

# Psalms 113:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Praise ye the LORD. Praise, O ye servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD.

## Analysis

**Praise ye the LORD. Praise, O ye servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD.** This triadic call to worship opens the Hallel psalms (113-118) with emphatic, repetitive summons. The threefold **"Praise"** (הללו/halelu) creates rhythmic intensity, each iteration reinforcing the command. Halal means to celebrate, boast, shine, or make a show—exuberant, demonstrative worship, not quiet contemplation.

**"Praise ye the LORD"** (הללוּ-יהוה/halelu-Yah)—the familiar "Hallelujah"—frames the psalm (vv. 1, 9), bracketing all creation's praise. This isn't suggestion but command, communal imperative. The object of praise is יה (Yah), shortened form of Yahweh (יהוה), God's covenant name revealed to Moses. Worship isn't generic but directed to the specific God who revealed Himself to Israel.

**"O ye servants of the LORD"** (עבְדֵי יְהוָה/avdei Yahweh) identifies the worshipers: those who serve God. Eved can mean slave or servant, emphasizing both submission and relationship. These aren't casual admirers but committed servants whose lives belong to God. Finally, **"praise the name of the LORD"** (אֶת־שֵׁם יְהוָה/et-shem Yahweh) shifts from praising God Himself to praising His name—His revealed character, reputation, and attributes. God's name encompasses all He has disclosed about Himself.

## Historical Context

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Psalms 113-118 comprise the Egyptian Hallel, sung during Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles, and Hanukkah. Specifically, Psalms 113-114 were sung before the Passover meal, 115-118 after. Jesus and His disciples sang these psalms at the Last Supper (Matthew 26:30), making Psalm 113's call to praise Jesus's own worship before His crucifixion. The designation 'servants of the LORD' originally applied to Levitical priests and temple singers but expanded to include all Israel and ultimately all believers who serve God through Christ.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does the threefold repetition of 'praise' challenge passive or half-hearted worship in your own life?
2. What does it mean to identify as a 'servant of the LORD'—how should this identity shape daily priorities and decisions?
3. What aspects of 'the name of the LORD'—His revealed character—most inspire your praise, and how can you cultivate greater awareness of His nature?

## Interlinear Text

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הַלְלוּ	יְהוָה	הַלְלוּ	עַבְדֵי י	יְהוָה:	הַלְלוּ	אֶת
Praise	ye the LORD	Praise	O ye servants	of the LORD	Praise	H853
H1984	H3050	H1984	H5650	H3068	H1984	
שְׁמוֹ	יְהוָה:					
the name	of the LORD					
H8034	H3068					

