

## Praise the Saviour Ye Who Know Him!



One of the most common Hebrew words for “praise” is HALAL. It means “to praise, celebrate, glory, sing (praise), boast.” Whenever we praise ourselves, we are boasting! When we say, “Look how great I am!” then we are pridefully boasting! When we say, “Look how great God is!” then we are praising! Boasting in self is sin, boasting in God (praise) is our duty as creatures (Psalm 33:1; 147:1)!

The word “HALLELUJAH” is the word HALAL (to praise) combined with “Yah,” a shortened form of the sacred name of God “YAHWEH” or “JEHOVAH.” Thus “Hallelujah” means “Praise Yah” or “Praise ye Jehovah” or “Praise ye the LORD.”

### Who Should Praise the Lord?

“Ye who fear the LORD, praise Him” (Psalm 22:23).

“Let the poor and needy praise Thy name” (Psalm 74:21).

“They shall praise the LORD that seek Him” (Psalm 22:26).

“Praise, O ye servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD” (Psalm 113:1).

“Praise Him, O ye servants of the LORD” (Psalm 135:1).

“Oh praise the LORD, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye people” (Psalm 117:1).

“Kings of the earth, and all peoples; princes, and all judges of the earth; both young men and maidens; old men and children. Let them praise the name of the LORD” (Psalm 148:11-13).

“Let everything that hath breath praise the LORD” (Psalm 150:6).

### When Should We Praise the Lord?

“In God we boast all the day long, and praise Thy name forever” (Psalm 44:8).

“Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy name forever and ever” (Psalm 145:2).

“Seven times a day do I praise Thee” (Psalm 119:164).

“While I live will I praise the LORD. I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being” (Psalm 146:2).

## Where Should We Praise the Lord?

“I will give Thee thanks in the great congregation; I will praise Thee among many people” (Psalm 35:18).

“Let them exalt Him also in the congregation of the people, and praise Him in the assembly of the elders” (Psalm 107:32).

“I will praise Him among the multitude” (Psalm 109:30).

## How Should We Praise the Lord?

“My mouth shall praise Thee with joyful lips” (Psalm 63:5).

“I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving” (Psalm 69:30).

“I will greatly praise the LORD with my mouth” (Psalm 109:30).

## Why Should We Praise the Lord?

“I praise Thee because of Thy righteous judgments” (Psalm 119:164).

“Praise the LORD; for the LORD is good. Sing praises unto His name; for it is pleasant” (Psalm 135:3).

“Let them praise the name of the LORD, for He commanded, and they were created” (Psalm 148:5).

“Let them praise the name of the LORD; for His name alone is excellent; His glory is above the earth and heaven” (Psalm 148:13).

“Praise Him, all ye people, for His merciful kindness is great toward us; and the truth of the LORD endureth forever. Praise ye the LORD” (Psalm 117:1-2).

## The Woodpecker Story

A large expectant audience awaited the “special” speaker. The chairman introduced the speaker with such praise that there seemed no room for the glory of God in what was to follow. The stranger had been sitting with bowed head and face hidden. As he stepped forward, he stood a moment as if in prayer, then said:

“Friends, when I listen to such words as we have just been hearing I have to remind myself of the woodpecker story. A certain woodpecker flew up to the top of a high pine tree and gave three hard pecks on the side of the tree as woodpeckers are wont to do. At that instant a bolt of lightning struck the tree leaving it on the ground, a heap of splinters. The woodpecker had flown to a tree nearby where it clung in terror and amazement at what had taken place. There it hung, expecting more to follow, but as all remained quiet it began to chuckle to itself saying, ‘Well, well, who would have imagined that just three pecks of my beak could have such power as that!’”

When the laughter this story had caused ceased, the speaker went on: “Yes, friends, I too laughed when I first heard this story. But remember, if you or I take glory to ourselves which belongs only to Almighty God, we are not only as foolish as this woodpecker, but we commit a very grievous sin, for the Lord hath said, ‘My glory will I not give to another’” (Isaiah 42:8).

## Wesley’s Great Hymn of Praise

O For a thousand tongues to sing  
My great Redeemer's praise!  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of His grace!

Charles Wesley wrote this hymn on the first anniversary of his new birth. It recalls the words of Peter Böhler, the Moravian who was instrumental in Wesley’s conversion: “Had I a thousand tongues I would praise Him with them all.”