

Hallel Psalms (113–118)

Psalm 113

- (1) [1] praise YH!
[2-3] (you) praise, [O] servants of YHWH
[4] praise (the) name of YHWH
- (2) [1-2] let (there) be, (the) name of YHWH, being blessed, from now and unto forever!
(3) [3-4] from (the) east [rise] of (the) sun unto his set [setting], being praised (is)
(the) name of YHWH
- (4) [5] being high above all nations, (is) YHWH
[6] over the heavens (is) His glory
- (5) [5-6] who (is) like YHWH, our God?
[7-8] who (is) being high, to sit
- (6) [9-10] who (is) being humble, to look at (the) heavens and at (the) earth
- (7) [1] (He) (is) raising from (the) dust, (the) poor
[2] from (the) dung-hill, He exalts (the) needy
- (8) [3] to make (them) sit with (the) noble
[4] with (the) noble of his people
- (9) [5] making sit, (the) barren, the home:
[7-8] a mother of the children, joyful
[9] praise YH!

Psalm 114

- (1) [10] in (there) to go out, Israel, from Egypt –
[1] (the) house of Jacob from a people, talking unintelligibly –
- (2) [2-3] (there) became, Judah, to His sanctuary
[4-5] Israel, His dominion
- (3) [6-7] the sea looked, and fled!
[8] the Jordan turned about, to (the) back
- (4) [9] the mountains skipped like rams
[10] (the) hills, like (the) sons of sheep
- (5) [1-2] what (is) to you, the [O] sea, that you flee?
[3] (that) the Jordan turns about to (the) back?
- (6) [4] (that) the mountains skip like rams?
[5] the hills, like sons of sheep?
- (7) [6-7] from before (the) Lord, (you) tremble, [O] earth!
[8] from before (the) God of Jacob!
- (8) [1-2] He turns the rock (into) a pool of waters
[3-4] (the) flint, to His spring of waters

This is a translation and study of the traditional “Hallel Psalms” (113-118). This work presents the possible presence of a literary numbering system that binds these psalms together as a collection. Following the PebbleCounting hypothesis, this numbering system appears to be inherent in the Ancient Hebrew and consistently used throughout this collection, as it is in other books of Scripture. © Steve, 2024-2026. This update incorporates learning from the ongoing work elsewhere in Scripture, relative to the previous versions of Psalm 117 (September 2, 2024) and Psalm 118 (July 17, 2025). Update: April 19, 2026.

Judging by the completeness and flow of the literary sets, Psalms 113-117 appear to be woven together, with literary sets beginning in one psalm and concluding in the next, similar to Psalms 1 and 2. Psalm 118 appears to be a stand-alone capstone to the collection, with all literary sets beginning and ending within the psalm.

This study is freely available at www.pebblecounting.com, along with studies/translations of other books of Scripture. The "Intro to PebbleCounting" PDFs are a good place to begin.

Hallel Psalms (113–118)

Psalm 115

- (1) [9] not to us, [O] YHWH –
 [10] not to us –
 [5-6] because to Your name, give glory, on account of Your steadfast-love, on account of Your faithfulness
- (2) [1] to what, should (there) say, the nations
 [7] where, now, (is) their God? –
- (3) [8] and our God (is) in (the) heavens!
 [9-10] everything which He delights, He does!
- (4) [2-3] their idols (are) silver and gold
 [4-5] (the) work of (the) hands (two) of man
- (5) [1-2] a mouth (is) to them, and they do not speak
 [3-4] eyes (two) (are) to them
 [5] and they do not see
- (6) [1-2] ears (two) (are) to them
 [3] and they do not hear
 [4] a nose (is) to them
 [5] and they do not smell
- (7) [1-2] (there are) their hands (two) –
 [3] and they do not feel
 [4-5] (there are) their feet (two) –
 [6] and they do not walk
 [7] (there are) not sounds in their throat
 [8-9] like them, are (those), making them –
 [10] all who (are) trusting in them
- (9) [1-2] [O] (house of) Israel – (you) trust in YHWH
 [1-2] their strength and shield, (is) He!
- (10) [3-4] [O] house of Aaron – (you) trust in YHWH
 [3-4] their strength and shield, (is) He!
- (11) [5-6] (the) reverent of YHWH – (you) trust in YHWH
 [5-6] their strength and shield, (is) He!
- (12) [7-8] YHWH will remember us; He will bless
 [9] He will bless (the) house of Israel
 [10] He will bless (the) house of Aaron
- (13) [1-3] He will bless (the) reverent of YHWH – the small with the great
- (14) [4-6] (there) will increase, YHWH, upon you – upon you and upon your children
 [7] being blessed, (are) you, to [by] YHWH –
- (15) [7-8] (Him) making (the) heavens and (the) earth

Hallel Psalms (113–118)

- (16) [9] the heavens (are) (the) heavens for YHWH
 [10] and (the) earth, He has given to (the) children of man
- (17) [1-2] (there) do not – (those) dying – praise YH
 [3-4] and (there) do not, all (those) going down (to) silence
- (18) [8-9] and we will bless YH from now and unto forever
 [10] praise YH!

Psalm 116

- (1) [1] I love –
 [1-2] because (there) has heard, YHWH, my voice, my supplications
- (2) [3] because He has stretched out His ear to me –
 [2] and in my days, I will call out
- (3) [5] (there) surrounded me, (the) pangs of death!
 [6] and (the) distresses of Sheol [death's place] found me
 [3-4] distress and sorrow, I found
- (4) [5] and in (the) name of YHWH, I called out
 [4-5] please, YHWH – (You) deliver my soul!
- (5) [1-2] gracious (is) YHWH, and righteous
 [3] and our God (is) having compassion
- (6) [4] preserving the simple, (is) YHWH
 [1] (I was) brought low
 [5] and for me, He delivered!
- (7) [2-3] (you) return, [O] my soul, to your rest
 [6] because YHWH has dealt bountiful [weaned] upon you
- (8) [7] for You have delivered my soul from death –
 [4-5] my eyes (two) from tears
 [6-7] my feet (two) from a stumble [stumbling]
- (9) [8] I will walk before YHWH in (the) lands of the alive
- (10) [9-10] I trusted, when I said
 [1-2]* I – I have been afflicted,
 [3] greatly
- (11) [4-5] I – I have said, in my, to hurry
 [1] the, every man, (is) lying
- (12) [2] what shall I return to YHWH (for) all his benefits upon me?
- (13) [3] (the) cup of salvation, I will lift
 [4] and in (the) name of YHWH, I will call out
- (14) [5] my vows to YHWH, I will pay before, now, all His people

“I – I have been afflicted” | The personal pronoun, coupled with a perfect verb, takes the redundant pronoun (typical). This has the effect of saying, “I myself...” or “as for me, I...,” thus placing doubled emphasis on the subject. The literary count is 2.

Hallel Psalms (113–118)

- (15) [1-2] precious in (the) eyes (**two**) of YHWH (**is**) the death of His saints
 (16) [3] please, YHWH – because I (**am**) Your servant
 [4-5] I (**am**) Your **servant**, (the) **son** of Your maidservant
 [8] You **have loosed** my bonds!
 (17) [1] to You, I **will sacrifice** a sacrifice of thanksgiving
 [2] and in (the) name of YHWH, I **will call out!**
 (18) [3] my vows, to YHWH, I **will pay** before, now, all His people
 (19) in (the) **courts** of (the) house of YHWH
 [4] in your **midst**, [O] Jerusalem
 [5] **praise YH!**

Psalm 117

- (1) [1-2]* (**you**) **praise** YHWH, all **nations**
 [3-4]* (**you**) **extol** Him, all **peoples**
 (2) [9] because (there) **is being great** upon us, His lovingkindness
 [10] and (the) faithfulness of YHWH (**is**) to forever
 [5] **praise YH!**

Psalm 118

- (1) [1] **give praise** to YHWH
 [1] that good, (He **is**)
 [2] that to everlasting (**is**) His lovingkindness
 (2) [2]* **let** (there) **say**, now, Israel
 [3] that to everlasting (**is**) His lovingkingness
 (3) [3] **let** (there) **say**, now, (the) house of Aaron
 [4] that to everlasting (**is**) His lovingkingness
 (4) [4] **let** (there) **say**, now, (the) reverent of YHWH
 [5] that to everlasting (**is**) His lovingkingness
 (5) [5] from the distress, I **have called**, **YH!**
 [6] (there) **answered** me, with a broad-space, **YH**
 (6) [7] YHWH (**is**) for me!
 [1] I **will not fear**
 [7] what, **can** (there) **do** to me, a man?
 (7) [8-9] YHWH (**is**) for me in (His) **helping** me
 [2] and I **will look**
 [8] upon (those) **hating** me
 (8) [3-4] better (it **is**), **to take refuge** in YHWH
 [9] than **to trust** in a man
 (9) [5-6] better (it **is**), **to take refuge** in YHWH
 [10] than **to trust** in a princes

“(you) praise YHWH, all nations; (you) extol Him, all peoples” | These Hebrew imperatives, each coupled with a noun of direct address (*nations*, *peoples*), each takes an implied pronoun subject.

“let (there) say, now, Israel” | The Hebrew *jussive* (“let there say”) coupled with direct address (“Israel”), does not take an implied pronoun subject like the Hebrew imperative does. Thus, the count for this line remains one element (typical).

Hallel Psalms (113–118)

- (10) [1] all nations **have surrounded** me
[7-8] (it **is**) in (the) name of YHWH, that I **will cut** them **off**!
- (11) [2] they **have surrounded** me
[3] yes, they **have fully surrounded** me
[9-10] (it **is**) in (the) name of YHWH, that I **will cut** them **off**
- (12) [4] they **have surrounded** me like bees
[5] they **have been quenched** like a fire of thorns
[1-2] (it **is**) in (the) name of YHWH, that I **will cut** them **off**!
- (13) [1-3] **to push**, you **have pushed** me, **to fall**
[10] but YHWH **has helped** me
- (14) [3-4] my **strength** and my **song (is)** *YH*
[1-2] and **He has become** for me, to **salvation**
- (15) [5-6] a voice of **joy** and **salvation (is)** in tents of righteous (ones)
[3] (the) right-hand of YHWH **is working** (with) strength!
- (16) [4] (the) right-hand of YHWH **is raising up**!
[5] (the) right-**hand** of YHWH **is working** (with) strength!
- (17) [7] I **shall not die**
[8-9] because I **shall live**, and I **shall count** (the) works of *YH*
- (18) [1-2] **to discipline**, (there) **has disciplined** me, *YH*
[3] and to death, He **has not given** me **over**
- (19) [10] **open** to me gates of righteousness:
[1] **let me enter** them!
[2] **let me praise** YHWH!
- (20) [3] this (is) the gate for YHWH:
[4] (the) righteous **will come** into it
- (21) [5] **let me praise** You
[4] because You **have answered** me
[5-6] and **You have become** for me, to **salvation**!
- (22) [4] a stone, (there) **have rejected**
[5] the, (those) **building**
- [7-8] (it) **has become**, to (the) **head** of (the) corner
(23) [9] from with YHWH, (there) **has happened**, this
[1-2] it **has been wonderful** in our eyes (**two**)!
- (24) [10] the, this **day**, (there) **has made**, YHWH
[3-4] **let us rejoice** and **be glad** in it!

Hallel Psalms (113–118)

- (25) [1-2]* please, YHWH – (You) deliver now!
 [3] please, YHWH, make prosper now!
- (26) [4] (there) is being blessed,
 [5] the, (He) coming in (the) name of YHWH
 [5] we bless you from (the) house of YHWH
- (27) [6] God (is) YHWH
 [7] and He has shone toward us
 [6] bind (the) festal-sacrifice with cords, unto horns of the altar!
- (28) [8] my God, You (are)
 [7] and let me praise You
 [8-9] My God – let me exalt You
- (29) [10] Give praise to YHWH
 [9] that, good (He is)
 [10] that, to everlasting (is) His lovingkindness!

“please, YHWH – (You) deliver now!” | The Hebrew imperative (“deliver”) coupled with direct address (“YHWH”), takes an implied pronoun subject on this line. The implied pronoun subject is not given a repeated count on the following line, since the same subject is in view. (This is typical for the immediate context).