

Psalm 135:1-3

Praise the Lord! Praise the name of the Lord; Praise him, O you servants of the Lord! You who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God, praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; Sing praises to his name, for it is pleasant. NKJV

Three times in verse one the servants of the Lord are commanded to halal; meaning to be clear of sound, to shine; hence, to make a show, to boast; and thus to be clamorously foolish; to rave; to celebrate. The reason for such a command is that the Lord is good! The Hebrew word for good means good in the widest sense. In every way possible and at all times God is good.

Servants, sometimes called porters or gatekeepers, were employed to guard and do the necessary maintenance of the temple. They were stationed inside the temple and outside in the temple court yard at all times. Psalm 134:1 alludes to this; *Behold; bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, who by night stand in the house of the Lord!*

There is also the command to sing praises. Sing praises is the Hebrew word zamar. Zamar means to strike with the fingers, to touch the strings or parts of a musical instrument, i.e. play upon it; to make music, accompanied by the voice; hence to celebrate in song and music. Note that this command was given to those who stand in the house of the Lord. Hence, it seems safe to say that not only does scripture give liberty to play music to the Lord in houses of worship, it is commanded. Why? His name is pleasant or delightful. Not only is his name pleasant, so is the praise. Psalm 147:1 says, *Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful.*

Scripture references:

Psalm 149:1

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, and his praise in the assembly of saints.

Psalm 9:11

Sing praises to the Lord, who dwells in Zion! Declare his deeds among the people.

Psalm 18:49

Therefore I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name.

Psalm 68:4

Sing to God, sing praises to his name; Extol him who rides on the clouds, by his name YAH, and rejoice before him.

Psalm 92:1

It is good to give thanks to the Lord and to sing praises to your name, O Most High...

Psalm 25:8

Good and upright is the Lord; Therefore he teaches sinners in the way.

Psalm 34:8

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in him!

Psalm 136:1

Oh; give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! For his mercy endures forever.

Psalm 5:7

But as for me, I will come into your house in the multitude of your mercy; In fear of you I will worship toward your holy temple.

Psalm 23:6

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 27:4

One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

Psalm 96:8

Give to the Lord the glory due his name; Bring an offering, and come into his courts.

Psalm 100:4

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise. Be thankful to him, and bless his name.

Psalm 113:1

Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord, Praise the name of the Lord!