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PSALM 135: 1 Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD's name! Praise him, you servants of the LORD,

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An exhortation to praise God for his goodness and greatness, Psa 135:1-5; for his wonders in nature, Psa 135:6, Psa 135:7; his wonders done in Egypt, Psa 135:8, Psa 135:9; in the wilderness, Psa 135:10-12; for his goodness to his people, Psa 135:13, Psa 135:14. The vanity of idols, Psa 135:15-18. Israel, with its priests and Levites, exhorted to praise the Lord, Psa 135:19-21.

This Psalm is intimately connected with the preceding. It is an exhortation addressed to the priests and Levites, and to all Israel, to publish the praises of the Lord. The conclusion of this Psalm is nearly the same with Psalm 115; and what is said about idols, and the effects of the power of God, seems to be taken from it and the tenth chapter of Jeremiah; and from these and other circumstances it appears the Psalm was written after the captivity; and might as Calmet conjectures, have been used at the dedication of the second temple.

Verse 1

Praise ye the Lord - This may be considered as the title, for it has none other.

Praise ye the name of the Lord - Perhaps the original יהוה את שם הללו haleu eth shem Yehovah, should be translated, Praise ye the name Jehovah; that is, Praise God in his infinite essence of being, holiness, goodness, and truth.

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PSALM 135: 2 you who stand in the LORD's house, in the courts of our God's house.

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Verse 2

Ye that stand - Priests and Levites. For which he gives several reasons.

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PSALM 135: 3 Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good. Sing praises to his name, for that is pleasant.

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Verse 3

The Lord is good - Here is the first reason why he should be praised; and a second is subjoined:

For it is pleasant - It is becoming to acknowledge this infinite Being, and our dependence on him; and it is truly comfortable to an upright mind to be thus employed.

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PSALM 135: 4 For the LORD has chosen Jacob for himself; Israel for his own possession.

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Verse 4

For the Lord hath chosen Jacob - This is a third reason. He has taken the Israelites for his peculiar people, סגולתו segullatho, his peculiar treasure; and now has brought them home to himself from their captivity and wanderings.

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PSALM 135: 5 For I know that the LORD is great, that our Lord is above all gods.

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Verse 5

The Lord is great - Unlimited in his power: another reason.

Is above all gods - Every class of being, whether idolized or not; because he is the Fountain of existence. This is a fifth reason.

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PSALM 135: 6 Whatever the LORD pleased, that he has done, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps;

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Verse 6

Whatsoever the Lord pleased - All that he has done is right, and therefore it is pleasing in his sight. He is the author of all existence. Angels, men, spirits, the heavens, the earth, and all their contents, were made by him, and are under his control.

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PSALM 135: 7 who causes the clouds to rise from the ends of the earth; who makes lightnings with the rain; who brings the wind out of his treasures;

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Verse 7

He causeth the vapours to ascend - Dr. Shaw thinks that the account here refers to the autumnal rains in the east. Of them he speaks as follows: "Seldom a night passes without much lightning in the north-west quarter, but not attended with thunder; and when this lightning appears in the west or south-west points, it is a sure sign of the approaching rain, which is often followed by thunder. A squall of wind and clouds of dust are the sure forerunners of the first rain." This account induces Mr. Harmer to believe that the word נְשִׁיִּים nesiim, should be translated clouds, not vapours. It shows that God: -

Maketh lightnings for the rain - The squalls of wind bring on these refreshing showers, and are therefore precious things of the treasures of God, and when he thunders, it is the noise of waters in the heavens. See Jer 10:13, which contains almost the same words as those in this verse: "When he uttereth his voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens; and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures."

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PSALM 135: 8 Who struck the firstborn of Egypt, both of man and animal;

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Verse 8

Who smote the first-born of Egypt - See the parallel passages.

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PSALM 135: 9 Who sent signs and wonders into your midst, Egypt, on Pharaoh, and on all his servants;

PSALM 135: 10 who struck many nations, and killed mighty kings,

PSALM 135: 11 Sihon king of the Amorites, Og king of Bashan, and all the kingdoms of Canaan,

PSALM 135: 12 and gave their land for a heritage, a heritage to Israel, his people.

PSALM 135: 13 Your name, LORD, endures forever; your renown, LORD, throughout all generations.

PSALM 135: 14 For the LORD will judge his people, and have compassion on his servants.

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Verse 14

The Lord will judge his people - He will do them justice against their enemies.

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PSALM 135: 15 The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of men's hands.

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Verse 15

The idols of the heathen - This verse and the following, to the end of the 18th, are almost word for word the same as Psa 115:4-8 (note), where see the notes.

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PSALM 135: 16 They have mouths, but they can't speak. They have eyes, but they can't see.

PSALM 135: 17 They have ears, but they can't hear; neither is there any breath in their mouths.

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Verse 17

To this verse one of Kennicott's MSS. adds the Psa 115:6 and Psa 115:7 of Psalm 115.

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PSALM 135: 18 Those who make them will be like them; yes, everyone who trusts in them.

PSALM 135: 19 House of Israel, praise the LORD! House of Aaron, praise the LORD!

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Verse 19

Bless the Lord. O house, etc. - See similar verses, Psa 115:9-13 (note), and the notes there.

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PSALM 135: 20 House of Levi, praise the LORD! You who fear the LORD, praise the LORD!

PSALM 135: 21 Blessed be the LORD from Zion, Who dwells at Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

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Verse 21

Blessed be the Lord out of Zion - Who has once more restored our temple and city, and now condescends to dwell with us in Jerusalem.