

“Praise in The Sanctuary” Psalm 134

Intro and Context:

TITLE. *A Song of Degrees.* We have now reached the last of the Gradual Psalms. The Pilgrims are going home, and are singing the last song in their psalter. They leave early in the morning, before the day has fully commenced, for the journey is long for many of them. While yet the night lingers they are on the move. As soon as they are outside the gates they see the guards upon the temple wall, and the lamps shining from the windows of the chambers which surround the sanctuary; therefore, moved by the sight, they chant a farewell to the perpetual attendants upon the holy shrine. Their parting exhortation arouses the priests to pronounce upon them a blessing out of the holy place: this benediction is contained in the third verse. The priests as good as say, "You have desired us to bless the Lord, and now we pray the Lord to bless you."

The Psalm teaches us to pray for those who are continually ministering before the Lord, and it invites all ministers to pronounce benedictions upon their loving and prayerful people.

THE BENEDICTION FOR THE PILGRIM SONGS

Just as each of the Five Books of the Psalter ends with a doxology, this Little Psalter of Fifteen Psalms likewise ends with this benediction, which in some ways corresponds to a doxology.

Adam Clark Commentary *An exhortation to praise God in his sanctuary, 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, **Psalms 134:1-2**. The *second* part, which is contained in the third verse, **Psalms 134:3** is the prayer of the priests and Levites for the *high priest*, who seems now to be going to his rest.

Outline: There are two parts to this powerful little psalm.

1. A blessing for the priests- 1-2
2. A blessing from the priests- 3