



The Praise of Hallelujah!

Psalm 148

Praise and worship are an essential preparation for meditation and prayer. They bring you into God's presence where you feel His peace and can hear what the Spirit is speaking; but more importantly it declares who God is as the One who answers our asking.

Beginning with Psalm 111, ten Psalms begin with **“Praise the LORD!”**

In many of these Psalms, **“Praise the LORD/Hallelujah!”** is the first and last praise declaration. (Psalms 111,112,113,117,135,146,147,148,149,150.)

Understanding what you are saying makes you more effective. **Praise the LORD!** is the Hebrew, **Hallelujah!** Separate the syllables to see the meaning: Hallel to U Jah!, Praise (to You) the LORD/Jehovah!

The Hallel (Hebrew, halal) is the great praise that belongs to God. Jah is a shortened form of Jehovah, LORD

Hallelujah! is always written with an exclamation point because it is a **command**. It is a one word **imperative** like (You) stand! sit! kneel! This is important because it is a command in the spiritual realm.

In Psalms 148, all creation is commanded to “Praise the LORD!”

From the heavens, the heights, all His angels, all the host of armies, the sun and moon, stars, heaven of heavens, waters above the heavens, sea creatures and all the depths, fire and hail, snow and clouds, wind, mountains, hills, fruitful trees, all cedars, beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying fowls, everything is to, **“Praise the LORD!”**

Mentioned specifically by name are the **kings** of the earth and **all peoples; princes**, all **judges**, both the **young men** and the **maid, old men and children**. All are **commanded** to praise and acknowledge God.

v13 says, “Let them (all the above) praise (lift) the Name of the LORD: for His Name alone is excellent; His glory is above the earth and heaven.” (The Creator)

Psalm 148:14 explains:

“And He (God) has exalted the horn (strength and dominion) of His people, (through) the praise of all His saints – Praise the LORD!” God has given praise to His people as a spiritual weapon.

“Hallelujah!/Praise the LORD!” is a [declaration of dominion commanding an acknowledgement](#) of God and His kingdom in heaven and on earth. Dominion is about sovereign authority.

Do you remember when you were first saved, and **“Praise the Lord!”** just rolled off your lips making your unsaved friends uncomfortable? It was a [command](#) they could not obey until they were saved and it usually disturbed them. It disturbs the enemy who understands it.

[God ordained that praise be used to silence the enemy and the avenger.](#)

Psalm 8:2 “Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You (God) have ordained strength (praise) because of Your enemies, that You may silence the enemy and the avenger.”

A synonym for [strength](#) here is [praise](#).

[Jesus confirms that this strength is praise when he quotes Psalm 8:2 saying:](#)

Matthew 21:16 “...Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You (Father God) have *perfected* (prepared) praise.” Jesus does not use the word strength, but uses praise. Jesus says that God ordained that praise be used to silence the enemy. Praise is strength, i.e. powerful enough to silence the enemy.

[In Hebrew, Hallelujah! is rooted in halal and called high praise](#) because it exalts God and gives Him glory. [Halal](#) is lavish, extravagant, poured out praise. It is praise in [action](#) as well as sung praise and seen as King David danced before the Lord with abandon (2 Samuel 6:14-16) and as when the repentant woman washed Jesus’ feet with her tears, anointed His feet with oil and dried them with her hair (Luke 7:44-46). (Sung praise is a form of the word halal; tehillah.)

Response: How would you respond to this kind of praise? Could you do this? Do you think it pleases God? Ask the Lord to help you, begin with the Hallelujahs!

Application: [Meditate through the verses, understand, respond and pray out what you receive.](#)

- Use your praise and Hallelujah! with understanding and authority.
- Hallelujah! is recognized in every language in the world.
- Hallelujah! is often spontaneously expressed by lifting both hands; as a universally recognized sign of both surrender and submission.

[In praise, this gesture is to God alone.](#)