

## **“Praising God for Who He is” Psalm 135**

**GENERAL REMARKS.** *This Psalm has no title. It is mainly made up of selections from other Scriptures.* It has been called a *mosaic*, and compared to a tessellated pavement. At the outset, its first two verses (Ps 135:1-2) are taken from Ps 134:1-3; while the latter part of Ps 135:2 and the commencement of Ps 135:3 put us in mind of Ps 116:19; and Ps 135:4 suggests De 7:6. Does not Ps 135:5 remind us of Ps 95:3? As for Ps 135:7, it is almost identical with Jer. 10:13, which may have been taken from it. The passage contained in Ps 135:13 is to be found in Ex 3:15, and Ps 135:14 in De 32:36. The closing verses, Ps 135:8-12, are in Psalms 136. From Ps 135:15 to the end the strain is a repetition of Ps 115:1-18. This process of tracing the expressions to other sources might be pushed further without straining the quotations; the whole Psalm is a compound of many choice extracts, and yet it has all the continuity and freshness of an original poem. The Holy Spirit occasionally repeats himself; not because he has any lack of thoughts or words, but because it is expedient for us that we hear the same things in the same form. Yet, when our great Teacher uses repetition, it is usually with instructive variations, which deserve our careful attention.

**DIVISION.** The first fourteen verses contain an exhortation to praise Jehovah for his goodness (Ps 135:3), for his electing love (Ps 135:4), his greatness (Ps 135:5-7) his judgments (Ps 135:8-12), his unchanging character (Ps 135:13), and his love towards his people. This is followed by a denunciation of idols (Ps 135:15-18), and a further exhortation to bless the name of the Lord. It is a song full of life, vigour, variety, and devotion.

### **Grey's Outline:**

- 1. A Call to Worship (Servants): vv. 1-3**
- 2. The Lord Has Chosen Us: v. 4**
- 3. A Call to Praise God for Who He is and What He does: vv. 5-18**
  - **God is Almighty v.5**
  - **God is Sovereign v. 6-7**
  - **God is Omnipotent vv.8-12**
  - **God is Immutable, Constant, and Eternal vv.13-14**
  - **Genuine vv15-18**
- 4. A Call to Worship (Israel): vv. 19-21**