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Psalm 113

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Bible
at Home

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Psalm 113.

Topics.

- Praise, the LORD, from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- The LORD is high above all nations, and His glory above the heavens.
- God raises the poor from the dust to sit with princes of His people.
- The LORD gives the barren woman a home, and the joy of children.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION

Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

BOOK FIVE (PSALM 107-150)

PSALM 113:1-3

Praise, the LORD, from the Rising of the Sun to its Setting.

- **Psalm 113:1-3:** Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD! ²Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore! ³From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!

The Bible is primarily about man's way back to God, deliverance from eternal death, forgiveness of sin and eternal life. If a billionaire came to you and said he was going to give you one billion dollars, nothing else in the world would matter to you, all your financial problems would be solved for all your remaining years, you could have whatever you desired, that is how valuable the prophets and the faithful of the Old Testament and the apostles and the faithful of the New Testament viewed God's gift of eternal life. In the eyes of the faithful of the Old and New Testament everything else pales before God's gift of eternal life, it is because of this gift that supersedes everything the world can give they are able to thank the LORD from the rising of the sun to its setting. Obviously, this expression, "from the rising of the sun to its setting," only embraces the daylight hours. This of course is because those living during the time this Psalm was written didn't have electricity, lights, TVs, computers and movies etc., to keep them awake all night so the expression is a very appropriate expression for that period of time in history. But by extension it carries the idea of praying to God during all our waking hours. Paul told Christians "to pray without ceasing," (1 Thess. 5:17) this does not mean, hide in a closet and pray all day, (no-one has time to do this, nor does God expect it of anyone, rather it means that no matter what you are doing always be talking to God in your mind. Let the chatter of self-talk that is constantly flowing through the mind be in communion and in prayer with God and the Lord Jesus Christ as you go about your daily work. Think

of a mother who has a child who is ill with a fever. Finally, the fever breaks and the mother and child settle down for some much-needed sleep. Not a noise from the television, from the street, or from the phone could awaken that mother, but one whimper from her child and she's awake, right? That's because even when she is asleep, she is in tune with that child—just as we are to be with God...constantly communing and attuned to His voice. Prayer to us should be as natural and continual as breathing. A devoted and faithful Christian lady asked her classroom the following question: "Do you 'have a prayer life or are you living a praying life?" Think about the difference.

PSALM 113:4-6

The LORD is High above all Nations; His Glory above the Heavens.

- **Psalm 113:4-6:** The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens!
⁵Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high, ⁶who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

Here God is pictured as not only looking down upon the earth, but also looking down upon the heavens. These verses shine a brilliant spotlight upon the truth God does not dwell within the universe He created. This is one of the reasons this Psalmist is calling all the nations to praise Him and give Him glory, there is no other god that people believe in that has such breathtaking power and majestic glory not only over our planet, but over the entire universe.

PSALM 113:7-8

God raises the Poor from the Dust to Sit with Princes of His People.

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- **Psalm 113:7-8:** He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap, ⁸to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.

Throughout the Bible there is a continual call of God to His people for His servants to help the poor and needy, repeatedly the Scriptures speak of the LORD judging those who abuse the poor and oppress the helpless for their own gain. As one travels through the Scriptures it becomes very clear that one of the greatest abominations before God, is people who use the helpless for their own advantage and cheat them out of honest justice to take what is rightfully theirs and who oppress the poor for their own gain.

He raises the poor from the dust to sit with the princes of his people: can refer to the following three things:

- The poor and helpless being raised up to sit with the kings, princes and prophets in the Kingdom of Israel.
- Jews and Gentiles being raised up to sit with those in the global spiritual Kingdom that God is establishing at this present time in Christ.
- All the faithful being raised up from the grave to sit with the founding fathers, the prophets, kings and apostles in the eternal and heavenly Kingdom of God.

PSALM 113:9

The LORD gives the Barren Woman a Home, and Joy of Children.

- **Psalm 113:9:** He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the LORD!

Barrenness was regarded as a disgrace, while motherhood assured the wife of a permanent and dignified position in her husband's house. The words, "He makes the barren woman the joyous mother of children" firstly and literally allude to the sacred history of the Old Testament and to the many instances barren women were miraculously made to bear children. Isaac, Joseph, Samson, Samuel, and John the Baptist were all born of mothers who had been barren. Figuratively it can apply to the following four things:

1. Throughout Scripture Jerusalem is often personified as a mother with children who are all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, (i.e., the priests, prophets, husbands, wives and their children) and by extension she is seen as the mother of all Israel. Jerusalem was left barren of her children. When the armies of Nebuchadnezzar invaded Jerusalem they took all her inhabitants' captive into Babylon. But at the end of their seventy years in captivity all her children returned and there was praise and rejoicing and great joy in her streets.
2. The early apostolic church, which at first had but very few converts, but afterwards, both in Judea and in the Gentile, world gave birth to large numbers of children.
3. Jesus said, Jerusalem is the city of the great King (Matt. 5:34-35) and Zechariah prophesied that Jerusalem's King will come on a donkey and unite Judah and Israel and speak peace to the nations (Gentiles) and his rule will be to the ends of the earth (Zech. 9:9-10), but prior to the latter half of this verse a time will come when the inhabitants of Jerusalem are surrounded by their enemies and suffer a great invasion at which time they look to the Lord for their strength. The Lord will answer their cry and return and protect them and destroy all nations that have come against Jerusalem. Then the inhabitants Jerusalem will look on him whom they have pierced and mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn and Jerusalem will again rejoice and be inhabited with her children. The inhabitants of Jerusalem will become victorious over all people in the Middle East (Zechariah 12:5-11). Jesus will end all forms of war and speak peace to the nations (Zech. 9:9-10) and his rule will be to the ends of the earth (Zech. 9:9-10). Then the kings of the nations will bring their glory into the glorious and majestic New City of Jerusalem (Rev. 21:24) (Rev. 21:10) and the city will never again be barren of her children.
4. The church in the latter day when Christ returns to gather to himself the fullness of the global body of Christ made up of all born again Jews and Gentiles brought together from all nations, tongues and languages as one nation in Christ.

The prophet Isaiah prophesied:

- Sing, O barren one, who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who have not been in labour! For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her who is married, says the LORD. (Isaiah 54:1).

The apostle Paul cites Isaiah:

- For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labour! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband." (Gal. 4:27).

The barren woman in this context refers to Sarah while the one who had a husband refers to Hagar. Abraham became Hagar's Husband when he went into her and she conceived Ishmael, while Sarah was still barren. During the Old Testament era when a man had children to a woman that woman automatically became his wife. Though Sarah was Abraham's wife by love, Hagar became his wife through child bearing thus Isaiah through prophecy (Isa 54:1) and Paul in citing his words are both saying that Sarah though barren will have far more children than Hagar even though

she has a child and a husband. This is because Sarah's children are not limited to the nation of Israel but embraces people from all nations who by faith trust in the Lord Jesus Christ since he is the promised seed of Abraham and Sarah and therefore whoever belongs to the family of Christ are children of Abraham and Sarah. For further information on the Promised Seed of Abraham see:

- Galatians chapter 3 in, Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Every woman rejoices when a child is born into the world:

- When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. (John 16:21).

Likewise, all the faithful of God celebrate with great joy and rejoicing when a sinner is born again amongst them. Jesus said:

- There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. (Luke 15:7).
- There is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents. (Luke 15:10).

Let us pray that the lands and nations that yet remain barren may become fruitful, and produce many converts to join in praising the Lord and make their home in the New and Holy City of Jerusalem the joyous mother of all God's children Old and New Testament. Praise the LORD!

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.