



WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

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Psalm 134

(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 134.

Topics.

- Bless the LORD, you who stand in the House of God.
- Lift up your hands to the holy place and bless the LORD.
- Praises and understanding.
- Praise and the Lord Jesus Christ and praying without ceasing.

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)

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PSALM 134:1-3

A Song of Ascents.

Bless the LORD, You who Stand in the House of God.

- **Psalm 134:1-3:** Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who stand by night in the house of the LORD! ²Lift up your hands to the holy place and bless the LORD! ³May the LORD bless you from Zion, he who made heaven and earth!

Ascents: means a climactic progression or journey to a higher place it carries the idea of a thought arising.

Zion comes from the Hebrew word (*Tsiyown*) and refers to the mountain the city of Jerusalem is built upon. It carries the idea of a permanent capital mountain of Jerusalem in the sense of being readily seen and easily visible and noticed as an important sign (i.e., a significant and historic sign and guiding pillar). It is called God's Holy Mountain because Jerusalem God's Holy City sits on it.

Though Mount Zion is not distinguished for its elevation or grandeur and though it had nothing in itself to claim attention or to excite wonder, it was the most exalted and honoured above all mountains because it was selected as the place where God was to be worshipped and the place where God's city and God's temple is built and God's worship was established. Even though Mount Sinai had all the awesome glory of the Almighty God descend upon it and the law came from there, Mount Zion excels in excellence over it. This is because from Mount Zion came the Messiah the Christ attended by a multitude of angels celebrating his birth and on Mount Zion the Messiah the Christ came into his own temple as Malachi in the following verse prophesied concerning him.

- Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. (Mal. 3:1).

Added to all this royal glory, multitudes of angels ministered to the Lord in his temptation, at his resurrection and accompanied him in his ascension all from Mount Zion.

- Mount Sinai is the mountain of the Old Covenant of Law in contrast Mount Zion is the mountain of the New Covenant of Grace.
- Mount Sinai's glory of the law pales when stood before Mount Zion's grace and Christ's death and resurrection upon it.

Neither Mount Sinai nor Mount Zion can glory and boast in themselves for the following reasons. Mount Sinai is not famous or respected as a holy mountain and a mountain of God because of any majesty of itself, but because it was upon this mountain God descended and gave the Ten Commandments. It is this awesome and holy event that exalts Mount Sinai and not the mountain itself. Likewise Mount Zion has no fame or glory of itself, its glory comes from being the honoured mountain God chose to build His Holy city upon and is the mountain that the Messiah the Christ the Saviour of the world died and rose again from. The real strength is not in Mount Zion itself, but in the LORD, who is the head of the thousands of chariots and the heavenly host surrounding it and as such is the protector of his chosen dwelling-place. Zion is sometimes used as an ancient name for Jerusalem itself and because it is often used in poetic and prophetic passages it can refer to:

- The hill the city of Jerusalem is built on.
- The city of Jerusalem.
- The temple and by extension Judah and the people of God.

Lift up your hands to the holy place and bless the LORD: (v2) these three verses are calling all God's people to praise the LORD who made heaven and earth. God should be praised as God, the Creator and the God of nature and the God of providence and as the God who allows those who dwell on the earth to run their affairs as they please until the appointed time of judgment. Following are two types of praise:

1. Praise prompted from a sense of duty and tradition led by a trained choir and professional musicians standing in front of the congregation which is formal in its nature of praise and once the worshippers have left the building the praise is ended.
2. Praise that flows continually up from the heart and mind in thanksgiving and heartfelt gratitude toward God. This type of praise is also often led by a trained choir and professional musicians standing in front of the congregation, but it has one major difference in that the praise flows up from the heart and when the worshippers leave the building the thanksgiving and praise continues on in the heart and mind throughout the worshippers daily life.

The praise the Psalmist is calling those dwelling on the earth to praise God with is the praise that flows upward from an honest heart of gratitude and thankfulness toward the Creator of all the earth. It is only praise that originates in the heart that rises up before God's throne like sweet smelling incense.

Praises and understanding: means when we praise God we should pray with the understanding and clearly know why we are praising God. Without an understanding of God and why we are praising Him our worship is lacking. Unless we have the Kingdom of God established in our minds and the spirit of praise toward the Lord reigns in our hearts by faith our praise is left shallow and empty.

Praise and the Lord Jesus Christ: without understanding the message of the bloodstained cross of Calvary; Jesus death and resurrection; the Gospel and God's grace praise toward our heavenly Father and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ will be nothing but the empty praise of duty and tradition motivated not from a heartfelt spirit of love toward God and our Saviour and redeemer the Lord Jesus Christ, but motivated by a choir professionally trained for such a purpose.

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, the apostles and the faithful of the Old and 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 and extol the LORD always.

Pray without ceasing: 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 and praising Him 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. To explain the words, "pray without ceasing" a faithful Christian woman wrote: 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 and praising and talking to Him in the silent world of our thoughts. Prayer to us should be as natural and continual as breathing. A devoted and faithful Christian teacher asked her classroom the following question: "Do you 'have a prayer life or are you living a praying life?" Think about the difference.

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.
