

## NEWSLETTER 2024-4

**To:** My Fellow Saints and Well-Wishers

**Date:** August 4, 2024

**Re:** God Cares for the Needy and Deprived Psa. 113:4-9.

*“[The Lord] raises the poor out of the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap and the dung hill, That he may seat them with princes, even with the princes of His people. He makes the barren woman to be a homeowner and a joyful mother of [spiritual] children, Praise the Lord! (Hallelujah!)”* (Psa. 113:7-9 Amplified Bible 1987 edition)

I do realize that originally the intent was to send out “Newsletters” primarily as a means of keeping in contact with some users of the website. God has made changes and these “Newsletters” have been used by God as a means of sending out short messages as well as brief updates in regards to the website. God has used the messages presented to bless the recipients and to Him be the glory. This source remains primarily a means of glorifying God and I ask for your continued prayers!! **The work of God is accomplished not by might nor by human endeavors but by the power and leading of the Almighty God!! To Him be the Glory!!!**

Psalm 113 begins with **“Praise the LORD”** and ends with **“Praise the LORD.”** The psalm is a hymn calling upon all believers to give praise to the True and Living God, who despite who He is cares enough for desperate people and in love and mercy He looked down, reached down and raise up the poor and deprived of the earth.

The psalm (113) is an exhortation to praise God, and all believers have so much to praise God for, above all others; indeed beloved, when we think of all that He has done for us, our souls do cry out Hallelujah!! As children of God, we are truly blessed and highly favored, and as an old favorite gospel chorus says: **“Get all excited, Go tell everybody that Jesus Christ is King! ... ..”**

We will not have time to go into details with our subject, but I do emphasize that **the most effective way to praise God is with our daily living!!** Beloved, it is so important than all believers glorify God **in our practical living** and sincerely loving and caring for people; at this time, I am putting emphasis on the poor, needy and neglected.

Mahalia Jackson’s song: **“If I Can Help Somebody.”** (*Partial quote*)

If I can help somebody, as I travel along  
 If I can help somebody with a word or song  
 If I can help somebody, from doing wrong  
**No, my living shall not be in vain.**  
 (Emphasis mine)

Oh, beloved, if we sincerely live as Jesus lived, **going about, doing good**, what a different world we would have. Indeed, we can praise God by sincerely loving one another, be sincere in our affection, care and compassion and these acts of service are to be done solely to the glory of God and never for personal gains or any other ulterior motives. **Oh! May the beauty of Jesus be seen in us!!**

The Life in the Spirit Study Bible, notes the following on Psa. 113:1-9:

*“The psalm reiterates the two-fold Biblical principle that God gives grace to the humble (cf. James 4:6, 10; 1 Peter 5:5-7) and has compassion of the poor and needy (Luke 7:13; Matt. 20:34).”*

The following is my main outline for Psa. 113:4-9.

*(Originally my highlighted verses were Vv. 5-9 but as I meditated God impress the need to include verse 4).*

1. LORD God Almighty . . . High and Lifted Up! Psa. 113:4
2. Likeness of Him Does Not Exist! Psa. 113:5
3. Lay Aside His Glory and Splendor, In Order to Observe and Address. Psa. 113:6
4. Lift Up the Poor and Needy Out of Their Destitution. Psa. 113:7
5. Lauds the Improvised and Disadvantaged. Psa. 113:8
6. Life of Prosperity Assured, Irrespective of What! Psa. 113:9

As noted earlier, we will not be able to go in details in this presentation; it is my prayer that you will be richly blessed. All to the glory of God!!

1. **LORD God Almighty ... High and Lifted Up! Psa. 113:4.**

**“LORD God Almighty”**: is a title used in the Bible to refer to God’s power and control over the universe and history, there have been those who disregard the reality of the Almighty God and unfortunately, this is seen even among some who **profess** to be serving Him.

**“The Almighty”**: conveys the idea that God is an all-powerful (omnipotent) being who controls everything in the universe at all times! As **LORD Almighty**, He controls history and His purposes will be fully realized! Beloved, He is the **only** True and Living God (Jer. 10:10) and He is worthy of our praise and sincere commitment (Rev. 4, NB Vv. 10-11; Psa. 37:5; etc.).

Beloved, our God the **LORD God Almighty** is exalted above all nations, He is Jehovah (Yahweh). He rules over all nations; He directs their affairs; He is the Sovereign King!!

2. **Likeness of Him Does Not Exist! Psa. 113:5.**

A sad reality that is not being faced or accepted is that far too many have forgotten or refused to accept who God really is! Pharoah did exactly that (see Ex. 5:2) but eventually

he had to accept the superiority and awesomeness of the **Almighty God!** (See Exodus chapters 6-13).

The thought conveyed in Psa. 113:5, is that no creature, no idol or whatever, can be compared with Jehovah (Yahweh). There is absolutely no comparison! Our God is incomparable, no one or anything exist that is equal to or greater than “. . . **our God who dwells on high** (Psa. 113:5b). (See also Psa. 86:8-10; Isa. 46:5; etc.).

**“Who is like our God . . .”** (Psa. 113:5a) . . . Spurgeon notes:

*“The challenge will never be answered. None can be compared with Him for an instant; Israel’s God is without parallel; our own God in covenant stands alone, and none can be likened unto Him.”*

### 3. **Lay Aside His Glory and Splendor in Order to Observe and Address Psa. 113:6.**

Earlier, we briefly noted God’s greatness and His glory which is beyond our understanding, no one can adequately define God and His awesome power and might!! He is clothed with majesty, glory, honor, etc.!!! Despite who He (God) is, He took on humanity (John 1:14; Heb. 2:17-18; Phil. 2:6-8), because it was the Divine plan that through the incarnation that there would be a pathway for lost, helpless and hopeless mankind through the redemptive work of the Messiah!! (Heb. 10:1-8, NB Vv. 5-9)

When we think of the greatness of God, His interest and care for creation, especially as it relates to mankind, it is astonishing!! His compassion and care are truly amazing, we join David in asking: **“O LORD, who are we that You should notice us, mere mortals that You care for us?”** (Psa. 144:3 L.A.S.B.)

**The condescension of God meant that He humbled Himself to stoop low to earth.**

(Psa.113:6). Barnes notes:

*“There is not a world which He does not survey constantly; not a creature whose interests He does not regard; not an insect – a flower – an atom – that He does not regard with as much minute attention as though there were nothing else to demand His care.”*

Amidst all the difficulties of life, Oh, Beloved . . . Jesus cares for everyone!!!

The song: “Does Jesus Care” (Partial quote):

Does Jesus care when my heart is pained  
Too deeply for mirth and song?  
When the burden press  
And the cares distress  
And the way grows weary and long?

Oh, yes, He cares, I know He cares  
His heart is touched with my grief

When the days are weary  
 The long night dreary  
 I know my Savior Cares.

4. **Lift Up the Poor and Needy Out of Their Destitution Psa. 113:7.**

**“He lifts up the poor from the dust”** (113:7a LASB). . . . **He raises up the poor out of the dust** (113:7a NKJV): (a) **poor** in the Hebrew refers to weak, thin, lean, needy, weak; (b) **dust** has several usages, some associated words are: clay, earth, mud, ashes, rubbish, etc. Figuratively, it signifies abundance (Gen. 13:16); utter defeat (2 Kings 13:7); and humiliation (Job 16:15).

**“And lifts the needy out of the ash heap”** (113:7b NKJV): the same thought continues as in the first half of the verse . . . God lifts out of those devastating situations! (a) **“needy”** in the Hebrew refers to: in sense of want; beggar, needy. (b) **“dunghill”** in the Hebrew is referring to heap, rubbish, filth, dung. Beloved, we were in a desperate, hopeless situation but He came down to us in love, mercy and grace and lift us up, out and plant us on solid ground!! That loving unfailing care continues to everyone throughout the centuries as long as we look to Him . . . **“Mercy there is still great and grace is free!!”**

Spurgeon notes (a partial quote):

*“And lifted the needy out the dunghill,’ whereon they lay like worthless refuse, cast off and cast out, left as they thought to rot into destruction and to be everlastingly forgotten. How great a stoop from the height of His throne to the dunghill! How wonderful that power which occupies itself in lifting up beggars, all befouled with the filthiness in which they lay! For He lifts them out of the dunghill, not disdainingly to search them out from amidst the base things of the earth that He may by their means bring to nought the great ones, and pour contempt upon human glorying.”*

5. **Lauds the Improvised and Disadvantaged Psa. 113:8.**

Obviously, Psa. 113:8 is a continuation of verse 7, stating: “God raises up out of the dunghill (out of the dust) that He (God) may set His chosen with princes.

**Indeed, God lifts up the poor and needy from the dust and ash heap and allows them to sit with princes.** It has been stated that this verse, (Psa. 113:8), can be interpreted as, God sometimes suddenly making people who have been looked down on before into honorable people!

**“That He may set him with princes . . .”** (113:8 KJV). **“That He may seat him with princes . . .”** (NKJV). Briefly, defining “sit” (“seat”) as used in the Hebrew:

(a) Some associated words are: to dwell, to remain, establish, remain, continue, habitation, etc.

(b) Several definitions are noted, for example:

(1) Sometimes it indicates one’s companion, one sits with scoffers (Psa. 1:1); or with elders of the land (Prov. 31:23).

- (2) Sometimes the word means that an object or person stays in a limited area (Ex. 16:29); or a period of time (Lev. 12:4, 5; 2 Sam. 6:11); or for eternity (Psa. 9:7, [8]; 102:12, [13]; 125:1).

As seen in Psa. 113:8, condescension is illustrated in raising the poor and needy to honor (compare 1 Sam. 2:8; Psa. 44:25) and God places them in equal honor and power with them (the princes), as He Joseph, David and others.

NIV Study Bible notes:

*“The Lord exalts the lowly – the God of highest majesty does not ally Himself with the high and mighty of the earth but stands with and raises up the poor and needy (See 1 Sa. 2:3-8; Luke 1:46-55).”*

#### 6. **Life of Prosperity Assured, Irrespective of What! Psa. 113:9**

During the Old Testament period, barrenness was the greatest disgrace and the most profound situation any woman could have experience (Gen. 30:1-2; 1 Sam. 1:2-7; etc.) Being a barren woman in those days was a humiliating experience that involved scornful derision and other negative factors. There was also the issue of the barren woman in her old age would have no one to give her assistance (Ex. 22:22-27; Deut. 14:28-29; etc.). Without a husband or a son, she could face an uncertain future of poverty and a life of extreme hardship.

The psalmist, hereby (Psa. 113:9), illustrates one way that God works in lifting the poor and deprived to a high and honored place; this is graphically presented in reference to a **barren woman** becoming a **joyful mother!**

**The imagery presents to us God’s ability to bring life and blessings in situations that seemed hopeless and barren (Gen 18:14; Jer. 32:27; Matt. 19:26; Luke 1:37).** These women experienced God’s gracious provision and liberation from desperation: **Sarah Gen. 21:1-2; Rebekah Gen. 25:21; Rachel Gen. 30:23; Hannah 1 Sam. 1:20.**

Spurgeon notes:

*“The Gentile church is a spiritual example upon a large scale of the gift of fruitfulness after long years of hopelessness and barrenness; and the Jewish church in latter days will be another amazing display of the same quickening power: long forsaken for her spiritual adultery, Israel shall be forgiven, and restored, and joyously shall she keep that house which is left unto her desolate. **Nor is this all, each believer in the Lord Jesus must at times have mourned his lamentable barrenness; he has appeared to be a dry tree yielding no fruit to the Lord, and yet when visited by the Holy Ghost, he has found himself suddenly to be like Aaron’s rod, which budded, and blossomed, and brought forth almonds.**”* (Emphasis mine)

Life Application Study Bible comments on Psa. 113:5-9 as follows:

*“In God’s eyes, a person’s value has no more relationship to his or her wealth or position on the social ladder. Many people who have excelled in God’s work began in poverty, or humble beginnings. God supersedes the social orders of the world, often choosing His future leaders and ambassadors from among social outcasts. **Do you treat the unwanted in society as though they have no value? Demonstrate by your actions that all people are valuable and useful in God’s eyes.**” (Emphasis mine)*

**Website Update**

As noted in my previous newsletter, we will commence studying “**selected**” psalms from “Book 2 of the Psalms” (Psalms 42-72). I have now completed our first two lessons covering Psalms 42/43. These will be uploaded to the website by the second week to the third week of August, 2024. I had also informed you that after covering some lessons from Book 2 of the Psalms, I will present a mini-series on “Love” after which I will resume the psalms selected for study from Book 2 of the Psalms.

I do highly appreciate your continued support by accessing the website and reading these newsletters. A special “Thank You!” to all those who take time out to express your appreciation for what has been shared; indeed, God is to be praised and yet it helps to know the work He is doing through these presentations bring blessings to others.

**God richly bless you and your wonderful family and beloved, let us be strong in the LORD and the power of His might.**

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