

Psalms 54:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will freely sacrifice unto thee: I will praise thy name, O LORD; for it is good.

Analysis

I will freely sacrifice unto thee: I will praise thy name, O LORD; for it is good. This verse expresses David's commitment to worship God with voluntary offerings and grateful praise once deliverance comes. The structure moves from sacrifice (ritual worship) to praise (verbal worship) to theological foundation (God's name is good).

"I will freely sacrifice unto thee" (binedavah ezbeach-lakh, בְּנֵדָבָה אֶזְבְּאָחַ-לָּךְ) uses nedavah (נְדָבָה), meaning freewill offering, voluntary gift. This contrasts with mandatory sacrifices required by law. Zebach (זְבָח) means to sacrifice, slaughter for sacrifice. David promises to bring offerings not because obligated but because motivated by gratitude. Leviticus 22:18-21 describes freewill offerings brought voluntarily beyond required sacrifices. These expressed devotion, thanksgiving, and generous worship beyond minimal obligation.

The emphasis on "freely" is significant. God desires worship from the heart, not merely external compliance. Psalm 51:16-17: "For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." While David will bring actual sacrifices (appropriate in Old Covenant), his emphasis is on willing, grateful worship, not grudging duty.

"I will praise thy name, O LORD" (odeh shimkha Yahweh, אֹדֵה שִׁמְךָ יְהוָה) uses yadah (הָדָא), meaning to praise, give thanks, confess. This is vocal, public worship

acknowledging God's character and deeds. "Thy name" (shem, שֵׁם) represents God's revealed character. The covenant name Yahweh (יְהֹוָה) appears here—David praises the faithful, covenant-keeping God who delivers His people. This is relationship-based worship: praising the God who bound Himself to David in covenant love.

"For it is good" (ki tov, קְיֻם) provides theological foundation for praise. Tov (טוב) means good—morally excellent, beneficial, pleasant, beautiful. God's name (character) IS good. This is objective reality, not merely David's subjective feeling. Psalm 34:8: "O taste and see that the LORD is good." Psalm 100:5: "For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." God's essential goodness makes praise appropriate, rational, and necessary. Worship is fitting response to divine excellence.

Historical Context

Freewill offerings played important role in Israel's worship. Beyond required sacrifices (sin offerings, trespass offerings, daily offerings), worshipers could bring voluntary offerings expressing devotion. Exodus 35:29: "The children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the LORD, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing." These generous gifts funded tabernacle construction. Solomon's temple dedication featured thousands of voluntary sacrifices (1 Kings 8:62-63).

David's promise to sacrifice and praise once delivered reflects thanksgiving vow pattern. Psalm 116:17-18: "I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD. I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people." Jonah promised: "I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed" (Jonah 2:9).

New Testament transforms sacrifice imagery. Romans 12:1: "present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Hebrews 13:15: "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." Believers no longer bring animal sacrifices (Christ's sacrifice was final) but offer themselves

and their praise as living worship.

The connection between God's goodness and human praise is fundamental to worship. We praise not to inform God He is good (He knows) nor to make Him good (He already is) but because His goodness makes praise appropriate and transforms us. Genuine encounter with divine goodness produces spontaneous worship. Worship shaped by God's character conforms worshipers to His image. As we praise God's goodness, we grow in goodness.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between 'freely' sacrificing (voluntary, grateful worship) and merely fulfilling religious obligations?
2. How does praising God's 'name' (character) differ from generic praise, and why is understanding God's character crucial to genuine worship?
3. What does it mean that God's name 'is good' (objective reality), and how does this ground worship in truth rather than feeling?
4. In what ways do you offer 'freewill' worship beyond basic religious duties—what motivates generous, voluntary devotion?
5. How do New Testament 'sacrifices' (living sacrifice, sacrifice of praise) fulfill the Old Testament worship David practiced?

Interlinear Text

כִּי יְהִי הַשָּׁמֶן כִּי יְהִי הַשָּׁמֶן כִּי
I will freely sacrifice unto thee I will praise thy name O LORD H3588
H5071 H2076 H0 H3034 H8034 H3068

טוֹב:

for it is good

H2896

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 52:9 (Resurrection): I will praise thee for ever, because thou hast done it: and I will wait on thy name; for it is good before thy saints.

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 107:22 (Sacrifice): And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.

Psalms 140:13 (Parallel theme): Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence.

Psalms 7:17 (Resurrection): I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high.

Psalms 21:13 (Resurrection): Be thou exalted, LORD, in thine own strength: so will we sing and praise thy power.

Psalms 92:1 (Resurrection): It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High:

Psalms 116:17 (Sacrifice): I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD.

Psalms 50:14 (Parallel theme): Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High:

