

Psalm 134:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, bless ye the LORD, all ye servants of the LORD, which by night stand in the house of the LORD.

Analysis

The final Ascents psalm opens with call to worship: 'Behold, bless ye the LORD, all ye servants of the LORD, which by night stand in the house of the LORD.' The word 'behold' calls attention to what follows. The imperative 'bless ye the LORD' commands worship - not God blessing people but people blessing God, meaning to praise, honor, exalt. The audience 'all ye servants of the LORD' includes all who serve God, particularly temple personnel. The specific group 'which by night stand in the house of the LORD' likely refers to priests/Levites who maintained night watch in temple (1 Chronicles 9:33; Psalm 135:2). 'Stand' suggests both physical posture and readiness for service. This brief psalm functions as benediction for the Ascents collection, calling worshipers to maintain praise even through night, symbolizing both literal night watches and difficult seasons. Continuous worship characterizes God's people.

Historical Context

The temple maintained 24-hour worship with rotating divisions of priests and Levites (1 Chronicles 9:33; 23:30; 25:1-31). Night watches were organized periods of vigilance and worship. As pilgrims departed Jerusalem after festivals, this psalm encouraged continued faithfulness. The Songs of Ascents (120-134) formed collection used during pilgrimage and provided vocabulary for ongoing spiritual journey.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does it mean for people to 'bless the LORD' - how do we bless God?
2. Why is night worship specifically mentioned - what does darkness symbolize?
3. How does 'standing' in God's house suggest both readiness and perseverance?
4. What does continuous worship (night and day) reveal about God's worthiness and our dependence?
5. How can believers maintain blessing the LORD through 'night' seasons of difficulty?

Interlinear Text

בָּרוּךְ	אַתָּה	בָּרוּךְ	וְ	הָבָתְךָ	כָּל	עֲבָדֶיךָ	וְ	הָבָתְךָ
H2009	Behold bless	H853	of the LORD	H3605	all ye servants	of the LORD		
	H1288		H3068		H5650		H3068	
בְּעָמֵד	יְמִ	בָּבִית	וְ	הָבָתְךָ	כָּלִילוֹתִ	וְ	הָבָתְךָ	כָּלִילוֹתִ
stand	in the house	of the LORD	which by night					
H5975	H1004	H3068	H3915					

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 9:33 (Parallel theme): And these are the singers, chief of the fathers of the Levites, who remaining in the chambers were free: for they were employed in that work day and night.

Psalms 120:1 (References Lord): In my distress I cried unto the LORD, and he heard me.

Leviticus 8:35 (References Lord): Therefore shall ye abide at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation day and night seven days, and keep the charge of the LORD, that ye die not: for so I am commanded.

2 Chronicles 29:11 (References Lord): My sons, be not now negligent: for the LORD hath chosen you to stand before him, to serve him, and that ye should minister unto him, and burn incense.

Revelation 19:5 (Parallel theme): And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

Psalms 121:1 (Parallel theme): I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

Psalms 122:1 (References Lord): I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.

Luke 2:37 (Parallel theme): And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

Psalms 132:1 (References Lord): LORD, remember David, and all his afflictions:

Psalms 133:1 (Parallel theme): Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!