

Who is Like the Lord Our God?

Psalm 113



The Man Christ Jesus

Christ's Humanity

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- Jesus did not in any sense, to any degree, at any time, or for any season surrender any whit of deity.
- **Colossians 2:9 – “For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.”**
- Indeed, the very notion of “surrendering” deity is incongruous to the point of nonsense.

Understand Also

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- Jesus did take upon Himself genuine human nature (Philippians 2:6-8).
- There is indescribable mystery in the proposition that “the Word became flesh” as it is presented and developed in the Gospel narratives.

Therefore...

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As we read these Psalms and refer to Jesus' perception of them, it is important to remember that except at those occasional and relatively infrequent times when the Holy Spirit directed Jesus to access and employ the superhuman capacities which are a function of His divine attributes, He lived out His life under the actual and real limitations intrinsic to unfallen humanity.

Outline for Psalm 113

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I. A Call to Worship (vv. 1-3)

II. The Crucial Question (vv. 4-6)

III. The Condescension of our King (vv. 7-9)

The Main Idea

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113:1 begins with: “Praise the Lord!”

הַלְלוּ יְהוָה (Hallelujah!)

113:9 ends with: “Praise the Lord!”

הַלְלוּ יְהוָה (Hallelujah!)

Psalm 113:1-3

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1 Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord, Praise the name of the Lord. **2** Blessed be the name of the Lord From this time forth and forever. **3** From the rising of the sun to its setting The name of the Lord is to be praised.

Important Truth:

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**This Call to Worship is Not
Universal.**

**This is Not Extended to the
Whole Earth.**

“Praise, O servants of the Lord”

“servant of the Lord”

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- Moses is identified as such 18 times
- Joshua two times
- David two times
- In Psalm 134:1 the phrase is used to describe the workers in the Temple

Who are the “servants of the Lord” in Psalm 113?

Deuteronomy 10:12

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12 “Now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require from you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to **serve** the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul”

“servant” in Psalm 119

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- **119:17** – “Deal bountifully with Your servant, That I may live and keep Your word.”
- **119:76** – “O may Your lovingkindness comfort me, According to Your word to Your servant.”
- **119:125** – “I am Your servant; give me understanding, That I may know Your testimonies.”
- **119:140** – “Your word is very pure, Therefore Your servant loves it.”

Servants are to:

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**“Praise the name of the Lord.
Blessed be the name of the
Lord...The name of the Lord is
to be praised”**

This is a little repetitive, isn't it?

The Point:

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Our God has a Name.

And His Name
proclaims His character
and defines how we must
engage with Him.

“The Lord is His Name.” PSALMS

- Exodus 15:3 – “The Lord is a warrior; **The Lord is His name.**”
- Jeremiah 33:2 – “Thus says the Lord who made the earth, the Lord who formed it to establish it, **the Lord is His name**”
- Hosea 12:5 – “Even the Lord, the God of hosts, **The Lord is His name.**”
- Amos 9:6 – “The One who builds His upper chambers in the heavens And has founded His vaulted dome over the earth, He who calls for the waters of the sea And pours them out on the face of the earth, **The Lord is His name.**”

How Long Will We Praise? PSALMS

“From this time forth and forever.
From the rising of the sun to its
setting”

This addresses “when” and
“where” this praise is to occur.

Continual and Perpetual

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To join this congregation
in praising the Lord is to
join a group of people
who will never cease
praising the Name of the
Lord.

Turn to

PSALMS

Luke 13:22-30

Revelation 5:11-12

PSALMS

11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, **12** saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.”

On This Night

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- Jesus sang these words as a son of Abraham and a son of David.
- Today He sings with the whole company of heaven, leading His servants in everlasting praise.
- That night He called His disciples to worship, and He is calling us to the same today.

Psalm 113:4-6

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4 The Lord is high above all nations; His glory is above the heavens. **5** Who is like the Lord our God, Who is enthroned on high, **6** Who humbles Himself to behold The things that are in heaven and in the earth?

v. 5 asks the Question:

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“Who is like the Lord our God?”

For us, the answer seems
simple.

Is this just a rhetorical question
that doesn't require much
thought?

We Say Things Like:

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- God is:
 - **Eternal**
 - Infinite
 - **Unchangeable**
 - Holy

What good are these adjectives if we cannot define them properly?



John Owen

“All the rational concepts of the minds of men are swallowed up and lost, when they would exercise themselves directly on that which is absolutely immense, eternal, infinite. When we say it is so, we know not what we say, but only that it is not otherwise. What we deny of God, we know in some measure—but what we affirm we know not; only we declare what we believe and adore.”



**“The Lord is high above all nations;
His glory is above the heavens.”**

“Who is enthroned on high”

He is a King

He Rules

He Reigns

Which makes the next phrase all the more shocking.

What?!?!

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**“Who humbles Himself to behold
The things that are in heaven and in
the earth”**

**Our God is not in need of knowledge
or experience.**

**He is self-existent; He owes us
nothing.**

Why would our King do such a thing?



Jesus Sings Psalm 113

“Who is Like the Lord Our God?”

Jesus is.

He and the Father are One.

He is the image of the invisible God.

By Him all things were created.

In Him all things hold together.

In Him all the fullness of deity dwells.

He is eternal, infinite, unchangeable, holy.

Turn to

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Hebrews 2:9-18

And Not
Only That

He Has
Just
Washed
The
Disciples'
Feet.





Philippians 2:5-8

PSALMS

5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. **8** Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Psalm 113:7-9

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7 He raises the poor from the dust And lifts the needy from the ash heap, **8** To make them sit with princes, With the princes of His people. **9** He makes the barren woman abide in the house As a joyful mother of children. Praise the Lord!



Job 2:7-8

7 Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. **8** And he took a potsherd to scrape himself while he was sitting among the ashes.

Understand:

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“He raises the poor from the dust And
lifts the needy from the ash heap”

This is not material poverty.

This is the reality of our spiritual state
described in Genesis 3:19 –

**“For you are dust, And to dust you shall
return”**

In God's Presence

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We are exposed on the ash heap—
all our sin, our shame, our
wickedness, our disgrace.

And this is where all of us would
stay, were it not for our God
humbling Himself and raising us
up.

This is Amazing!

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He doesn't simply look down from His throne in pity and offer condolences.

He descends into the dust, into the ash heap, to a place of contempt, outside the city, to those separated from God due to their own sin and shame.



Unbelievable

PSALMS

And while healing and forgiveness
would be grace enough, our God
does more than we could ever
imagine!

He rescues His servants from the
ash heap “To make them sit with
princes, With the princes of His
people”

Ephesians 2:12-13

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12 remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

“The Lord is high above all nations; His glory is above the heavens... Who is enthroned on high”

And now He raises us to be with Him, above the nations, as princes, not as guests but as children.

Romans 8:14-17

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14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. **15** For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” **16** The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, **17** and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

Final Verse for Today:

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- To whom is verse 9 referring?
“He makes the barren woman
abide in the house As a joyful
mother of children.”

The previous verses may offer a
hint.



1 Samuel 2:8

8 He raises
the poor from
the dust, He
lifts the
needy from
the ash heap
To make
them sit with
nobles, And
inherit a seat
of honor



Luke 1:48, 52

48 For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondslave... **52** He has brought down rulers from their thrones, And has exalted those who were humble



Back to Jesus

**“Who is Like the Lord
Our God?”**

No One.

**He makes the Impossible
Possible.**

**He creates Life where there is
None.**

**He Raises up those Condemned to
Die.**

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