



**WBC Verse for the Year 2020**

*'The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness'*  
(Lamentations 3 verses 22-23)

## Psalm 113

A summary, with some things to reflect on.

A video of this is on Youtube <https://youtu.be/jr5CLzrCT-w> or our website - [wychwoodbaptist.org.uk/resources/midweek-reflections/](http://wychwoodbaptist.org.uk/resources/midweek-reflections/)

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Having looked at Psalms 111 & 112 last week, we come to the third in this trio of psalms that commence with a call to 'Praise the LORD.' Yet, Psalm 113 not only concludes that trio, it opens a new series of Psalms (113-118) which were used at yearly passover celebrations. In Psalm 113 we are encouraged to forever praise the name of the LORD. He is our exalted God, who reigns on high, but stoops down low to raise us up!

### **READ: PSALM 113 verses 1-3**

*Forever praise the name of the LORD*

The Psalm opens, with a familiar call to praise, including the first of our reasons for doing so. The focus in these verses is on forever giving praise and honour and glory to God's name. We, his servants (v1), are to give ongoing praise to the LORD.

Notice though, it's to his name. We see that repeated three times over these three verses - '*praise the name of the LORD ... Let the name of the LORD be praised ... the name of the LORD is to be*

*praised.'* 'The LORD' (Yahweh) is a personal name given by God to his people. A name to be remembered throughout the generations (Exodus 3v13-15). It reflected his personal relationship with his people. To forever praise '*the name of the LORD*' is to reflect on our personal relationship with Him. To reflect on his covenant commitment.

His name is forever to be praised. All day, every day!

### **READ: PSALM 113 verses 4-5**

*He is our exalted God who reigns on high ...*

Verses 4-5 focus the attention of our praise on God's exalted status. First, because he is '*over all the nations, his glory above the heavens.*'

We are reminded here that '*the LORD*' is above us. In his perfection, and as creator and sustainer, he is Sovereign, exalted, above his creation. That he is '*over the nations*' reminds us that he is above all earthly powers. Even '*the heavens,*' which are also part of his creation (Genesis 1:1). God is exalted over all creation.

So '*Who is like the LORD our God?*' The answer to this rhetorical question is 'no one.' No one, and no thing should be over and above '*the LORD our God.*' He alone is exalted, forever worthy of our praise, because he is '*the One who sits enthroned on high.*' Our God reigns over and above the heavens; over all the earth.

### **READ: PSALM 113 verses 5-9**

*...but stoops down low to raise us up!*

Looking again at verse 5, then heading into verse 6 we are reminded that our exalted God is '*enthroned on high*' He reigns over and above all. Yet at the same time is not a distant God. From his exalted throne, he stoops down to raise us up!

Notice first, though the repeated emphasis in verse 6 of his exalted position. He even stoops down to look on the heavens!

The LORD our God is exalted and enthroned above us, but at the same time he cares for us. He is a loving and compassionate God. These verses give a picture of God coming down in order to care for His creation. His concern is for the poor and needy (v7).

Look at what he does for them. *'He seats them with princes.'* He takes those who have nothing, from their lowly position, in their poverty, hunger, in the depths of despair. Those who have no position; and raises them up - they are counted amongst princes!

So we have this picture of what the LORD does as He stoops down to care and raise up the poor. Then our focus is drawn to *'the barren woman'* (v9). In those days, to be childless was more than deeply saddening, it left a woman feeling empty, feeling a sense of inadequacy, even shame. Whilst there are many examples of God being at work amongst the barren, Hannah perhaps gives us the clearest insight into her desperation for a child, and the rejoicing which follows, when her barren state is no more. In fact, linking this with the *'poor'* (vv7-8) reflect the words of 1 Samuel 2v8. Life will be given to the barren, leading to rejoicing at God's provision of life!

For the original readers, these verses, this psalm, when read during Passover celebrations would remind them of God's deliverance. Of how he has raised them up as his people. Of the life to be found in Him. For us, we see the further reality of God's provision for us through Jesus.

Ongoing praise is to be given to *'the name of the LORD.'* To our God who is exalted and over and above all, but is also a God who is personal, who is our God. God who loves and cares for us so much that he came down to earth. Through Jesus, God has taken us from the depths of despair, in our deepest need, and given us a new status. He has given life where there is none. All this has been accomplished through his son, who took the penalty of our sin on the cross, meeting us in our poverty, our desperate needy state. The forgiveness that we have through Jesus gives us new status as children of God. We look forward to

being raised into His presence. Through Jesus we have life. New life. Eternal life. As the apostle Paul writes:

*'For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.'* (Romans 6v23).

This psalm has brought to mind a couple of songs. The first is 'From the rising of the sun' (121 in Songs of Fellowship). Another is 'Oh Praise the name.' The latter reflects the first three verses of our Psalm in the midst of a song which takes us from Calvary to his coming again, and the certain hope that we have in Him.

Here's a link: <https://youtu.be/LqBpifDpNKc>

## REFLECTION

*Spend some time re-reading the passage, and thinking about the following*

Look at verses 1-3

*Consider the personal relationship you have with God. For who He is and for all He has done in your life, and give praise to Him.*

*As you do so, remember God is faithful to His promises.*

Look at verses 4-5

*What confidence does it give you that God is exalted over and above all. That he is Sovereign, in control?*

*What comfort is there to know that God is 'over the nations'?*

Look at verses 5-9

*Reflect on how whilst God is over and above all that He cares enough to 'stoop down' and to be at work in His creation.*

*What does the fact He 'raises the poor ... settles the barren' mean for you personally, particularly in light of what He has done through Jesus?*

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***These are just some thoughts, some things to reflect on.  
What else strikes you about this passage?***