

Part 3 – To Call Upon the Name of the Lord our God

In part 2 we learned that the Lord's (YHVH) 'great' (*superior in character or quality*), 'terrible' (fearful) and 'holy' (i.e. clean and thus without sin) name *will* be praised when Jesus Christ returns to the earth. And we also learned that the *reason* He (and our Heavenly Father, Yehovah) will be praised, at Jesus Christ's return, is because He loves (has deep affection for) *righteous* judgment. And, He loves *righteous* judgment *because* that's what begets *true* justice, which is the only way *true* peace, and prosperity, will ever flourish, let alone endure forever. As Jesus said in John 12:48, He *always* judges by God's Laws, which are the *only* Laws that are *righteous*. Thus, when Jesus Christ returns, He will establish (set up) a worldwide government that is based upon *the truth*, which is God's Word (John 17:17), which includes His Laws – which are totally right, and fair, *in every way*. He, therefore, loves *righteous* judgement *very* much; and that's *why* Jesus Christ will rule as the King of all kings and thus, will establish (set up) 'equity' by making all things right when He returns. Indeed, enforcing God's Laws *will* make things right, because the wicked *will* be punished and the righteous *will* be rewarded, *just* as God's Word *promises* us. And this is the thought we pick up with here in this great Psalm 99...

Psalm 99

5 Exalt ye the LORD our God, and worship at his footstool; for he is holy.

Now let's remember, this Psalm (the 'new song') is referring to when Jesus Christ returns. And we see that the Psalmist now calls the people to exalt and worship 'the Lord our God'. The word '**Lord**' here is again God's sacred (and covenantal) name **Yehovah** which means (the) **self-Existent** or **Eternal** (#3068) [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/946>]. 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 then we also see a 'title' of the Lord (YHVH) rendered as '**God**', which is the Hebrew word '**Elohiym**' (#430) and means **the Supreme God**, who is our **Creator**. '**Elohiym** (also spelled '**Elohim** at times) is God the Creator putting His omnipotence ('**El**) 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* (see note in the CB on 2 Chron 18:31, where it stands in contrast with Yehovah as indicating *convent relationship*). Thus, while 'Elohim is God as the Creator of all things, Yehovah is the same God in covenant relation to those whom He has created. Yehovah is thus the Eternal or Immutable One, He Who WAS, and IS, and IS TO COME. The Divine definition is given in Gen 21:33. He is especially, therefore, the God of Israel *but also* the God of those who are redeemed, and are thus now 'in Christ' (Rom 3:24; Eph 1:7; Col 1:14; Heb 9:12). So, the Psalmist not only uses God's Sacred (and Covenantal) name (*Yehovah* = YHVH) but *also* His 'title' of '**Elohiym**' (#430), to point out that our Heavenly Father (Yehovah) is not only our Creator but *also* the Supreme God who is eternal *and* self-existent. Therefore, He's the *only* one who can give us *eternal* life (John 17:3). And that also means He's the *only* one who can save us

from our sins, from the wicked ones, *and* from spiritual death (i.e. the death of our body, soul and spirit – Rev 20:10-15). And that's *why* He alone should be exalted and worshiped.

So, it's *very* important we know *exactly* **who** we are to worship, because many people don't worship our Creator, but *false* gods (via idols) who are simply God's creation (Rom 1:25). And, they, therefore, *cannot* save us from death. As Ps 96:5 said, *all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens*. False gods are simply 'idols', which means 'nothings', i.e. *vanity* (#457). And that (to reiterate) is because they did *not* create us and they *cannot* save us from spiritual death. They can only *promise* us 'things', but their promises are quite *empty* (2 Peter 2:18-19). And then the word '**exalt**' here is a prim root that means **to be high actively**, to **rise** or **raise** (in various applications, literally or figuratively) (#7311). So, the Psalmist points out that we should exalt (raise up) God's Holy Name for He's the only Supreme God *because* He's our Creator! Again, that means He's the only one who can give us *eternal* life and thus save us from *spiritual* death. As Jesus said in John 17:3, eternal life is knowing *the only true God and Jesus Christ* who was sent by God to save us from our sins and from bondage to Satan's lies and deception (Rom 6). And Jesus explains this further, in John 6:63, when He said that *it is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life*. So, fleshly things don't save our soul and spirit - only God's Word does, for God's Word **is the truth** (John 17:17) and *that's* what our soul and spirit **needs to live enterally**.

And then the word '**worship**' (here in Ps 99:5) means **to depress**, i.e. **prostrate** (especially in homage to royalty or God) (#7812). And the word '**footstool**' is a combination of two Hebrew words that do indeed mean **a foot stool** (#7272, #1916). So, we are to worship at His 'footstool', which is interesting because, while people were to worship God at His Temple (before Jesus Christ came and died to atone for our sins, once and for all, Heb 10:10) His 'footstool' was not something included in the Temple itself [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Exodus/170]. So, what's this verse really saying when calling us to worship at God's 'footstool'? Well, this question is easily answered when we 'search the Scriptures' (John 5:39) as we are supposed to do (2 Tim 2:15, Isa 34:16). For, in 1 Chron 28:2 David does call the Tabernacle/Temple of God the Lord's (YHVH's) 'footstool', as does Ps 132:7-8 and Lam 2:1. And we know that the Ark of the Covenant, which held the 'mercy seat', was actually God's *throne* (Ex 25:22). That's why verse 1 of this Psalm 99 said He dwelt 'between the cherubims', because the mercy seat was 'between the cherubim's, i.e. verse 1 was simply speaking of His throne *on earth*. But, it's also His 'footstool' because *the earth* is His footstool! As He said through the prophet Isaiah...

*1 Thus saith the LORD, The **heaven is my throne**, and the **earth is my footstool**: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?*

2 For all those things hath mine hand made, and those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.
Isa 66:1-2

So, even though the earthly Tabernacle/Temple was indeed where God dwelt at times, it's still considered His 'footstool' because His *true* throne is indeed in heaven (Ps 11:4; Rev 4, etc.). And then (going back to Ps 99:5) the word '**holy**' is the same Hebrew word rendered as 'holy' back in verse 3. So, it too means **sacred** (ceremonially or morally) and (as noun) it can even refer to **God** (by eminence), **an angel, a saint, or a sanctuary** (#6918). And the prim root it comes from is especially helpful to understand what 'holy' means - for it means **to be** (or make, pronounce or observe as) **clean** (ceremonially or morally) (#6942). So, our Heavenly Father is indeed holy (spiritual clean, i.e. without sin). And that's why Ps 145:17 declares, *the LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works*. And Ps 119:142 also states, *thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth*. And then, Deut 32:4 also explains that, *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*. And this is why the Lord (YHVH) our God (Creator) should be exalted and worshiped (from the heart). But, as we've learned in previous Psalms (such as 50, 84, etc.), true worship isn't really about outward worship, i.e. lifting up your hands, singing and praising Him verbally. All that is great **but only** if it's *accompanied* with our *true inward* worship. As Ps 95 taught us, true worship means not hardening your heart to *the truth*, which is God's Word (John 17:17). So, the essence of truly worshipping the Lord (YHVH) our God (Creator) is *not* hardening our heart to His Word (as Heb 3-4 explains), for God's Word is the only thing that gives *life* to our soul (body) and spirit (heart and mind), as Jesus so profoundly explained in John 6:63.

Further, as Jesus Christ taught us, we no longer need a physical Temple to worship Him at (or even a physical Church building) because *true* worship is about worshipping our Heavenly Father '*in spirit and truth*' (John 4:23-24). That means we *must* put truth (God's Word, John 17:17) in our spirit (heart and mind) **if** we want to truly worship Him. As Solomon pointed out in 2 Chron 2:6, the only reason they needed a physical Temple - in the days before Jesus Christ (the true Messiah) came to die for our sins - is because they were *required* to perform blood sacrifices in order to worship God. But, Jesus Christ's great sacrifices on the cross *fulfills* all those blood sacrifices (rituals of all kinds) *forever*, as Col 2:14, Eph 2:15 and Heb 10:10 so clearly explain. To reiterate: blood sacrifices don't need to (and should not be) offered anymore because Jesus has fulfilled them *forever* (Mth 5:17, 26:56; Lk 24:44-47). So, we are now to worship God *wherever we are* by putting truth (His Word) into our 'inner man' (as explained in Jer 31:33, Heb 8:10, 10:16) and sincerely trying to obey it. And, when we do that, His Holy Spirit will, literally, come to dwell in our flesh body, so that we *can have* the strength, and understanding, to obey Him. As Paul explained, *we are the Temple of God when we accept Jesus Christ*, for His Holy spirit dwells within us (1 Cor 3:16-18, 1 Cor 6:15-20, 2 Cor 6:14-18). And that, again, is why we don't need a physical building to worship in today [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/332>].

Psalms 99

6 Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among them that call upon his name; they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.

Now the Psalmist gives us some examples of those who *truly* worshiped the Lord (YHVH) our God (Creator). And, even though they still had to offer blood sacrifices, these men *really* understood what *truly* worshiping the Lord (YHVH) is all about – putting truth in our heart and mind (spirit) and (willingly) striving to obey them, from the heart (our desires, emotions, intentions, motivations) and mind (thoughts). That’s *why* they were chosen to be ‘priests’ (i.e. servants) to God, i.e. because they ‘called upon His name’. Now, the word ‘**priest**’ here means (literally), **one officiating, a priest** as well as (by courtesy) **an acting priest** (although a layman) (#3548). And it comes from a prim root that means **to mediate in religious services**, i.e. **to officiate as a priest** (#3547). And these definitions help us to understand why the prophet Samuel was considered a priest (*and* even performed the duties of a priest) even though he was not of the tribe of Levi. As 1 Sam 1:1 tells us, his father was an Ephrathite, which simply means he was *of the tribe of Ephraim* (#673). But, as 1 Sam 1 (and onward, through much of the book) tells us, Samuel was given to the priesthood by his mother’s oath. For she was barren, and asked God for a child. She promised she would *give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head* (1 Sam 1:11). And, because the Lord gave her a ‘manchild’ (baby boy) she kept her word, and gave Samuel to the Lord; and he thus served God in the Temple. (Note: God also gave her many other children after that, because of her sincere love and devotion to Him, 1 Sam 2). And not only did the priest, Eli, accept him into the priesthood but so did God. So, even back in those days, while the Levites were *supposed* to be the ones who ‘mediated in religious services’ to the Lord, Samuel was chosen by God to do so after Eli died. Why? Because *the priesthood had become corrupted*, as 2 Sam 2 also tells us. Therefore, God used Samuel *as a priest because his heart was right with God*. Thus, Scriptures tell us that Samuel not only performed priestly duties for Israel, but He also ‘called unto the Lord God’ *for* them (1 Sam 7:8-10) and even *against them* when they asked for a king (1 Sam 12:17-18) – **and** – the Lord ‘answered him’ too. And that’s an *excellent* example for us, to prove how important it is, to God, that we worship Him *sincerely*. And it also proves He will choose who He wants to serve Him, despite their racial heritage. As Peter said, in Acts 10:34-35, *God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him*.

So, these three men (Moses, Aaron and Samuel) were examples set forth by this Psalmist (of Ps 99) to point out what truly worshiping the Lord really is. And the Psalmist says that they ‘called upon the Lord’ *and* because of that, *He answered them*. The word ‘**call**’ here means **to call out to**, i.e. **properly, address by name**, but used in a wide variety of applications (#7121). And the word ‘**name**’ here means **an appellation, as a mark or memorial of individuality; by implication honor, authority, character** (#8034). And, of course, the word ‘**Lord**’ is God’s sacred (and covenantal) name **Yehovah** [<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). So, **to truly ‘call upon’ God’s ‘name’ means you seek Him (and Him only) for help, guidance and protection (even blessings) and strive to obey Him, from the heart.** And that is in contrast to those who ‘call upon’ (for help, guidance, protection, blessings, etc.) false gods (or idols, which are made to worship them). In essence, ‘calling upon’ the name of the Lord (YHVH) means having an intimate relationship with Him, i.e. worshiping Him ‘in spirit and in truth’. As Ps 145:18-20 says, *The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will **hear their cry**, and **will save them**. The LORD preserveth **all them that love him**: but all the wicked will he destroy.*

Further, ‘calling upon the Lord’ also involves seeking Him (the truth) *by studying His Word*. You see, if you only pray to God (in your own mind) but don’t ever study His Word, then you really are *not serious* about ‘calling upon Him’. Why? Because God’s Word is the *written form* of His Holy Spirit (John 6:63). So, His written Word is **literally the words that have come out of God’s own mouth**. Therefore, His written Word *tells us what He has to say*. And if you want to really have a true relationship with our Creator, then you must study His Word because, otherwise, *you are not seeking Him sincerely*. In other words, order to truly ‘call upon’ God (pray to Him) you’ve got to be willing to seek Him sincerely. And that means studying His Word. Yes, studying God’s Word **is** sincerely seeking Him, which **is** a *pivotal* part of ‘calling upon’ His name. Because, when you ‘call upon the name of the Lord’ (YHVH) you pray to the *true* God. And He has manifested Himself, not only through Jesus Christ, but *through His written Word* (John 1). And, while praying to the *true* God (YHVH) is a vital part of ‘calling upon’ Him, it’s not the only part. The other part is listening to what He has to say. And yes, there are many times He’ll ‘speak to us’ (*spiritually*, in our heart and mind) via His Holy Spirit but, without studying (and knowing) God’s written Word, ***we cannot truly know if what we think we ‘hear’ from God is really from Him or another ‘spirit’ vying for our attention (and obedience).***

That’s why John warned us to ‘try’ (i.e. test) the spirits in 1 John 4:1. So, it takes *studying* God’s Word, *and* praying to Him, to develop a real, personal and intimate relationship with Him. And really, the *only* way you can receive (and get to know intimately) the Holy Spirit of God [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1220>] is by ***studying His Word*** – for yourself, sincerely and diligently (2 Tim 2:15). After all, God’s written Word **is** the Holy Spirit *in written form* (John 6:63). So, when you do sincerely study God’s Word (for yourself) then ***you are willingly taking in the Holy Spirit of God***. And thus, getting to know God’s written Word will help you learn to discern when the Holy Spirit is *really* speaking to you [<https://t.me/BibleStudyAudios/39>] verses when He is not. And we *need* that discernment so we are not deceived into worshiping (and obeying) other spirits (especially evil spirits) ... which is a real threat to us because Satan and his servants *disguise* themselves as ‘apostles of Christ’, ‘ministers of righteousness’ and ‘angels of light’ (2 Cor 11:13-15).

Moreover, in order to truly ‘call upon the name of the Lord’ you’ve also got to be willing to sincerely try to *obey* God’s Word. For that is a *vital* part of *believing* it. If you don’t strive to obey God then *you really do not believe in Him or His Word* (as James chapter 2 points out, https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_James/15). And, if we don’t really believe in God, or His Word (the Bible) then He won’t answer us (Ps 66:18; Isa 59:2). Now, the word ‘**answered**’ (here in this Ps 99:6) means *to eye or* (generally) *to heed*, i.e. *pay attention*; and, by implication, it also means (importantly) *to respond* and can also (by extension) also mean *to begin to speak* or (specifically) *to sing, shout, testify, announce* (#6030). So, if we want God to pay attention to our prayers – *and respond to them* (i.e. answer them) – then we’ve *got* to be willing to hear, *and obey* Him. And, as we learn God’s written Word better, we’ll get better at learning when His Holy Spirit is *truly* ‘speaking to us’. Thus, we’ll learn how to obey him better and better, so long as we ‘stick with it’ and don’t get sidetracked by fleshly things (lusts, greed, pride, anger, etc.).

So again, the Psalmist points out that Moses, Aaron and Samuel all called upon God’s Name. And, because they were priests (or functioned as one, in the case of Samuel), they were essentially mediators between the Lord (YHVH) and the people. And, when they ‘called upon His Name’, He answered them *because* they were faithfully devoted to serving Him, not themselves. And, this is brought out in this Psalm (99) - that’s speaking of the ‘New Song’ that will be sung when Jesus Christ returns - because our Heavenly Father is *still* calling people to serve Him. As Paul wrote (*to the gentile*, Titus), Jesus Christ *gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works* (in Titus 2:14). And Peter also wrote to the ‘scattered strangers’ (1 Pt 1:1) that *ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light* (1 Peter 2:9). So, God is still calling people out of the world to serve Him (2 Cor 6:17; Rev 18:4). And that means we must know God’s Word (studying it consistently, diligently and sincerely) so we know *how* to serve Him and how to ‘call upon’ the *true* Lord, who is *Yehovah* (John 14:13-14, John 15:17, John 16:23-26) ...

5 For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.

*6 But **the righteousness which is of faith** speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)*

7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

*8 But what saith it? **The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;***

*9 That **if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.***

10 For with the heart man **believeth unto righteousness**; and with the mouth **confession is made unto salvation**.

11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

17 So then **faith cometh by hearing**, and hearing by the word of God.

Rom 10:5-17

We'll pick this up in part 4...

AMEN.