

Ps. 134: A Beautiful Benediction

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PSALM 134

A Song of Ascents.

[1] Behold, bless Jehovah, all servants of Jehovah; who stand in the house of Jehovah at night. [2] Lift up your hands (in) the sanctuary, and bless Jehovah. [3] (May) Jehovah bless you out of Zion, (He) who made the heavens and earth.

1A. The Superscription of the Psalm:

- 1b. Superscriptions are part of the original text.
- 2b. Superscriptions are therefore inspired as the rest of the text.
- 3b. Superscriptions give helpful instructions and information.

2A. The Setting of the Psalm:

- 1b. It is the final song of degrees.

- 1c. The concept of the song of degrees:

“Ps. 120-134 formed a hymn book used by pilgrims going up to Jerusalem for the annual feasts of Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles” (Ryrie, Ps. 120, note).

- 2c. The content of the hymn book:

- 1d. The pilgrim contemplates the journey.
- 2d. The pilgrim progresses on the journey.
- 3d. The pilgrim arrives in Jerusalem.
- 4d. The pilgrim enters the temple to worship.

- 3c. The connection of the 15 psalms:

- 1d. The pilgrim is beholding the Lord: Ps. 120-124
- 2d. The pilgrim is believing the Lord: Ps. 125-129
- 3d. The pilgrim is blessing the Lord: Ps. 130-134

- 4c. The characteristics of the first three psalm:

- 1d. Helplessness at home: Ps. 120:1 (distress, groaning)
- 2d. Hope along the way: Ps. 121:1 (deliverance, glancing)
- 3d. Happiness in Jerusalem: Ps. 122:1-3 (delight, glorying)



2b. It is a liturgical hymn in two strophes.

3A. The Subject of the Psalm:

1b. Rendering blessing to the Lord: 134:1-2

1c. The persons or **WHO?** 134:1a

1d. The arresting admonition: “Behold”

2d. A clear command: “Bless ye the Lord”

To bless the Lord is to adore and thank him for all His benefits.

3d. The key words of Psalm 134: **LORD** (5 times)
Blessing (3 times)

4d. The chief words for God:

LORD-- promise keeping, appears as **LORD** (“**Jesus never fails. . .**”)

ELOHIM—powerful, appears as **God** or **gods** (“**We have an anchor.** ”)

ADONAI—the master, appears as **Lord** (“**Trust and obey. . .**”)
(See Ps. 135:5 for all three names)

2c. The period or **WHEN?** 134:1b

1d. Sentinels: The night watchmen had an important job.
Their work seemed insignificant but was indispensable.

2d. Servants: The Levites would prepare for the next day:

--walking through the temple area

--observing the baking of unleavened bread

--helping the priests prepare for their daily routine

3c. The place or **WHERE?** 134:1c-2

1d. The task of the sentinels and Levites involved danger and responsibility.

2d. The implication is to avoid complaining and grumbling because of the seemingly low position.

4c. The performance of **WHAT?** 134:2a

יהוה
אלהים
אדני

אל	1	<i>EI</i>
אלהים	2	<i>Elohim</i>
יהוה	3	<i>YHVH</i>
אדני	4	<i>Adonai</i>



To lift up one's hand was a symbolic gesture:

- 1d. It showed that the hands are clean (Ps. 24:4).
- 2d. It showed that the hands are complete, without blemish or sin.
- 3d. It showed that the hands are consecrated, to be filled and used.

2b. Receiving of blessing from the Lord: 134:3b



1c. The Lord's power:

- 1d. The fact of creation: He made the universe
- 2d. The fiat of creation: "He spoke and it was done" Ps. 33:6, 9

2c. The Lord's presence:

--out of Zion where the Lord put His name and where He will rule for 1000 years. "For out of Zion shall go forth the law and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem" (Is. 2:3; Mic. 4:2)

- 1d. The One who created the galaxies has selected a special country, city and hill to manifest Himself.
- 2d. This God who calls the stars by name is pleased to bless us, that is, to shower us with spiritual (Eph. 1:3) and physical (Js.1:17) benefits.

"God alone is so Almighty as to be able to bless us bodily and spiritually, temporally and eternally and so compassionate as to be willing to do it"

(Taube in *Lange's Commentary*, 634)

Psalms and Hymns of Isaac Watts

PSALM 134

Daily and nightly devotion.

Ye that obey th' immortal King,
Attend his holy place;
Bow to the glories of his power,
And bless his wondrous grace.

Lift up your hands by morning light,
And send your souls on high;
Raise your admiring thoughts by night
Above the starry sky.

The God of Zion cheers our hearts
With rays of quick'ning grace;
The God that spread the heav'ns abroad,
And rules the swelling seas.

