

# Psalms 135:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Praise the LORD; for the LORD is good: sing praises unto his name; for it is pleasant.

## Analysis

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Here the psalmist supplies the first reasons for praise: 'for the LORD is good' and 'for it is pleasant.' The Hebrew word 'tov' (good) encompasses moral excellence, benevolence, and generosity - God's goodness is not merely an attribute but His disposition toward His people. The parallel statement 'sing praises unto his name; for it is pleasant' uses 'na'im' (pleasant, lovely, delightful), which can describe either the act of praising as pleasant or God's name itself as delightful. Both interpretations yield truth: worship brings joy to the worshiper, and God's revealed character is inherently beautiful. This verse establishes that praise flows from theology - we worship because of who God is. As James 1:17 declares, 'Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above.'

## Historical Context

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The phrase 'the LORD is good' appears frequently in Israel's worship vocabulary (Psalm 100:5, 106:1, 107:1). This confession was central to temple liturgy, often sung antiphonally. The emphasis on God's goodness contrasted sharply with pagan conceptions of capricious, morally ambiguous deities.

## Related Passages

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

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does understanding that praise is "good" and "pleasant" change your approach to worship?
2. What makes praising God inherently beautiful rather than merely dutiful?

## Interlinear Text

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הַלְלוּ	יְהוָה	כִּי	טוֹב	יְהוָה	זִמְרָו	לְשֵׁם ו	כִּי
Praise	the LORD	H3588	is good	for the LORD	sing praises	unto his name	H3588
H1984	H3050		H2896	H3068	H2167	H8034	
נָעִים:							
for it is pleasant							
H5273							

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 147:1** (Resurrection): Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely.

**Psalms 119:68** (Good): Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes.

**Psalms 33:1** (Resurrection): Rejoice in the LORD, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright.

**Psalms 106:1** (Resurrection): Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

**Psalms 100:5** (Good): For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

**Psalms 118:1** (Good): O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever.

**Psalms 63:5** (Resurrection): My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips:

**Matthew 19:17** (Good): And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

**Psalms 136:1** (Good): O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

**Psalms 107:1** (Good): O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

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