Part 2 – The Lord is Above All Gods

In chapter 135, part 1, we learned that the subject/title is "**Praise**" because it will remind us of some of the (many) *reasons* we have to praise the *true* God (YHVH). And the Psalmist (likely Hezekiah) began by reminding us *how important* it is for God's servants to praise Him, *because* He truly is so very good to us. And we should *also* praise Him because His 'name' (i.e. His holy character) is *very* 'pleasant' (delightful). And that's because He is *always* righteous *and* gives us *abundant* grace, mercy, patience, and blessings <u>when</u> we *earnestly* strive to obey Him (from the heart). And we also learned what God's Sacred (and covenantal) name is (Yehovah, #3068) and what a special 'nickname' for Him is (Yah, #3050). Yet we also learned one of His 'titles' (Elohim, #430). And from these three names/titles we learned that our Heavenly Father is the *only* One who is eternal (and self-existent, #3068) and He's also the *only* one who can save us; *not only* from physical troubles but, *spiritual* troubles too (#3050). That's why we can *only* obtain *eternal* life *through faith in* Jesus Christ - whose very name (#2424) means *Yehovah-Saved* (#3091), and comes from God's sacred name (#3068). And His 'title' of Elohim (#430) also teaches us that He is the *Supreme* God (above all rulers in heaven and on earth) *because* He is our Creator.

And then we learned that God Himself chose the descendants of Jacob to be His servant *nation,* which is why Israel was to be His 'peculiar treasure', which means His 'wealth', i.e. His inheritance. That's why He commanded the children of Israel to obey *His* Laws, for they were *supposed* to be a blessing to all other nations *through* sharing knowledge of His righteous Laws around the world. However, because they failed (quite miserably) in that commission, the Lord's (YHVH) 'inheritance' *now* includes *only* those of Israel who accept Jesus Christ and *earnestly* serve Him. However, because Jesus Christ died for the sins of *all* of mankind, even the Gentiles (those who are not of Israel) can have a part of Israel's inheritance! Therefore, *all* those who love, fear, and obey Jesus Christ (who is God incarnate) are considered God's 'peculiar treasure', i.e. His 'inheritance' with whom He (Jesus Christ) will rule the world with! And thus, both those who are *truly* of the 'seed' of Jacob (descendants of his), *and* those who are not (gentiles), can receive the 'inheritance' of *eternal* life (and serving in Jesus' eternal government) *so long as* they believe in, and obey (from the heart) Jesus Christ. And that truly is something to '*Praise Ye the Lord'* (Hallelujah) for! However, Hezekiah is not done with this great Psalm of 'praise'…

Psalm 135
5 For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods.

So, after calling the servants of the Lord (YHVH) to praise Him for His goodness, *and* after pointing out how the Lord (YHVH) chose Israel to be His inheritance (which *now* includes *all* Gentiles who *believe* in, *and serve*, Jesus Christ), the Psalmist (likely Hezekiah) now begins to speak of the Lord's (YHVH's) superiority over *all* of His creation. And he will continue on with

this through verse 12. So then, the word '**know**' here means ***to know***, and even *to ascertain by seeing*; and, it's used in a *great* variety of senses (figuratively, literally, euphemistically and inferentially) including ***observation, care, recognition*** and (causatively) as ***instruction, designation, punishment, etc***. (#3045). And then the first time the word '**Lord**' is used it is (again) God's sacred (and covenantal) name, **Yehovah**, which means He 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). However, the second time the word '**Lord**' is used it's actually another 'title' for our Heavenly Father. It is the Hebrew word ***'Adown*** or (shortened) ***'adon*** (#113), which simply means ***sovereign***, i.e. ***controller*** (human or divine). Apx 4 iii (1), in the *Companion Bible*, tells us that, when this word is used in reference to our Heavenly Father (YHVH), the 'title' of ***'Adown*** (or '*Adon*) means ***the Lord*** (YHVH) ***as Ruler in the earth*** (Joshua 3:11,13, 5:14, Zech 6:5, etc.). However, it's also used, at times, in reference to men (Gen 23:6,11,15, 24:18, 31:35, 32:4-5, etc.). And, quite naturally, in this verse it ('*Adown*, #113) is referring to our Heavenly Father (Yehovah). And the word '**great**' does mean ***great***, in any sense (#1419). And, in the context of this verse, it means the Lord (YHVH) is *greater* than all other 'gods'.

And this word 'gods' is very interesting, because it's actually the *same* Hebrew word that is often used as a 'title' for our Heavenly Father. It's the Hebrew word ***'Elohiym*** which means (when referring to Yehovah) ***the Supreme God***, who is our ***Creator*** (#430). However, in this 5th verse (here in Ps 135) it is actually referring to **'gods'** ***in the ordinary sense***, and can even refer ***to magistrates***, i.e. ***rulers on earth*** or, ***someone who had authority*** or ***power***. For example, in Ex 7:1, the Lord (YHVH) Himself said He made Moses a 'god' *to Pharoah* because He had commissioned Moses to demand Pharoah let Israel go free. And, through Moses, God poured out ten *mighty* plagues that *proved* He *truly is* the *Supreme* God, who has *full power* over *all* His creation. Thus, the term "god" (#430) is *not* a specific name for YHVH. It is a *generic term* that has been applied to Him; and rightly so because YHVH is the God *above* all gods just as He is the Lord above all lords (another generic title) and the King above all kings (another generic title). And, while there *are* some 'gods' (rulers) He delegates (ex: Ex 22:28, Deut 1:12-17, etc.) there are *many* 'gods' that are *not* delegated rulers by YHVH. Yet, even though God did commission earthly rulers to govern His children, they still were ***not*** *to be worshiped*, as the First Commandment (Ex 20:3) so clearly explains! You can learn more about this in the study on **The Importance of Understanding Titles** [https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1218].

So then, the Psalmist (most likely Hezekiah) simply declared that he knew (i.e. *he observed*) that the Lord (YHVH, #3068) **is** *above* all gods (rulers on earth *and* false gods of the heathen too) because He is our top ruler *on earth* (***'Adown*** #113). And, as Hezekiah is the one who most likely wrote this Psalm, we can certainly see *why* he would write this. For he truly did *observe* that the Lord is 'great' (and above all other 'gods'), when the Assyrian army *fled away* (from Jerusalem, yea the *entire* southern kingdom of Judah) after the 'Angel' of the Lord killed off 165,000 of the Assyrian's army *in just one night* (2 Kings 19:35-37; 2 Chron 32:20-22)! So, while other 'gods'

(rulers) on the earth think they can do whatever they want, the fact is that they are not 'above' God Almighty (YHVH)! Psalms 75 and 82 made this point *very* clear. And that's why earthly kings (and other rulers, or powerful people) so often lose their power (even by being conquered by another nation) or, they simply die… as happened to the Asriyan king after the Assryians fled Jerusalem (2 Kings 19:36-37). So, the Lord (YHVH) showed His *mighty* power over the arrogant king of Assyria… who claimed the Lord (YHVH) could *not* save Jerusalem (2 Kings 18; 2 Chron 32), yet ended up loosing nearly *all* his army and then was *murdered… by his own sons*! And, while Hezekiah was likely thinking of this fact when he wrote this Psalm, he's going to soon give us *many other* reasons that prove that Yehovah *truly is* the "God above all gods', i.e. the *top* Ruler on earth, even though He dwells in 'heaven' (Ps 11:4, 113:4-5, etc.). As Moses so well said, "*Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath:* ***there is none else***" (Deut 4:39).

Psalm 135
6 Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.

So, after saying he know that the Lord (YHVH) is above *all* 'gods', the Psalmist (likely Hezekiah) now points out that, the Lord (YHVH) does *what He wants* with His creation. The word '**Lord**' here is (again) God's sacred (and covenantal) name, **Yehovah**, which means He 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 the word '**whatsoever**' is a combination of two words (#834 and 3605) which means: the Lord (YHVH) ***does all*** of ***what*** He is 'pleased' (desires, #2654) to do - not just on 'earth' (at large, #776), the 'seas' (large bodies of water, #3220) and the 'deep' (the main sea or the subterranean water-supply, #8415) but also, in 'heaven' (the sky and outer space, #8064), which *includes* the spiritual (heavenly) dimension we cannot see (where He abides, Ps 11). And this fact is one of the *defining characteristics* that **proves** His is the 'God ***above all*** other gods'. For, unlike the rulers on earth (or angels in heaven), the Lord (YHVH) has *no one* who He is accountable to; for He's the *top* ruler both in heaven *and* earth. But thankfully, "*The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works*" (Ps 145:17)! And, as Deut 32:4 also tells us, "*He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he*". So, while power often corrupts mankind (and the angels in heaven, such as Satan, Ezek 28), it does not (and *cannot*) corrupt our Heavenly Father (YHVH)!

And that's *why* we can have *so much* confidence to trust in Him. For, trusting in, and obeying Him (His Word), will *never* leave us ashamed or disappointed! But, those who willfully sin *are* going to be in for a *very* rude awakening when Jesus Christ returns. As **Psalms 82** so well explained [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Psalms/1000], the Lord (YHVH) is the '***ultimate* Authority'** (in heaven *and* on earth), which means He *will* judge all those 'gods' who do wickedly. For even though they *think* there's *no* 'Higher Authority' that will hold them

accountable for their sins, they *will* indeed be held accountable for their sins *because* they are all *His* children. As Paul pointed out, "*we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, **according to that he hath done**, whether it be good or bad*" (2 Cor 5:10). And, As **Psalm 75** [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Psalms/869] also pointed out, 'promotion' (to a position of power) does *not* come from mankind. It truly comes from God (YHVH) Himself. And those who *abuse* their positions of power will indeed realize that, "*in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, **and the wine is red**; it is full of mixture; **and he poureth out of the same**: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them*"! Revelations 18 speaks of this 'cup' in detail, but there's many other Scriptures that do too [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Psalms/872].

Therefore, only our Heavenly Father (YHVH) does whatever He wants to (pleases, desires). Yet, even with all His power He never uses it for evil. And, because He's created all things in heaven, and on earth, that also means that HIS will is going to be done, *not* ours. And, when you get to know our Heavenly Father (via studying His Word), you realize that His will is truly *far better* than our own. And that's because, while our thoughts are usually 'vanity' (carnal thoughts, Ps 94:11) His thoughts, His ways, and His timing are *far better* than ours (Isa 55:8-9) because He is *always* looking out *for the benefit of His children*. So, even though our Heavenly Father has *all* power over His creation, He *still* desires good things for us! That's why He has promises us an eternity where "*there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain*" (Rev 21:4; Isa 25:9). Yet, in order to give that to us, He must get rid of **all** the rebels who *don't want to behave*. And that's *exactly* what this life in the flesh is all about. It's a time of testing for His children, i.e. to see who really loves Him (and His children), and wants to get along, verse those who are selfish, and don't want to get along. Therefore, we can take great comfort in the fact that the Lord (YHVH) does *whatever* He pleases, in heaven and on earth. For that is truly what will give us such a wonderful life in the eternity (Rev 21-22, etc.)!

Psalm 135
7 He causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings for the rain; he bringeth the wind out of his treasuries.

Now, after pointing out that the Lord (YHVH) does *whatever He wants to* on earth, *and* in heaven, the Psalmist (likely Hezekiah) begins to give some examples of *what* the Lord (YHVH) has been 'pleased' (desired) to do. Again, these things are that *distinguish* Him *from all others* who are called 'gods' (in heaven *and* on earth). For *no one else* is able to do the things that the Psalmist is speaking of here (and in the next few verses) because the Lord (YHVH) is *far superior* (in every good way) to all of His creation. So then, the word '**vapours**' here means (in the context of this verse) a ***rising midst*** (#5387), and the word '**ascend**' means ***to ascend, be high*** or ***mount*** (#5927). And the word '**ends**' means ***an extremity*** (#7097). Mostly likely, this is referring how moisture rises from the edges of the earth *to form clouds*.

And then the word '**lightnings**' does indeed mean ***lightning*** (#1300) while '**rain**' really does mean ***rain*** (#4306). So, what the Psalmist is speaking of here is simply, how lightning often accompanies rainfall. And, the benefit from this is that: through the rain, and lightning, *working together*, they actually act as a *natural* fertilizer, by bringing *usable* nitrogen to plants. The immense heat, and electrical energy of a lightning strike, break the strong bonds of atmospheric nitrogen molecules. These separated nitrogen atoms quickly combine with oxygen in the air to create nitrogen oxides. When these compounds *dissolve in rainwater*, they turn into nitrates (a highly nutritious form of nitrogen). The rain then *carries these nitrates into the ground*, where plants absorb them through their roots to fuel growth and make proteins. So, while a thunders storm that has a lot of lighting may be scary (to some), there's actually a *very important* benefit that comes from this. And the Psalmist's point is that, our Heavenly Father ***purposely*** *created* electrical storms *to work this way*. Again, that's something *no one else* can do, nor thwart, when He doesn't want them to.

And then, while the word '**wind**' can mean different things (as it's used figuratively too), in the context of this verse, it really is referring to ***the wind*** (#7307). And, while we cannot see the wind, we certainly *can feel it* and *see the effects of it*. It's funny that many people say they don't believe in 'God' because they cannot see Him yet… they believe in the wind! Yet, the same is true for our Heavenly Father (the true God, Yehovah) as it is the wind, i.e. we cannot see Him but, *we can still feel His Holy Spirit within us* and we *can see* His 'effects' upon the earth if we simply open our eyes and look around. The book by Bullinger, called **Number in Scripture** [https://t.me/BestStudyBible/15], explains some of the *amazing* facts about Numbers in the Scripture *and* in Creation. And it really 'hammers home' the fact that, just as we can see the effects of the wind, so too can we see the effects of our Heavenly Father upon the earth, even in His creation. That's why Paul said that, "*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*" (Rom 1:20). So truly, by studying God's creation, we *can* learn much about our Heavenly Father. And that's another reason He truly is far greater than all other 'gods'.

So then, going back to verse 7 (here in Ps 135) where it's written that, "*he bringeth the wind out of his treasuries*" … the word '**treasuries**' means a ***depository*** (#214) and comes from a prim root that means ***to store up*** (#686). Interestingly, this Hebrew word 'treasuries' is also used in Deut 32:34, when the Lord (YHVH) said, "*Is not this laid up in store with me, and sealed up among my treasures*?". He was simply pointing out that all the sins of the earth are duly noted in His 'book' **and** will be punished (if not repented for). And, as the Psalmist (of this 135 Psalm) is soon going to point out, the Lord (YHVH) often uses His creation (nature) to punish mankind with. So, here in this 7th verse, the Psalmist (Hezekiah) is simply highlighting the Lord's (YHVH's) *power over* His Creation (including his 'arsenal' of the weather, i.e. 'treasuries'), which *no one else* (on earth, or in heaven) has! While mankind can *manipulate* the weather, we

cannot control it as *only* our Heavenly Father can. Further, the tenth chapter in Jeremiah makes a *very* similar point as the Psalmist does here in chapter 135. For He says that…

10 But the LORD is the ***true*** *God, he is the* ***living*** *God, and an* ***everlasting*** *king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.*
11 Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have ***not*** *made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens.*
12 He hath made the earth ***by his power****, he hath established the world* ***by his wisdom****, and hath stretched out the heavens* ***by his discretion****.*
13 When he uttereth his voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and ***he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures.***
Jer 10:10-13 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Jeremiah/167]

Note how the 13th verse from the 10th chapter of Jeremiah is *nearly identical* to this 7th verse. So, like Hezekiah (here in Ps 135), Jeremiah also pointed out how the Lord (YHVH) is the *only one* who *created* the earth *and* the weather systems (water cycle, etc.). And he pointed this out, to back up his point from verse 10, i.e. that Yehovah is the *true* God because He's the *only* Living God (i.e. self-existent and eternal, #3068) and thus, He's also the *everlasting* King of kings (Rev 19:16). And anyone else who calls themselves a 'god' (such as Satan, 2 Thess 2) are truly lying because they are *not* the Creator of all things! Again, the Lord's (YHVH's) power to Create (and fully destroy) is a *defining* characteristic of His, i.e. it's what *distinguishes* (separates Him) *from all others* who call themselves (or are called) 'god'. As He said in Deut 32:39, "*See now that I, even I, am he, and* ***there is no god with me****: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand*". And how true that is!

So, our Heavenly Father is not only *our* Creator, He's also the creator of *all* things. And, as such, He also has *full power* over all of His Creation. And (to reiterate) this is *one of* the things that *separates* Him from *all others* called 'god'. And further, He is not going to let a bunch of wicked rebels (i.e. Satan and those who follow Him) destroy His children, nor His earth (where He has chosen to live in the eternity, Rev 21-22). Therefore, because even our own soul is under God's control (Ezek 18:4, to do with as He wants), it behooves us to seek, love and humbly serve *Him*. Not only will this give us *great* peace, blessings, and protection in our daily life *now*, but it's also the only way to live *eternally*…

14 ***Depart from evil****, and* ***do good****; seek peace, and pursue it.*
15 ***The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous****, and* ***his ears are open unto their cry****.*
16 ***The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.***
17 The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

18 The LORD is <u>nigh unto them</u> that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.
19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.
20 He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.
21 Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.
22 ***The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.***
Ps 34:14-22

We'll pick this up in part 3…

AMEN.