

PSALMS 113 and 114

This is a psalm of praise for the condescending goodness of the God of Israel in lifting up the needy from their low estate. With this psalm begins the *Hallel*, or *Hallelujah of the Jews*, which was sung at their solemn feasts. Edersheim tells us that the Talmud dwells upon the peculiar suitability of this psalm for the Passover. Its allusions to the poor in the dust and the needy ones upon the ash heap are all in keeping with Israel enslaved in Egypt, as is the mention of numerous children at a time and place where they were least expected.

Psalm 113

- 1 Praise YAHWEH! Praise, O servants of YAHWEH, praise the name of YAHWEH.
- 2 Blessed be the name of YAHWEH from this time forth and forever.
- 3 From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of YAHWEH is to be praised.
- 4 YAHWEH is high above all nations; His glory is above the heavens.

- 5 Who is like YAHWEH our God, Who is enthroned on high,
- 6 Who humbles Himself to behold *the things that are* in heaven and in the earth?
- 7 He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
- 8 to make *them* sit with princes, with the princes of His people.
- 9 He makes the barren woman abide in the house as a joyful mother of children.
Praise YAHWEH!

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In Psalm 114, God is spoken of as leading forth his chosen people from Egypt to Canaan, and causing the whole earth to be moved at his coming. As we meditate upon the miracles the God of Jacob worked for Israel in redeeming them from their bondage in Egypt, let us also meditate upon the greater wonders of mercy and love the Father worked for us in redeeming our souls from their bondage in sin.

Psalm 114

- 1 When Israel went forth from Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,
- 2 Judah became His sanctuary, Israel, His dominion.
- 3 The sea looked and fled; the Jordan turned back.
- 4 The mountains skipped like rams, the hills, like lambs.
- 5 What ails you, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back?
- 6 O mountains, that you skip like rams? O hills, like lambs?
- 7 Tremble, O earth, before the Lord, before the God of Jacob,
- 8 Who turned the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a fountain of water.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, what words are sufficient for declaring your praise? Who can stand when you come in almighty power to fulfill your will? At your presence the earth trembles, and what shall those do who have challenged your sovereignty and lived in defiance of your holy law? You redeemed Israel with a mighty hand and destroyed her enemies when they refused to let Israel go. When you come again, incorrigible sinners will feel that same wrath for refusing to have Christ reign over them and living in defiance of your holy commandments. Oh, it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God! Let your word reach all the world, that sinful man might turn in repentance and bow before Christ as his Messiah, before the day comes when time will be no more and he bows before Christ as his judge. Everlasting torment will then be his portion. We ask in the name of our Advocate, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.