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A Song of Ascents.

PSALM 134: 1 Look! Praise the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who stand by night in the LORD's house!

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An exhortation to praise God in his sanctuary, Psa 134:1-3.

This is the last of the fifteen Psalms called Psalms of degrees. Who was the author is uncertain; it is attributed to David only by the Syriac; it is intimately connected with the two preceding Psalms, and is an exhortation to the priests and Levites who kept nightly watch in the temple, to the assiduous in praising the Lord. It seems to consist of two parts: 1. An exhortation, probably from the high priest, to those priests and Levites who kept watch in the temple by night, to spend their time profitably, and duly celebrate the praises of God, Psa 134:1, Psa 134:2. The second part, which is contained in the Psa 134:3, is the prayer of the priests and Levites for the high priest, who seems now to be going to his rest.

Verse 1

Behold, bless ye the Lord - I believe הנה hinneh should be taken here in the sense of take heed! Be upon your guard; you serve a jealous God; provoke him not.

Which by night stand - Who minister during the night.

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PSALM 134: 2 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary. Praise the LORD!

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Verse 2

Lift up your hands in the sanctuary - שדק kodesh, "in holiness;" or, as the Syriac, lekoudishe, "to holiness;" in sancta, Vulgate; and εις τα ἁγια, Septuagint; "in holy things; or, as the Aethiopic, in the house of the sanctuary." The expression seems very similar to that of St. Paul, 1Tim 2:8 : "Lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting."

Bless the Lord - That is, speak good of his name: tell the wonders he has wrought, and show that his name is exalted.

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PSALM 134: 3 May the LORD bless you from Zion; even he who made heaven and earth.

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Verse 3

The Lord that made heaven and earth - Who governs and possesses all things; and who can give you every spiritual and earthly blessing.

Bless thee out of Zion - As if they had said, "We will attend to your orders; go in peace, and may God shower down his blessings upon you!" The blessing pronounced by the priests was the following:

"The Lord bless thee and keep thee! The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and he gracious unto thee! The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace!" Num 6:24-26.