

# 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

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**In the courts of the LORD's house** (בְּחִצְרוֹת בַּיִת יְהוָה, be-chatzrot beit YHWH)—Chatzer means court, courtyard; bayit means house. **In the midst of thee, O Jerusalem** (בְּתוֹכִי יְרוּשָׁלַם, be-tokeki Yerushalayim)—Tokh means midst, middle, center. **Praise ye the LORD** (הַלְלוּ-יָהּ, 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

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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

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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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

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בְּחִצְרֹתַי	בֵּית	יְהוָה	בְּתוֹכִי	יְרוּשָׁלַיִם	הַלְלֵנוּ
In the courts	house	of the LORD'S	in the midst	of thee O Jerusalem	Praise
H2691	H1004	H3068	H8432	H3389	H1984

יְהוָה:  
ye the LORD  
H3050

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.