

Studies in Psalms by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Psalm 117

2/26/13

Vs. 1-2 give "praise to the LORD."

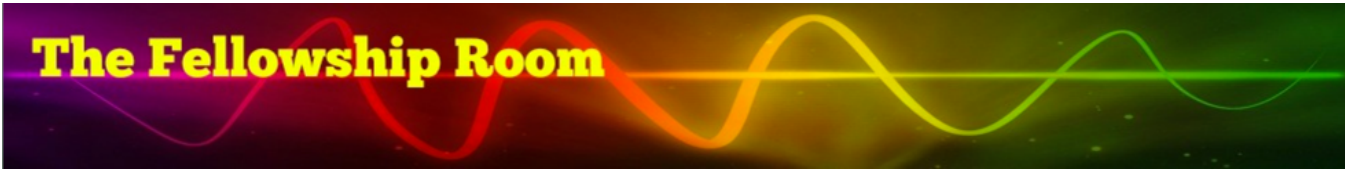
This is the last of the "Hallel" **Psalms (113-118)** which begins and ends with a "Hallelujah." This 30-word Psalm is the shortest chapter in the Bible. This Psalm is addressed to "Gentiles," which proves the Jews were never intended by God to be His people forever. God's plan for salvation always included "Gentiles" as this Psalm shows. God promised a people to Abraham ([Genesis 12:1-3](#)), and a land ([Genesis 13:14-16](#)). The land promise was fulfilled ([Joshua 21:43-45](#)) and preserved ([2 Chronicles 36:15-23](#); [Jeremiah 25:1-14](#)), the Israelites kept to preserve the lineage for Jesus to be born as the "only begotten Son of God" ([Matthew 1:1-25](#); [Galatians 3:1-29](#); [Ephesians 3:1-12](#)). Jesus Christ is now the King of His kingdom of Christians ([John 18:36](#); [Acts 17:7](#); [2:29-38](#)).

Verse 1: "Praise the LORD" (*Hallelujah*), a thought common to Israelites, is directly pointed to "Gentiles" (an Israelite term referring to all non-covenant people). The call is for all people to have one worship for the One God, and for the same reasons. The Law of Moses stood between Jews and Gentiles, requiring Gentiles to observe Moses ([Exodus 12:49](#); [Numbers 15:1-31](#)), but now that Law has been removed and Jews are expected to obey the Law of Christ as well as Gentiles ([Ephesians 2:11-22](#)). The only unity is found in Christ ([Romans 3:19-31](#)).

Verse 2: God's "merciful kindness" has been demonstrated not only for the Jews, but also the rest of humanity, time and time again. Only in "Harlotwood's" fantasies does Satan, evil, and wickedness prevail. Another expression for "merciful kindness" is "grace," best expressed in Jesus Christ. "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age" ([Titus 2:11-12](#)).

God's "truth" is the only absolute truth to be found:

- His promises stand until He fulfills them;
- His Creation operates by His complex laws;
- His people (Christians) know His moral code brings purity to the impure;
- His Bible withstands every challenge to its integrity;
- Faith in Him gives certainty to the fearful.



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There is no other "truth" except that which is based upon God's truth contained in His Creation and Bible. Solomon's Book of Proverbs recorded: "So that your trust may be in the LORD; I have instructed you today, even you. Have I not written to you excellent things Of counsels and knowledge, That I may make you know the certainty of the words of truth, That you may answer words of truth To those who send to you?" (**Proverbs 22:19-21**)

Because God's Way is best and planned for all men, indeed, "praise the LORD."

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