

Psalm 113:1-3

Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord, Praise the name of the Lord! Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore! From the rising of the sun to its going down the Lord's name is to be praised.

Four times in this psalm the psalmist uses the Hebrew word hallal (translated praise and praised). Halal means to be clear of sound, but usually of color; to shine; hence, to make a show, to boast; and thus to be clamorously foolish; to rave; to celebrate; also to stultify. As you read these verses you get the sense that a command is being given; that praise is not an option. The psalmist is not speaking here of a passive acknowledgement, but a demonstrative act of celebration.

The word blessed in verse two is the Hebrew word barak which means to kneel; to bless God as an act of adoration. It seems the writer was saying that from then until forever the name, character and very being of God is worthy of adoration. Worshipers should kneel before him as an act of the adoration they have toward him.

At other times in the Psalms we read of specific time frames given to praise the Lord. For instance Psalm 34:1 says, *I will bless the Lord at **all times**; his praise shall **continually** be in my mouth.* Another is found in Psalm 119:164. **Seven times a day I praise you, because of your righteous judgments.** Here in Psalm 113 the psalmist says the name of the Lord is to be praised from the rising of the sun till the time it goes down. We normally think of this as a day. However, there is a deeper meaning. The sun rises in the east and sets in the west which is an infinite line. This keeps alive the overall theme of the psalm that there really isn't a time when God's name is not to be praised.

Scripture references:

Psalm 41:13

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.

Psalm 89:52

Blessed be the Lord forevermore! Amen and Amen.

Psalm 106:48

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, Amen! Praise the Lord!

Romans 1:25

...who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

2 Corinthians 11:31

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever...

Revelation 7:12

...saying: Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen.