

Psalm 145:1-3

I will extol you, my God, O King; and I will bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you, and I will praise your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable. NKJV

The Hebrew word used for extol is ruwm. Ruwm means to be high actively or to rise or raise. How do we raise God? He is already above all things. We raise him up in the eyes and minds of men. We make him look good to all those around us. Does God really need us to make him look good? No. However, he has commanded us to do so. The following scriptures use the Hebrew word ruwm (extol, exalt). Notice that these passages are not mere suggestions but commands.

Psalm 30:1 *I will extol you, O Lord, for you have lifted me up, and have not let my foes rejoice over me.*

Psalm 34:3 *Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.*

Psalm 99:5 *Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his footstool -- he is holy.*

Psalm 99:9 *Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his holy hill; For the Lord our God is holy.*

Psalm 118:28 *You are my God, and I will praise you; You are my God, I will exalt you.*

David not only gives his intention to raise God up but also to bless his name. He uses the Hebrew word barak which means to kneel or bless God as an act of adoration. The Hebrew word for name is shem. Shem gives the idea of definite and conspicuous position; an appellation, as a mark or memorial of individuality; by implication honor, authority, character. David is saying, "Because of your position, honor, authority and character, O God, I will kneel before you forever in adoration." The Hebrew word used for forever means properly, concealed, i.e. the vanishing point; generally, time out of mind past or future, i.e. eternity; always.

Not only will David bless the name of the Lord forever, but he will praise him every day. Halal is the Hebrew word use here for praise. It means to be clear of sound, to shine; hence, to make a show, to boast; and thus to be clamorously foolish; to rave; to celebrate. We tend to save such displays of adoration and praise for Sunday worship services. However, this was an every day occurrence in the life of David.

Verse three states that God is greatly to be praised (halal). The word greatly in the Hebrew means vehemence, i.e. vehemently; wholly, speedily. The American Heritage Dictionary defines vehement as characterized by forcefulness of expression or intensity of emotion, passion, or conviction; ardent; emphatic; marked by or full of vigor or energy; strong; violent.

Scripture references:

Psalm 145:21

My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh shall bless his holy name forever and ever.

Psalm 74:21

Oh, do not let the oppressed return ashamed! Let the poor and needy praise your name.

Psalm 96:4

For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods.

Psalm 113:3

From the rising of the sun to its going down the Lord's name is to be praised.

Psalm 140:13

Surely the righteous shall give thanks to your name; the upright shall dwell in your presence.

Psalm 142:7

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise your name; the righteous shall surround me, for you shall deal bountifully with me."

Psalm 148:13

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above the earth and heaven.

Psalm 149:3

Let them praise his name with the dance; Let them sing praises to him with the timbrel and harp.

Psalm 30:12

To the end that my glory may sing praise to you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Psalm 45:17

I will make your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore the people shall praise you forever and ever.

Psalm 52:9

I will praise you forever, because you have done it; and in the presence of your saints I will wait on your name, for it is good.

Psalm 79:13

So we, your people and sheep of your pasture, will give you thanks forever; we will show forth your praise to all generations.

Psalm 47:2

For the Lord Most High is awesome; He is a great King over all the earth.

Psalm 95:3

For the Lord is the great God, and the great King above all gods.

Psalm 99:3

Let them praise your great and awesome name -- he is holy.

Psalm 135:5

For I know that the Lord is great, and our Lord is above all gods.

Psalm 147:5

Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.

Psalm 21:1

The king shall have joy in your strength, O Lord; and in your salvation how greatly shall he rejoice!

Psalm 109:30

I will greatly praise the Lord with my mouth; Yes, I will praise him among the multitude.

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