

Psalms 99:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.

Analysis

The command to 'exalt the LORD our God' repeats verse 5, creating an inclusio that frames the psalm in worship. Worshiping 'at his holy hill' (har qodsho) refers to Mount Zion where the temple stood, emphasizing both the localized presence and the universal supremacy of God. The final declaration 'for the LORD our God is holy' (kadosh Yahweh Elohenu) climactically emphasizes God's holiness as the ultimate reason for worship. This threefold emphasis on holiness (vv. 3, 5, 9) echoes the seraphim's 'Holy, holy, holy' and establishes holiness as God's defining attribute.

Historical Context

Mount Zion became holy not by inherent quality but by God's choice to dwell there, teaching that holiness derives from God's presence, not location or human effort.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the threefold emphasis on God's holiness in this psalm shape your understanding of who God is?
2. What does it mean practically to 'exalt the LORD' in a culture that minimizes God's holiness and magnifies human autonomy?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵינוּ	וְהִשְׁתַּחֲוִי	לְהַר	קֹדֶשׁ וְ	כִּי
Exalt	for the LORD	our God	and worship	hill	at his holy	H3588
H7311	H3068	H430	H7812	H2022	H6944	
וְהִשְׁתַּחֲוִי	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵינוּ				
is holy	for the LORD	our God				
H6918	H3068	H430				

Additional Cross-References

Luke 1:49 (Holy): For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.

Isaiah 57:15 (Holy): For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Revelation 4:8 (Holy): And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

Isaiah 5:16 (Holy): But the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness.

1 Samuel 2:2 (Holy): There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.

