

Psalms 69:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.

Analysis

I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving. This verse marks a dramatic shift from lament to praise—the psalmist, despite ongoing suffering, commits to worship. 'I will praise' (ahallelah, אֶלְלֵהָ) is a volitional declaration—praise becomes an act of will, not merely an emotional response to favorable circumstances. The 'name of God' represents His revealed character, and praising His name means celebrating who He is regardless of present difficulties.

'Magnify him' (agaddelenu, אֶגְדֵּלֵהוּ) means to make great, to exalt. God isn't magnified in the sense of making Him bigger than He is, but in the sense of declaring His greatness, making His glory more visible to others. This happens 'with thanksgiving' (todah, תּוֹדָה), grateful acknowledgment of God's goodness. The verse models the sacrifice of praise Hebrews 13:15 describes: 'the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.'

This commitment to praise in suffering anticipates Christ, who in His darkest hour taught His disciples to pray and praised the Father (Matthew 26:30, John 17). On the cross, amidst agony, Jesus quoted Scripture (Psalms 22 and 31), maintaining worship even in torment. For Christians, this verse models the 'sacrifice of praise'—worship offered when feelings don't support it, when circumstances argue against it, when sacrifice is required. Paul and Silas sang hymns in prison (Acts 16:25), embodying this principle. True worship isn't contingent on comfort but on God's unchanging character.

Historical Context

This verse reflects Israel's thanksgiving sacrifice tradition. Leviticus 7:12-15 describes todah offerings—sacrifices accompanied by thanksgiving songs and public testimony of God's deliverance. These weren't obligatory but voluntary, expressing gratitude for answered prayer. The worshiper would bring an offering and publicly declare God's saving acts, encouraging the community's faith.

The Psalms frequently move from lament to praise, a pattern called 'psalms of confidence' or 'thanksgiving within lament.' This structure reflects Israel's theology: even in distress, faith clings to God's character and anticipated deliverance. The shift from complaint to praise wasn't denial of suffering but prophetic faith—speaking God's worthiness before experiencing full deliverance. This anticipated praise became self-fulfilling prophecy, as worship often preceded and precipitated God's intervention (2 Chronicles 20:21-22).

In temple worship, thanksgiving songs involved instrumental accompaniment ('with a song,' shir, שִׁיר, implies musical composition). The Levitical choir would lead corporate thanksgiving, making private deliverance a public testimony. This communal dimension ensured that individual experiences of God's faithfulness strengthened collective faith. Early Christian worship inherited this pattern—believers shared testimonies, sang psalms and hymns, and gave thanks corporately (Colossians 3:16, Ephesians 5:19), recognizing that thanksgiving strengthens both the worshiper and the community.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. When have you needed to choose to praise God despite circumstances arguing against it?

2. How can you 'magnify' (make visible) God's greatness to others through your response to suffering?
3. What role does intentional thanksgiving play in your spiritual life versus emotion-based worship?
4. How does praising God's 'name' (character) rather than His current actions change your worship?
5. In what ways can your testimony of praise in suffering encourage others' faith?

Interlinear Text

אֶהְלֵל ה' שֵׁם אֱלֹהֵי יִם בְּשִׁיר וְאֶגְדֹּל נֹו
 I will praise the name of God with a song and will magnify
 H1984 H8034 H430 H7892 H1431

בְּתוֹדָה:
 him with thanksgiving
 H8426

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 28:7 (Resurrection): The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

Psalms 34:3 (Parallel theme): O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

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