

# Psalms 135:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods.

## Analysis

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Personal testimony anchors theological truth: 'For I know that the LORD is great.' The shift to first person singular emphasizes experiential knowledge - 'yada' implies intimate, relational knowing, not mere intellectual assent. The psalmist declares Yahweh 'gadol' (great, magnificent) and 'above all gods.' This is not polytheism but polemical language acknowledging what pagans worship while asserting Yahweh's absolute supremacy. The title 'our Lord' (Adonenu) adds covenant intimacy to divine majesty - the great God is 'ours.' This combination of transcendence and immanence characterizes biblical faith. Paul echoes this in 1 Corinthians 8:5-6: 'though there be that are called gods... to us there is but one God.' The believer's confidence rests not on abstract theology but personal encounter with the living God.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern religion was characterized by henotheism - worshiping one god while acknowledging others. Israel's prophets consistently challenged this, insisting that other 'gods' were mere idols with no actual divine power. The phrase 'above all gods' appears in Exodus 18:11 after Jethro witnessed the exodus, demonstrating how God's mighty acts revealed His supremacy.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith



**Isaiah 40:25** (Parallel theme): To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One.

**Isaiah 40:22** (Parallel theme): It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:

**Psalms 89:6** (References Lord): For who in the heaven can be compared unto the LORD? who among the sons of the mighty can be likened unto the LORD?

**Daniel 3:29** (References God): Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.