

Psalm 148:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He also exalteth the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints; even of the children of Israel, a people near unto him. Praise ye the LORD.

Analysis

The final verse of Psalm 148 completes the cosmic scope and transitions toward the earthly realm: 'He also exalteth the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints. Praise ye the LORD.' The phrase 'exalteth the horn' (Hebrew 'vayarem keren') uses 'horn' as a biblical idiom for strength, power, and dignity. To exalt someone's 'horn' means to raise them from degradation to honor. 'Of his people' specifies that this exaltation is granted to Israel, God's covenant community. 'The praise of all his saints' (tehilah le-kol-chasidav) shifts focus from celestial praise to the praise-offering of God's covenant community. 'Saints' (chasidim) refers to those devoted to God, characterized by covenant loyalty (chesed). The final 'Praise ye the LORD' returns to the direct imperative. This verse, the transition point between heavenly cosmology (verses 1-13) and earthly praise (Psalms 149-150), asserts that God's exaltation of His people is itself an act worthy of praise. God's commitment to raise the afflicted and honor the faithful demonstrates His character and creates grounds for continued worship.

Historical Context

The phrase 'exalteth the horn of his people' appears in 1 Samuel 2:10, in Hannah's Song of thanksgiving for the birth of Samuel. This liturgical echo suggests continuity: God's exaltation of His people in Samuel's time is fulfilled and renewed across ages. During the exile, when Israel's 'horn' (national power) was broken, this verse maintained hope that God would restore dignity and honor. The post-

exilic period witnessed gradual political subjugation (Persian, Hellenistic, Roman rule), making the promise that God would exalt His people's horn spiritually significant if not politically realized. 'All his saints' (kol-chasidav) in post-exilic Judaism referred not merely to a priestly elite but to all the covenant community. This represents a democratization of sanctity: all faithful Israelites are God's 'saints.' The verse transitions from cosmic praise to covenant community praise, establishing that God's glory is known and proclaimed through the exaltation of His faithful people. The integrity of the psalm's structure becomes clear: from heavens to earth to people, all creation participates in proclaiming God's glory.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does it mean that 'exalting the horn of his people' is itself grounds for praising God?
2. How should we understand God's exaltation of His people when political circumstances suggest otherwise?
3. Why does the psalm specifically identify the praise as coming 'of all his saints' (the covenant community)?
4. In what ways does God's commitment to honor His people connect to and complement His cosmic sovereignty?
5. How should the promise that God 'exalteth the horn of his people' affect our understanding of our status and identity in Christ?

Interlinear Text

וְיִרְאֶם	קְרֻנוּ	עַם	תְּהִלָּה	לְכָל	סִדְּרִים
He also exalteth	the horn	a people	the praise	H3605	of all his saints
H7311	H7161	H5971	H8416		H2623
לְבָנָיו	קָרְבָּן	עַם	שִׁרְאָל	פָּלָלוּ	יְהֹוָה
even of the children	of Israel	a people	near	unto him Praise	ye the LORD
H1121	H3478	H5971	H7138	H1984	H3050

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 75:10 (Parallel theme): All the horns of the wicked also will I cut off; but the horns of the righteous shall be exalted.

Ephesians 2:17 (Parallel theme): And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

Deuteronomy 4:7 (References Lord): For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for?

1 Samuel 2:1 (References Lord): And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation.

Deuteronomy 10:21 (Resurrection): He is thy praise, and he is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen.

1 Peter 2:9 (Holy): But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Psalms 112:9 (Parallel theme): He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour.

Psalms 149:9 (Holy): To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD.

Ephesians 2:13 (Parallel theme): But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

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