

LESSONS FROM PSALMS ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE

Scripture: Psalms 135:1-21

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Introduction:

- A. No one knows for sure who the Holy Spirit used as the human author of this Psalm.
- B. Most think King Hezekiah wrote it following the miraculous delivery of Jerusalem from Sennacherib's army.
- C. The words "praise" and "bless" constitute the key words for this Psalm. Their meanings are almost the same. The two are used 11 times in the 21 verses.
- D. The Psalm begins and ends with the command, "Praise ye the Lord."

I. LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO PRAISE THE LORD.

- A. The word "praise" means to express favorable judgment of -- to commend -- to glorify by speaking of one's perfections
- B. "Bless" means to praise -- to glorify.
- C. The two can be summed up in the word "worship" which comes from the two words "worth" and "ship."
 1. The basic meaning is prostration -- to bow before worth
 2. It means to respect -- to reverence -- paid to the Lord.
 3. It means that we regulate our lives in such a way that God is pleased with us.

II. LEARN WHO IS CALLED ON TO PRAISE THE LORD.

- A. v. 1 "Ye servants of the Lord." According to the New Testament, this means all who are saved ... and especially all who are members of the Lord's true churches. I Cor. 6:19, 20; Phil. 1:1 "Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ. . ."
- B. v.2 Ye that stand in the house of God... and in the courts of the house of God. This seems to refer to those who serve God in special ways in public worship.
- C. vs. 19, 20 House of Israel, House of Aaron, House of Levi. These calls go out to all of God's people and especially to His appointed spiritual leaders.
- D. v.20 calls on all who fear the Lord to praise Him.
- E. v.21 Seems to issue a call to any and all less someone feels that he has been left out. Every living soul is called on to praise the Lord.

III. LEARN WHY WE ARE TO PRAISE THE LORD.

- A. It is enough that God has commanded it.
- B. v.3 Because God is good.
- C. v.4 Because of God's choices.
 1. Jacob even Israel.
 2. Each of us who is saved.
- D. v.5 Because God is great.
 1. Great above all gods.
 2. vs. 15-18
- E. vs. 6, 7 Because He is the God of creation and He does whatever He pleases in His creation.
- F. vs. 8-12 Because of His deliverance, His protection, and His provisions of and for His people.
 1. Israel
 2. All who are saved.
- G. v. 13 Because the Lord is forever with us.
- H. v.3 Because it pleases God for us to praise Him. This is well-worship.