lord (YHVVH) miraculously provided water for Israel (twice), when they were in the wilderness (desert). So, this Psalm also praised the Lord (YHVVH) for His *great* power, but *also* His great *faithfulness* to both free Israel *and* provide for them. Yet, this Psalm was also *prophetic* of how the Lord will *again* show His mighty works, during the ‘great tribulation’. And He will *also* free those who *remain* loyal to Him (spiritual Israel) *just as* He freed ‘Israel of old’ from bondage.

And now we come to Psalm 115, which has the title/subject of “**Israel’s Deliverance from Egypt’s Idolatry**”. And let’s remember, this was one of the Psalms that were sung *after* the Passover. And that is quite befitting because, since the *true* Passover Lamb (Jesus Christ, 1 Cor 5:7) has been killed, we can *now* obtain ‘deliverance’ (atonement) from our idolatry (Rom 5:11; Eph 1:7; Col 1:14; Heb 9:12-15) via the Holy Spirit the Lord (YHVVH) gives us because of our

faith in (and obedience to) Jesus Christ (Acts 5:30-32; John 14:15-18; 1 John 5:11-13; Rom 2:7-8). For it is the Holy Spirit that teaches us to put off the ‘old man’ (that worships idols) and put on the ‘new man’ that worships (*and obeys, wholeheartedly*) the *true* God, Yehovah (YHVH) (Eph 3:16-21; Col 1:10-14; Rom 8:26-34, 2 Pt 1:3-8, etc.). Therefore, this precious Psalm will teach us the *vanity* (uselessness) of making, and worshipping, idols versus the *blessings* that come from *sincerely* worshipping (*and obeying and trusting in*) the *true* God, Yehovah (YHVH). Additionally, this chapter (again) has neither any subtitle, nor subscription. So, we don’t know *who* wrote it, nor even at *what point in time* it was written. But regardless, we know that *all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works* (2 Tim 3:16-4:1). So, this Psalm (as with the others) is *still* an *incredibly* instructive Psalm, which makes it well worth our studying it...

### *Psalm 115*

*1 Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake.*

So, this precious Psalm begins by pointing out how our Heavenly Father deserves glory, *not* us. And, as the *Companion Bible* notes point out that, this verse uses a figure of speech (*Ellipsis*, apx 6) which is when a gap is *purposely* left in a sentence through the omission of some word or words. So, the Psalmist is saying that “*Not unto us, O Lord [belongeth glory] but to Thy name give the glory*”. And the Psalmist uses God’s sacred (and covenantal) name **Yehovah** (rendered as ‘Lord’ here) [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/946>] which means (the) **self-Existent** or **Eternal** (#3068). So, His name *reveals* that our Heavenly Father (Yehovah) is the *only* one who has *always* existed and *always* will, which is why He is *eternal* (Rev 1:8, 4:9, 11:17, 16:5, 22:13). And that truly is one of the (many) reasons *why* He deserves all the ‘glory’, for He is our Creator (Gen 1:1, Ezek 18:4, Rev 4:11, etc.). Now, the word ‘**name**’ here means an **appellation**, as a *mark or memorial of individuality*; but, by implication, it can also mean **honor, authority** and **character** (#8034). And the word ‘**glory**’ here means **weight** (only figuratively in a good sense), but can also mean **splendor** or **copiousness** (#3519). So, when this verse says ‘*unto thy name give glory*’, it’s saying that His name (Yehovah = YHVH) *deserves* glory (praise and honor) *because of* His Holy characteristics *and* authority over all His creation. Said another way, the Lord’s name (YHVH) actually **defines who He is**, i.e. *righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works* (Ps 145:17). And for that, He truly *does* deserve **all** the glory!

And the Psalmist points out two (out of many) *reasons* our Heavenly Father truly deserves *all* glory - as well as our praise, worship, honor *and* obedience. The word ‘**mercy**’ here means **kindness** (#2617) and the word ‘**truth**’ means **stability, certainty, truth, trustworthiness** (#571). And it comes from a prim root that means (figuratively) *to render* (or *be*) **firm** or **faithful**, to **trust** or **believe**, to **be permanent** or **quiet**, to **be true** or **certain** (#539). So, in the context of this

Psalms the word ‘**truth**’ would have been better rendered as ‘**faithfulness**’, as it was many times back in Psalms 89 – a Psalm which explained God’s *faithfulness to His Word* (which is the truth, John 17:17). And that’s why our Heavenly Father is truly the *only* One we can count on (and trust in). What He says *will* come to pass - so, it is *to our benefit* to study His Word, to learn what He wants from us. For, **if** we obey Him (wholeheartedly) then He **will** bless us. So again, the reason the Psalmist says (i.e. the point he is making) that *all* glory should go to the Lord (YHVH) is *because of* His mercy (kindness) and truth (faithfulness). As our Heavenly Father said, through His prophet Jeremiah...

*23 Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:*

*24 But **let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight**, saith the LORD.*

Jer 9:23-24

So, while some trust in their own (carnal/worldly) wisdom, or their might (physical strength), or their riches (wealth), these are not truly good things to glory in! What we can (and should) glory in (as this Psalm 115 also points out) is our Heavenly Father. For knowing Him (His Word) is not only the definition of *eternal* life (John 17:3), but it’s the *only* way that we will ever learn to do what’s *right*, for He *is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works* (Ps 145:17), as Jer 9:24 also points out. And, because the Lord (YHVH) is *always* righteous, He knows how to teach us how to do what’s right too (Ps 25:8-10). As He said in Isa 45:19, “*I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right*”. That’s why, Deut 32:4 tells us that He is ‘*the Rock*’, which means His Word is the *only* thing that we should build our ‘moral foundation’ upon (Mth 7:24-27). For **if** we stand firm in our faith *in His Word* (earnestly striving to obey it) then our faith in Him *won’t* be shaken and we’ll be able to help others to come to believe in Him too (if only through our good example, Mth 5:16). And Deut 32:4 also tells us His works *are perfect* and His ways are *all righteous and without iniquity* (for He alone *is just and right*). That’s also why He’s the *only* ‘God of truth’! And, in 2 Cor 10:17-18, Paul reiterates this point, adding that, those who ‘commend’ *themselves* are not approved by God! That’s why Jesus said that those who try to justify *themselves* in the sight of other men (mankind) are not approved by God, for *that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God* (Luke 16:15).

Thus, it is only those who the Lord (YHVH) ‘commendeth’ (establishes, #4921) that are approved (acceptable, #1384) to Him (2 Cor 10). As the Lord said in Isa 55:8-9, *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts*. So, only if we take God’s ‘thoughts’ and ‘ways’ into our own spirit (heart and mind) - through studying God’s Word and allowing the Holy Spirit to help us change our sinful ways,

thoughts and desires - will we ever be pleasing to the Lord (YHVH). And make no mistake about it, it is the Lord (YHVH) who will be the judge of our soul and spirit (via Jesus Christ) at the ‘Great White Throne Judgement’ (Rev 20:10-15). So, the bottom line that: the only one we *really* should be concerned about pleasing (first and foremost) is our Heavenly Father. And, *if* we simply humble ourselves before Him, and *earnestly* strive to obey Him (from the heart), then He really is so very merciful (kind) and faithful (to His Word) to us. Which again, is *why* He (alone) deserves our wholehearted praise, honor, love *and obedience* - *and* that’s also why we should *always* give **Him** glory. For, of a truth, the only good ‘thing’ in us is the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. And, without Him we truly are as filthy rags! (Isa 64:6; Rom 3:23).

### *Psalm 115*

*2 Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is now their God?*

The Psalmist now uses another figure of speech (*Erotesis*, apx 6) which is when a question(s) is asked, but not for information nor an answer. Rather, it’s *to make a point*. So, it’s what we’d call a ‘rhetorical’ question today. And the points for asking questions like this vary (you can check out apx 6, in the *Companion Bible*, to see the various reasons). In this case, the point the Psalmist is making is that, the ‘heathen’ (unbelievers) should *not* be asking ‘Where is their God’ *because* the answer *should be obvious*. For, while our God (which is the *true* God, YHVH - our Creator) cannot be seen with our flesh eyes, even creation itself ‘testifies’ (is a witness) to the fact that He exists. As David so rightly wrote, “*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge*” (Ps 119:1-2). When we look up into the ‘heavens’ (sky) we can truly see God’s glory. How? By the *unnumerable*, and *stunningly* beautiful, stars in the sky! And, if you’ve ever studied up on the Zodiac, you will understand that God’s beautiful ‘plan of salvation’ is actually *written into* the stars themselves! You can learn more about this in the book on “*The Witness of the Stars*” via this link [<https://t.me/BestStudyBible/14>]. But, David wasn’t the only one who pointed out that the creation itself ‘testifies’ (is a witness) to the fact that we have a Creator we cannot see. Paul speaks of this too...

*18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*

*19 Because **that which may be known of God is manifest in them**; for God hath shewed it unto them.*

*20 For **the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made**, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*

*21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

*22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,*

*23 And **changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.***

Rom 1:18-23

So, Paul explains that our Heavenly Father (who is invisible to our flesh eyes) can be ‘seen’ (understood) *by the things that are made*. And even His eternal power, and ‘Godhead’, are **revealed in His creation on earth**... how can this be? Well, in Gen 1:26-27, *God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.* So, man is created in God’s image and that’s why even the ‘Godhead’ can be understood when we consider how we are made. How? Because, just like us, our Heavenly Father (YHVH) has a body (Jesus Christ), soul (the Father) and Spirit (the Holy Spirit). So, while many teach that the Godhead is three *different* ‘persons’, the truth is that our Heavenly Father simply has *three different parts to Him, just as we do!* And that is why Jesus Christ IS God *in the flesh*, for He literally is the exact ‘image’ of God, but in a flesh body (Heb 1:3). Again, this is *how* we can learn about Him (who we cannot see with our flesh eyes), for we are made in Him image. Further, God also gave ‘man’ dominion (power to subjugate, #7287) over the fish of the sea, fowl of the air, over the cattle, the creeping things and over all the earth. So, man’s power to subjugate the earth (including the animals), is *how* we can understand that our Heavenly Father has **all power** over His creation, *even us* (Ezek 18:4). If you’d like to learn more about how God’s creation ‘testifies’ that He exists (even though we cannot see Him with our flesh eyes), check out the following studies...

**Are God And Jesus Different From Us** <https://t.me/BestStudyBible/259>

**Two Separate People** <https://t.me/BibleStudyGodsWord/460>

**Two Bodies** <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/406>

**Numbers in Scripture** <https://t.me/BestStudyBible/15>

*Psalm 115*

*3 But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.*

Now, the word ‘**God**’ here is actually a ‘title’ of the Lord (YHVH), which is the Hebrew word ‘**Elohiym**’ (also spelled as ‘**Elohim**’ at times, #430) - which means **the Supreme God**, who is our **Creator**. So, ‘**Elohiym**’ is thus ‘God the Creator’ *putting His omnipotence* (‘**El**’, #410) *into operation*. It’s first occurrence (Gen 1:1) connects it with creation, and gives it its essential meaning as ‘the Creator’. It indicates His relation to mankind *as His creatures* (in contrast with Yehovah [#3068], which indicates a *convent relationship*). So, the Psalmist is not only addressing our Heavenly Father by His Sacred, and covenantal name (Yehovah #3068, i.e. YHVH), he’s also addressing Him with the title of ‘**Elohiym**’ (#430), which shows he’s going to

speak of our Heavenly Father's *eternality* (#3068) and His *supreme power* (omnipotence) as the Creator of all things, *even* our own soul (Rev 4:11; Ezek 18:4).

So, while the heathen (unbelievers) ask where *our* God is, *we know* where He is. For, even though we *cannot* see Him with our flesh eyes, His Word tells us He's in the '**heavens**', which means ***the sky*** (as aloft; the dual perhaps alluding to the visible arch in which the clouds move, as well as to the higher ether where the celestial bodies revolve) (#8064). And, as we learned in the prior study (part 1), our Heavenly Father does often ride in the sky, in His amazing flying vehicle [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/392>]. But, as 2 Kings 6:17 teaches us, there is also a different *dimension* He abides in (even when in His flying vehicle, at times), so that we *cannot* see Him most of the time. Further, the Lord's (YHVH's) 'throne' in Heaven (Ps 11:4) is also in that other dimension (the 'heavenly', or 'spiritual' dimension), which is (again) why we cannot see Him. And the only way we can see Him on earth (with our flesh eyes) is if He comes to us in His body, which is Jesus Christ. You can learn more about this in the special studies **Spiritual and Material Dimensions** [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/263>] and **Was Christ Here On Earth Before His Birth** [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/485>]. And Paul also explains it rather well in **1 Corinthians 15** [[https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks\\_Corinthians/33](https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Corinthians/33)].

Moreover, as this Psalm 115:3 points out, because our Heavenly Father is the Creator of all things, He does do *whatever* He pleases (desires, #2654). And Rev 4:11 tells us our Heavenly Father (the *true*, and *Supreme* God, who is *our Creator*) has created us *for His pleasure*! Yet, it is *not* His pleasure for His children to have to die (2 Pt 3:9), which is why He literally came to earth, as Jesus Christ. Not only to shed His blood to atone for our sins (Rom 5:11, etc.) but *also* to ensure His truth is shared with the world (John 18:37) - for truth is the *only* thing that can 'save' us, i.e. cause us to live *eternally* (John 6:63, 17:3,17, Heb 4:12, etc.). So then, the *reason* the 'heathen' cannot 'see' (understand) where the *true* (Supreme) God (our Creator) dwells, is simply because they only think in the flesh. Paul calls this being *carnally* minded (Rom 8:5-8) and it's *also* why they cannot understand God's Word (1 Cor 3:1-4). And, in Heb 11:3, Paul explains that our *faith in* God's Word is *what* causes us to understand that, the things we *can* see were not made by things which do appear (i.e. that we can see). For (as Heb 11:3, John 1 and Genesis 1:1-2 all explain) the things we *can* see (and the things we *cannot* see) were *both* made the Word of God [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/488>, <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/496>].

Therefore, *because* the heathen (unbelievers) are *carnally* minded, they have a hard time worshipping the *true* God (YHVH) our Creator, *because they cannot see Him*. And truly, we can *only* worship the Lord (YHVH) *in our spirit*. Yet, if we don't have the truth, we also cannot worship Him, for lies are what *blind* our heart, and mind, from *believing the truth* (2 Cor 4:3-6). That's why Jesus said we can *only truly* worship the *true* God (YHVH) 'in spirit and in truth' (John 4:23-24). For, when we put truth (God's Word, John 17:17) into our mind (thoughts) it *changes our heart* (desires, emotions, intentions and motivations) so that we *want* to obey our

Heavenly Father; for we can *finally* ‘see’ (understand) the benefit (blessings) for doing so! Therefore, those who are *carnally* minded (and reject the truth) will only worship things they can see, which is actually what the Psalmist will go on to speak about in this chapter. However, we’ll have to wait until the next study (part 2) to learn about that! Until then, let’s remember...

*17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,*

*18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God **through the ignorance that is in them**, because of the blindness of their heart:*

*19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*

*20 **But ye have not so learned Christ**;*

*21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:*

*22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation **the old man**, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;*

*23 And **be renewed in the spirit of your mind**;*

*24 And that ye put on **the new man**, which after God is **created in righteousness and true holiness**.*

Eph 4:17-24

We’ll pick this up in part 2...

AMEN.