

Psalm 148:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts.

Analysis

Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts. This verse summons the angelic realm to worship, using parallel Hebrew imperatives halleluhu (הֶלְלָהוּ, praise Him) twice. **"All his angels"** (kol mal'akhav, כָּל-מֶלֶךְ־אָכָּר) refers to created spiritual beings who serve as God's messengers (mal'akh, מֶלֶךְ־אָכָּר, means messenger or angel). The phrase **"all his hosts"** (kol tzeva'av, כָּל-צְבָאָה) uses tzeva'ot, meaning armies or organized forces—hence God's title "LORD of hosts" (Yahweh Tzeva'ot).

This military imagery portrays heaven's angelic beings as organized regiments serving under divine command. They are not independent deities (as in pagan pantheons) but created servants who worship and obey. The dual terms (angels/hosts) emphasize both individual angelic beings and their corporate, ordered function. Scripture presents angels as mighty (Psalm 103:20), innumerable (Hebrews 12:22), and constantly worshiping God (Isaiah 6:2-3; Revelation 4:8).

The call for angelic praise establishes that worship originates in heaven before echoing on earth. Jesus taught disciples to pray "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10)—including worship. Revelation 5:11-12 depicts myriads of angels surrounding God's throne, declaring His worthiness. Human worship joins this cosmic chorus, not initiating it but participating in eternal heavenly praise.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cosmology recognized a 'divine council' of lesser gods serving the high god. Israel's monotheism transformed this concept: Yahweh alone is God; angelic beings are His created servants, not divine peers. Psalm 82 and 89:5-7 depict this 'assembly of the holy ones' who surround God but derive all authority from Him. Post-exilic Judaism developed extensive angelology, recognizing archangels (Michael, Gabriel) and categorizing angelic orders, though Scripture remains relatively restrained in such details.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing that angels constantly worship God shape your understanding of worship's importance and perpetuity?
2. What does it mean that you join angelic hosts in praise rather than initiating something angels don't do?
3. How should the military imagery ('hosts') affect how we understand spiritual warfare and angelic involvement in redemptive history?

Interlinear Text

כָּל־כָּל־אֵלֹהִים
Praise H3605 ye him all his angels
H1984

כָּל־כָּל־אֵלֹהִים
Praise H3605 ye him all his hosts
H1984

Additional Cross-References

Job 38:7 (Parallel theme): When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Genesis 2:1 (Parallel theme): Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

Ezekiel 3:12 (Parallel theme): Then the spirit took me up, and I heard behind me a voice of a great rushing, saying, Blessed be the glory of the LORD from his place.

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