

Psalm 113

Today's Psalm includes an incredibly important question, "who is like the Lord our God?" The inquiry has an obvious response, "Nobody!" Nevertheless, the way that the Psalm describes the difference between our God and every other false deity and created being is... interesting. If read in a vacuum, my response to the question would be to consider the transcendent nature and qualities of our God. Who is like our God in His omniscience, omnipotence, sovereignty, etc. These are worthy topics of study but this Psalm is focused on another, more gracious, side of the Lord. Specifically, the Psalm goes on to describe the way in which God separates Himself from all others in His faithfulness and mercy.

1. The transcendence of God

- a. Even in exploring the mercy and kindness of God, the Psalm gives mention to the exalted nature of our great Lord
- b. He "stoops down" to look on the heavens and the earth
 - i. The Lord must condescend to even observe the lofty heavens, much less individual people
- c. This is a reminder that while our God is gracious, He is also vast and majestic
- d. Our worship of God should reflect the wonder that the gracious Savior of the world is also the ruler and sustainer of all things
 - i. The One who is concerned with us is exalted above us!

2. The mercy of God

- a. The Psalm describes the way that God sets Himself apart from all others by describing His mercy towards the destitute
- b. He "raise the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heaps"
- c. The picture of a God who is concerned with the poor and needy is mind-blowing to the world
- d. What kind of King is concerned with the beggars at the city gates?
- e. What kind of God takes the time out of His busy day to bother with the lowliest?
- f. In these things, we are reminded that God is kind and incredibly merciful

3. Our need and God's response

- a. Now, it may be tempting to read this Psalm and consider someone else
- b. We all know people who are materially poor and needy but they are only a subset of the kinds of people God has helped
- c. You see, all of us are needy people in the most important sense... we are in need of grace and rescue
- d. We have sinful souls that, if not helped, will lead us to eternal death
 - i. Furthermore, there is nothing that we can do to eradicate our sin and pay the debt we owe for our transgression
- e. In God's mercy and grace, He "stooped down" in the form of the Incarnate Son to walk with us, raising us from the needy ash heap

- f. Our great God restores our soul and, He goes further, as He seats us with the princes, adopting us into His royal family and sharing His eternal glory and riches with us in Christ
- g. What a kind and merciful God we serve!