

Studies in Psalms by [John T Polk II](#) For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Psalm 134

4/19/13

There is uncertainty regarding the author, time, or circumstances of these Psalms, but it is apparent [Psalms 120-134](#) work together, and are called the "Songs of Degrees," and sometimes "Songs of Ascension."

Psalm 134

What Worship Is For

Verses 1-2 call for worship of the LORD;
Verse 3 gives a blessing of worship.

Verses 1-2: "Behold" is often useful in calling attention to:

- God's covenant with earth ([Genesis 9:9-11](#));
- God's presence in the burning bush ([Exodus 3:1-3](#));
- God's sweeping judgment against Egypt ([Isaiah 19:1-4](#));
- God placing the foundation stone "in Zion" ([Isaiah 28:16](#)) which was Jesus Christ ([Acts 4:10-12](#)); and
- John the Baptist's identification of Jesus as the Christ ([John 1:19-36](#)).

(Verse 1) It points to the purpose of worship: to "bless the LORD." "Then David said to all the assembly, 'Now bless the LORD your God.' So all the assembly blessed the LORD God of their fathers, and bowed their heads and prostrated themselves before the LORD and the king" ([1 Chronicles 29:20](#)). True worship is "in spirit and truth" ([John 4:23-24](#)), offered by "servants of the LORD" who are diligent to see that worship continues even "by night."

(Verse 2) Lifting up our hands before God, whether physically or mentally, signifies our openness of heart for His "glory" ([Psalm 28:2](#); [63:4](#); [119:48](#); [134:2](#); [1 Timothy 2:8](#)). "The sanctuary" was the sacred building used for worshipping God (Tabernacle, [Numbers 3:38](#), then the Temple, [1 Chronicles 22:7-9](#)). Today, it is the church of Christ:

Now *this is* the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man. ([Hebrews 8:1-2](#))

But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. ([Hebrews 9:11](#))



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A physical building is not a “sanctuary” today, but the sacred assembly is!

Verse 3: “The LORD” (called *Jehovah*, [Exodus 6:1-7](#)) is also the Creator of “heaven and earth” (called *Elohim*, [Genesis 1:1](#)), and was known in Genesis as “Almighty God” ([Genesis 17:1-2](#), *El Shaddai*; [2 Corinthians 6:18](#), *Kurios Pantokrator*), The All-sufficient One, source of all blessings. God blesses “from Zion,” then to the faithful worshippers under Moses, today through Jesus Christ:

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed *is* everyone who hangs on a tree’), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. ([Galatians 3:13-14](#))

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