

Who Is Like the Lord Our God?

Psalm 113:5-9
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The 113th Psalm strongly acclaims that the Lord is to be praised. In the opening verses the Psalmist has allowed his thoughts to soar as he reflects on the greatness of God. The Lord is high above all nations and his glory is higher than the heavens. *"Blessed be the name of the Lord,"* he says in verse 2, *"From this time forth and forever."* *"Praise the Lord!"* *"The name of the Lord is to be praised."*

Then he comes face to face with an aspect of our God that is both startling and confounding to the human mind. It is an unexpected thought that virtually jumps out of his exclamation of praise. It is a thought about divinity that could never occur to humanity left to its own intelligence, to its own experience. This startling fact is God humbles Himself!

In the midst of being lifted to the heights of praise, in the midst of recounting the glories of the One who is above all others, we are brought to a puzzling standstill by the fact that God humbled Himself. Who is like our God?! Listen to verses 5 - 9:

*Who is like the Lord our God,
Who is enthroned on high,
Who humbles Himself to behold
The things that are in heaven and in the earth?
He raises the poor from the dust,
And lifts the needy from the ash heap,
To make them sit with princes,
With the princes of His people.
He makes the barren woman abide in the house
As a joyful mother of children.
Praise the Lord!*

If there is *anything* that should wrest a shout of praise from our lips, it has to be the thought that the One enthroned on high would stoop to behold the things of men. He is concerned about the poor and the needy. He lifts them up to sit among the princes of His people. He makes the barren ones fruitful. Here is a beautiful picture of the lovingkindness of God. A love that causes Him to stoop from His glory on high to care for you and for me.

Jesus is the focal point of that love. His love in coming to earth and self-sacrifice in dying on the cross stand as gigantic punctuation marks emphasizing every syllable of the thought, *"Who is like the Lord our God?"*