

Psalm 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

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

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

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

בָּרוּךְ יְהֹוָה כִּי טוֹב יְהֹוָה יִמְרָא וְלֹא שָׁמָן
Praise the LORD H3588 is good for the LORD sing praises unto his name H3588
H1984 H3050 H2896 H3068 H2167 H8034

תְּעִים:

for it is pleasant

H5273

Additional Cross-References

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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