

PSALM 134

Greetings of Night Watchers.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. A Song of Ascents. "The Benediction for the Pilgrim Songs."
- B. Coffman points out that "just as each of the Five Books of the Psalter ends with a doxology, this Little Psalter of Fifteen Psalms likewise ends with this benediction, which in some ways corresponds to a doxology." Benediction means an expression of a blessing or good will upon someone or God, and a doxology is an expression of praise to God.

THE TEXT.

134:1 Behold, bless the LORD, all servants of the LORD,
Who serve by night in the house of the LORD!

2 Lift up your hands to the sanctuary
And bless the LORD.

3 May the LORD bless you from Zion,
He who made heaven and earth.

COMMENTS.

[v1] "Behold, bless the Lord, all you servants..." The word "behold" calls attention to something that might be overlooked. Blessing the Lord for all of His blessings should be greatly desired by those who serve Him. But those who receive the most, often take it for granted, and neglect to be thankful and bless.

[v2] "Lift up your hands in the sanctuary..." Those servants mentioned in the previous verse were the Levites or priests who served in the tabernacle or temple. It specifically refers to those servants who kept the night vigil or those who came to the temple at night to worship. It may be that the pilgrims who arrived at night went to the temple and offered this benediction to the Levites who were serving there.

[v3] "The Lord... bless you out of Zion." Throughout the OT, the Lord is pictured as being at the place where they worshiped. Therefore they prayed toward the temple in Jerusalem, where they thought of God as dwelling. Kidner points out that God is blessed in the first line, and now God is pictured as the one giving the blessing. The blessing that Aaron was to pronounce upon the people is given in Num. 6:24-26.

So ends the last of the Ascent Psalms.