

1 Chronicles 16:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Give thanks unto the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people.

Analysis

This thanksgiving psalm's opening imperative 'Give thanks unto the LORD' establishes worship's foundation - gratitude for God's character and deeds. The command to 'call upon his name' (qara b'shem YHWH) signifies public proclamation and prayer invoking God's revealed character. Making known His deeds 'among the people' ('ammim - nations/Gentiles) reveals worship's missional dimension. Israel's worship was never merely private devotion but testimony to the nations about YHWH's uniqueness and saving acts. This anticipates the Great Commission and the church's calling to declare God's mighty acts in Christ to all peoples.

Historical Context

David composed this psalm (drawn from Psalms 105, 96, 106) for the ark's installation in Jerusalem (c. 1000 BCE). Appointing Levites for continual worship (16:4-6) established liturgical patterns that would shape temple worship and influence synagogue and Christian worship traditions.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does viewing thanksgiving as a command rather than a feeling reshape your worship practices?
2. In what specific ways can you 'make known God's deeds among the peoples' in your context?

Interlinear Text

1	הָזֶה	לִיהְיוֹת	בְּשָׁם	וְ	הָזֶה	יְعַד
Give thanks	unto the LORD	call	upon his name		make known	
H3034	H3068	H7121	H8034		H3045	
among the people	his deeds					
H5971	H5949					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 12:4 (References Lord): And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted.

2 Kings 19:19 (References Lord): Now therefore, O LORD our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD God, even thou only.

1 Corinthians 1:2 (References Lord): Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's:

1 Chronicles 16:34 (References Lord): O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.

Acts 9:14 (Parallel theme): And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

1 Kings 8:43 (Parallel theme): Hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for: that all people of the earth may know thy name, to fear thee, as do thy people Israel; and that they may know that this house, which I have builded, is called by thy name.

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