

Readings

Scripture

¹ Praise the Lord! Praise the name of the Lord, give praise, O servants of the Lord, ² who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God! ³ Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing to his name, for it is pleasant! ⁴ For the Lord has chosen Jacob for himself, Israel as his own possession.

⁵ For I know that the Lord is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. ⁶ Whatever the Lord pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps. ⁷ He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth, who makes lightnings for the rain and brings forth the wind from his storehouses.

⁸ He it was who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, both of man and of beast; ⁹ who in your midst, O Egypt, sent signs and wonders against Pharaoh and all his servants; ¹⁰ who struck down many nations and killed mighty kings, ¹¹ Sihon, king of the Amorites, and Og, king of Bashan, and all the kingdoms of Canaan, ¹² and gave their land as a heritage, a heritage to his people Israel.

¹³ Your name, O Lord, endures forever, your renown, O Lord, throughout all ages. ¹⁴ For the Lord will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants.

¹⁵ The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of human hands. ¹⁶ They have mouths, but do not speak; they have eyes, but do not see; ¹⁷ they have ears, but do not hear, nor is there any breath in their mouths. ¹⁸ Those who make them become like them, so do all who trust in them.

¹⁹ O house of Israel, bless the Lord! O house of Aaron, bless the Lord! ²⁰ O house of Levi, bless the Lord! You who fear the Lord, bless the Lord! ²¹ Blessed be the Lord from Zion, he who dwells in Jerusalem! Praise the Lord!

- Psalm 135 (English Standard Version)

Reflection

"The climax of God's happiness is the delight He takes in the echoes of His excellence in the praises of His people."

- John Piper

"Doth not all nature around me praise God? If I were silent, I should be an exception to the universe. Doth not the thunder praise Him as it rolls like drums in the march of the God of armies? Do not the mountains praise Him when the woods upon their summits wave in adoration? Doth not the lightning write His name in letters of fire? Hath not the whole earth a voice? And shall I, can I, silent be?"

- Charles Spurgeon

Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

- Hebrews 13:15

Sermon Outline

Overwhelmed by God
Psalm 135

Vintage Vinyl
Josh Creason

God calls us to praise him in light of his character.

How are we to praise God in light of his character?

Praise him for his goodness (Psalm 135:3)

Praise him for his grace (Psalm 135:4)

Praise him for his greatness (Psalm 135:5-18)

Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- What are those things that you get excited and passionate about which you want to share with those around you? Why are these things easy to be excited and passionate about and share with others?
- When you think about praising God, what makes it difficult? What makes it easier?
- In helping to posture our hearts toward praising God it is helpful to meditate on who He is and what He has done. Thinking in terms of Psalm 135...
 - How is God good? How has He been good to you and his people?
 - How is God gracious? How has He been gracious to you and his people?
 - How is God great? How has He been great to you and his people?
- In light of these questions what do you feel convicted to act upon? What steps can you take to put this into practice? Who can you share with about this?