

Psalms 116:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the courts of the LORD'S house, in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Praise ye the LORD.

Analysis

In the courts of the LORD's house (בְּחַצְרוֹת בֵּית יְהוָה, be-chatzrot beit YHWH)—Chatzer means court, courtyard; bayit means house. **In the midst of thee, O Jerusalem** (בְּתוֹכֵךְ יְרוּשָׁלָם)—Tokh means midst, middle, center. **Praise ye the LORD** (הֲלֹלְיוֹתָה, halelu-Yah)—This is "Hallelujah," meaning "praise Yah[weh]."

The vow-payment (v. 18) happens specifically in Jerusalem's temple courts—the geographic and spiritual center of Israel. This grounds worship in physical place and community. While Christians aren't bound to geographical Jerusalem (John 4:21-24), we gather corporately for worship (Hebrews 10:25). The psalm ends with "Hallelujah," inviting all to join the praise. Individual thanksgiving becomes communal worship.

Historical Context

Jerusalem and its temple were central to Israelite identity and worship. Three annual festivals required pilgrimage there (Deuteronomy 16:16). After exile, rebuilding the temple was priority #1 (Ezra-Nehemiah). Jesus cleansed the temple courts, calling them "a house of prayer for all nations" (Mark 11:17).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 – Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does corporate worship in a specific place with God's people matter, despite worship being ultimately spiritual?
2. What would it look like to conclude your personal praises with inviting others to join ("Hallelujah")?
3. How does Christ's body, the church, become the "temple" where vows are fulfilled today?

Interlinear Text

בְּבֵית יְהוָה בְּבֵית כִּי בְּתִיכְיָה	מִצְלָל יְהוָה בְּבֵית כִּי בְּתִיכְיָה	יְהוָה בְּבֵית יְהוָה בְּבֵית כִּי בְּתִיכְיָה	בְּבֵית יְהוָה בְּבֵית כִּי בְּתִיכְיָה			
In the courts	house	of the LORD'S	in the midst	of thee O Jerusalem	Praise	
H2691	H1004	H3068	H8432	H3389	H1984	

בָּרוּךְ יְהוָה
ye the LORD

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 135:2 (References Lord): Ye that stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God,

Psalms 96:8 (References Lord): Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts.

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