

# Let's Celebrate!

by Rev. Day Sun Lee

## Psalm 150:1

הַלְלוּ יְהוָה | הַלְלוּ-אֱלֹהֵי בְּקִדְשׁוֹ הַלְלוּהוּ בְּרִקְיעַ עֲזוֹ:

Praise ye of men yhwh(ʾādönäy). Praise ye of men God ʾélöhîm in his holy places. Praise ye of men him in the firmament of his power.

2 הַלְלוּהוּ בְּגִבּוֹרֹתָיו הַלְלוּהוּ כְּרַב גְּדָלוֹ:

Praise ye of men him for his mighty acts. Praise ye of men him according to the multitude of his greatness.

3 הַלְלוּהוּ בְּתִקְעַ שׁוֹפָר הַלְלוּהוּ בְּנֶבֶל וְכִנּוֹר:

Praise ye of men him with (the) sound of (the) trumpet. Praise ye of men him with psaltery and harp.

4 הַלְלוּהוּ בְּתֶף וּמַחֲוֹל הַלְלוּהוּ בְּמִנִּים וְעִוְגָב:

Praise ye of men him with timbrel and choir: praise ye of men him with strings and organs.

5 הַלְלוּהוּ בְּצִלְצְלֵי-שִׁמֶעַ הַלְלוּהוּ בְּצִלְצְלֵי תְרוּעָה:

Praise ye of men him on high sounding cymbals. Praise ye of men him on cymbals of joy.

6 כֹּל הַנְּשָׁמָה תְהַלֵּל יְהוָה הַלְלוּ-יְהוָה:

Let every spirit praise yhwh(ʾādönäy).

לְשֹׁכֵן | יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים:

So that the Lord God might dwell. (Ps. 68:18 CSB17)

Introduction.

In this Christmas season, I selected Psalm 150 as the basis for today's message. Psalm 150 begins and ends with הַלְלוּ יְהוָה halû yāh Praise ye of men

yhwh(ʿädönäy). This phenomenon appears consecutively at Psalm 146, 147, 148, 149, just like that of Psalm 150. Therefore, הַלְלוּ יְהוָה halû yāh appears ten times in the final five psalms of the whole psalms. Let's find out why we have to praise הוהי yhwh(ʿädönäy) at this celebration of Jesus Christ's birth.

Psalm 150 begins with הַלְלוּ יְהוָה הַלְלוּ-אֵל

Who is אֱלֹהִים ʿélöhîm? Who is הוהי yhwh(ʿädönäy)? To provide you the standard description about two different names compared from biblical dictionaries, I found none useful. Therefore, I went my way to explain based on the beginning chapters of the book of Genesis. In Genesis chapter 1, almost every verse starts with none but the subject אֱלֹהִים ʿélöhîm. As all of you know, Chapter 1 tells us that God created heaven and earth, light, sky. When things huge, being far away from human life were created, the name אֱלֹהִים ʿélöhîm is used. In chapter 2, 3, and 4 where a man was created, the name הוהי YHWH(ʿädönäy) appears. Saying the name אֱלֹהִים ʿélöhîm is widely inclusive of gods of all nations. However, the name הוהי YHWH(ʿädönäy) has a detailed history with Moses. The Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. And Moses saw that the bush was on fire and was not burnt. (Exod. 3:2) Moses has called this God he met at the mountain of Horeb הוהי YHWH. Since then, הוהי YHWH(ʿädönäy) became the holiest name of God to the Israelite. When God deals with human beings, the writer always used the name הוהי YHWH(ʿädönäy).

According to Genesis 17:1, הוהי YHWH(ʿädönäy), אֱלֹהֵי אֲבֹתָי the Almighty God appeared to Abram at 99 years old. And then, to Isaac (26:24) and Jacob (35:9). These three appearances exhibit a short period.

Then, I should mention the extended period; the duration of **הוהי** YHWH(‘ädönäy) stayed with human beings. In the old testament, I point out Moses, in the new testament, Jesus Christ. It looks **הוהי** YHWH(‘ädönäy) has dwelled with these two people. As a result, in the old testament, Moses set up a theocentric nation. However, Jesus Christ initiated the Heavenly Kingdom.

Now, I like to explain what happened to the name, **הוהי** YHWH(‘ädönäy). That is the name Hebrew people revered that they did not pronounce its name. Time goes by; they completely forgot how to pronounce it correctly. However, their descendants want to call the name **הוהי** YHWH(‘ädönäy). They took the vowels from ‘ädönäy and applied to **הוהי**. After this vowel application from ‘ädönäy to **הוהי**, some scholars pointed out that two vowels are consecutive. With this correction, **הוהי** YHWH(‘ädönäy) became a famous name of **הוהי**. In this preaching, I deal with only the name of **הוהי** YHWH that, Christians believe, has incarnated into Jesus Christ.

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Can we say that Moses' introducing the new name of God **הוהי** YHWH to Israelites was successful? Moses used **הוהי** **מִיְהוָה** only 134 times. My answer is, Yes, It has been thriving since OT writers used **הוהי** YHWH 5,195 times after Moses. But the writers used **אֱלֹהִים** 635 times. Not only Moses but also **אֱלֹהִים** got great success from Jesus Christ. Why? The loyal students have never written Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς θεὸς. Jesus Christ is God. But New Testament writers called Jesus Christ as κύριος = **הוהי**. Because of this usage, I confirm Jesus Christ as a Deity. Jesus Christ, however, an eschatological judge, will be called as **אֱלֹהִים** Χριστὸς.

How and who will praise יהוה־יֵשׁוּעַ Χριστὸς? Verse 6 says, Let all that breathes praise יהוה־יֵשׁוּעַ. Psalm 148:3–10 says that sun, moon, stars, light, heavens of heavens, waters above the sky, deeps, snow winds, hills, trees, fire, snow, ice, etc., that things that don't breath should praise יהוה־יֵשׁוּעַ. Then, what are YOU going to do for יהוה־יֵשׁוּעַ Χριστὸς at this Christmas?

Before I develop today's sermon further, I like to show to you the slight difference between two Hebrew letters, ① ללה and ② ללח. The pronunciation of these two words is the same. The only difference is at the top of the left side of the first consonant of ①. You can see the opened at ① ללה, praise; the closed at ② ללח, pollute, defile, profane. The difference is slight, but the meaning is the opposite: praise, profane.

In the Church gatherings, while one praising in bold attitude going over the standard limit set by the traditional or the contemporary moral, one could, even not knowingly, 'touch' the upper portion, go over the standard, and end up defiling, cursing in the Sanctuary of God where God prays.

Now, let's go back to the message. What should we do at Merry Christmas? Many things we could do. One of the most important things we should do, we should confirm the Deity of Jesus Christ. We Christians installed Jesus Christ as a Deity based on Jesus' actions of his life. Because we Christians made Jesus as a Deity, not only non-Christians but also Christians weak in Christology, easily tempted to deny the Deity of Jesus Christ. This immature Christology of other Christians demands mature Christians to confirm the Deity of Jesus Christ at each season of Christmas and proclaim the Deity of Jesus Christ to the entire world. The Biblical source we stand to uphold and believe the Deity of Jesus Christ should be the primary source of our thanksgiving, glorifying God, joyful partying together in peace.

[I want to make sure the difference between two term God and Deity. God is soul without body while dieties are soul with body. God does not take birth while dieties take birth and also change their body on their will.]

I want to discuss with you the scripture that will lead us to discover the source for the Deity of Jesus Christ and the reason for our joyful celebration of the 2019 year Christmas. One of the scripture that I present you is 2 Peter 3:8, "Ἐν δὲ τούτῳ μὴ λανθανέτω ὑμᾶς, ἀγαπητοί, ὅτι μία ἡμέρα παρὰ κυρίῳ ὡς χίλια ἔτη καὶ χίλια ἔτη ὡς ἡμέρα μία. Now, dear friends, do not let this one thing escape your notice, that a single day is like a thousand years with the Lord, and a thousand years are like a single day. This scripture is one of the problematic teachings that we could experience in our daily life. This difficult applies to every Christians throughout generations.

To help you understand this problematic scripture while we live on this earth, I introduce Luke 23:43. A certain man was convicted and nailed on the cross at the same place where Jesus Christ crucified. This murderer probably met Jesus Christ about a half-day or a little longer. And Jesus Christ spoke to the killer who hanged on the cross with Jesus Christ. καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἀμήν σοι λέγω, σήμερον μετ' ἐμοῦ ἔσῃ ἐν τῷ παραδείσῳ. And Jesus said to him, 'Verily I say to thee, To-day with me you will be in the paradise.' This communication on the cross is a historical event in which 2 Peter 3:8 has been fulfilled.

In this Greek verse, μετ' ἐμοῦ ἔσῃ, 'with me' stands before the verb ἔσῃ, therefore, 'with me' μετ' ἐμοῦ carries emphasis in position. I had heard that Korean evangelists cried out, 'If you believe in Jesus, you go to Heaven.' Evangelists stressed Heaven. But the Greek emphasizes 'with me' μετ' ἐμοῦ, Jesus. The important thing is not Heaven, but Jesus Christ. The phrase μία ἡμέρα παρὰ κυρίῳ 'one day with Jesus Christ' could be a matching the phrase with σήμερον μετ' ἐμοῦ 'To-day with me'.

This murderer encountered Jesus Christ, probably not one day, about a half-day or a little longer. But Jesus Christ accepted him into his paradise with no condition. The paradise here metaphorically equals to the phrase of χίλια ἔτη a thousand years. Then, none of you in this sanctuary is excluded from Heaven.

Before I complete my preaching, I like to share a picture of Sumerians. Figuring out images from my long-ago memory, I share this story, though incomplete and not accurate, with you.

On this picture, a god speaks, A soul is coming up to Heaven. Bring that soul to this weight scale. And place an ox on the opposite side scale. Being done this, the weight scale with that soul hit the ground, and the ox lifted high. And the god said, 'This soul is good that I expected long. Take care of this soul well. And assign 15 different troubled countries to this soul. Let him rule over.

Oh, now, another soul is coming up from the earth. Bring it to this weight scale. And place a rabbit to the opposite side scale. Being done this, the weight scale with a rabbit hit the ground while the other side soul tossed up like a feather. And then, a god says how a soul is so light like a feather. Take it out of here and strike it harder many times. How heavy is your soul?

Why and how do you think about a netherworld, if not, then heaven, or paradise? Have you ever thought I am going to heaven after I made my last breathing? Just now, you have heard that a Sumerian god expects a useful soul. A god assigns the duty to an able soul. What do you think or want to say when you approach God?

I have a telescope of 10 inches diameter. I have camped at the state recreational park to look at the moon and stars in the night. This state park is near the old city of Perry close to 215 Highway. The moon is so bright and

beautiful that I could enjoy seeing the region hit by meteorites. Besides the moon, every other star looks very dark, round, and moving around all the time. I found the blue spot tightly compacted with small and large sparkling stars in the night sky. Drawing little yet sparkling stars on my observatory notebook, I started counting them. Counting stars directly right over my head makes my neck tired soon. I counted up to 77 stars. And then, I named this blue spot 'Blue Oasis' in the night sky.

And I prayed to God. How marvelous you are! How beautiful you are! Where are you, my God? I like to travel up there to the Blue Oasis. Please allow me to go there after I take off my body living inhaling oxygen. I need you, my God, now, more than any other moment.

It's been quite a while now. I have not gone outside for a while. However, I have a will to say to my God. Please give me those 77 blue stars, the Blue Oasis. I want to praise your marvelous wisdom, extraordinary creativity, YOU the only source producing all materials, the single source of all curiosities from all generations.

Ladies and gentlemen! I mean! Invest, plan, dream, pray for your eternal life in Heaven. Do you invest your will, time, money for living in Heaven? Do you plan how to live with God, who is omnipotent, marvelous, everlasting, and creative? Do you dream of your Heaven? Do you imagine it again and again? Did you even mention a word of Heaven in your short morning pray?

Please let me tell my experience in Korea. US consular issued US Visa to me in Korea. As I got a US Visa, so all of you in this Church got a permit to enter Heaven by using the background of Jesus Christ. Even though I received a US Visa, if I make earnings in Korea continuously, could I come to America? NOT! I have to buy an airplane ticket. I have to take immunizations. I have to take x-rays. I have to sell what I owned and then exchange Korean money to dollars. Finally, I have to get on the Korean Air Line to fly to the US. I have to take all procedures and positively cross over the national boundaries.

On today's scripture, we have the short sentence, ἔσῃ ἐν τῷ παραδείσῳ. You will be in heaven. The verb ἔσῃ is indicative active 2nd person singular, not passive. Ladies and gentlemen! Are you going to say, my doctor, MD, could not fix me, so I am dead, and I am brought up here in anesthesia?

Today, you've heard the story of Sumerian's Judgment seat of a god in Heaven. The god treats a weak soul meanly, slightly more cruel. Jesus Christ accepted a murderer with no condition. Do you know why I mention about Heaven, paradise, a thousand years at Christmas season? Without Jesus Christ's birth, we don't enter paradise. Jesus Christ was born and יהוה yhwh('ädönäy) incarnated into Jesus. By accepting the murderer nailed on the cross, Jesus Christ showed who takes sinners to Heaven.

A man Jesus Christ alone cannot put a person in paradise. We know that it is impossible for a person to put up a man into Heaven. But יהוה YHWH('ädönäy) exhibited this omnipotent saving action through Jesus Christ at the time when Jesus Christ crucified. Jesus crucified was nothing but lips. Yet יהוה YHWH ('ädönäy), the Spirit in and with Jesus, successfully accepting a murderer to paradise, has demonstrated the way to enter Heaven through the crucified Jesus. Therefore, I speak this historical event and the opportunity to enter Heaven as the cause for celebrating 2019 year's Christmas.

Christ gave Heavenly Visa to all of you. You are the subject, the person to take action seriously to enter that Heaven of which gate is Jesus Christ: I am the gate. If anyone enters by me, I will save anyone (Jn.10:9). Please approach the paradise positively.

I dreamed, prayed, and desired to have the 77 Blue Stars, the Blue Oasis. Now, I have a strong will to ask my God. Please give me those 77 blue stars, the Blue Oasis. I want to praise your marvelous wisdom, extraordinary

creativity, YOU the only source producing all materials, the single source of all curiosities from all generations. These expressions are my ideas to tell at any moment before my God.

What is your idea to speak before God? Do you know what I believe? I believe that my soul originally came from God. Therefore, my soul finally goes back to God. Then, what might my soul carry with to Heaven? The offering how much you offer to the Church sometimes could be the matter, right? It is the matter because the FedEx, Amazon, US Postal Service cannot deliver the offertory package to Heaven.

Imagine the Heavenly Kingdom a lot where we could live without sin. Seriously, love God that God may look at your physical weakness in mercy, compassion, and pity. Positively involve in worshipping and spreading the words of God globally. Share whatever and whenever you can with people in need. Cleansing yourself, live clean daily life before God. All these items I speak are to be things that are good quality that your soul with itself may carry up to Heavenly Father. I won't go alone. I will carry things of good quality to God.

Now it is time to close today's preaching to celebrate Christmas of 2019. Why do I put יהוה־י YHWH('ädönäy) before Χριστός only? Though I highly honor King David's faithful confession, why do I NOT put יהוה־י YHWH('ädönäy) before the name David?

יְתְדוֹצְמוֹ יְסֻחָמִי my refuge and my fortress.

יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יְבִיחִי: my God in whom I trust: (Ps. 91:2)

יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יְרוּסָאֵי my God, my rock,

יְנֻגָּמִי my shield,

יְרִקוֹ אֱלֹהֵי יְשׁוּעָאֵי the horn of my salvation,

יְבִגְשֶׁמ׃ my stronghold,

יְסוּגָמ׃ my refuge,

יְעֲשֶׂמ׃ my Savior (2 Sam. 22:3). These are powerful confessions.

However, I see **יְהוָה** YHWH (‘ādōnāy) in Jesus Christ who has stated that σήμερον μετ’ ἐμοῦ ἔσθη ἐν τῷ παραδείσῳ. Today, with me, you will be in paradise. It is not possible for any human being to put anyone in paradise, eternal life. **יְהוָה** YHWH in and with Jesus Christ does this miraculous shifting from the cross to heaven, a thousand years, the eternal life. This is why I do NOT place **יְהוָה** YHWH (‘ādōnāy) before the name David.

This miraculous shifting makes me declare that I see God in the body of Jesus Christ. Because of this miraculous shifting through Jesus Christ, Christians has long proclaimed that **יְהוָה** YHWH incarnated into Jesus Christ, and I lift up Jesus to the level of Deity, to the object of worshiping, and to be my savior. Christians in Christmas must be able to see the birth of Jesus Christ and incarnation of **יְהוָה** YHWH.

This incarnation of **יְהוָה** YHWH is the reason for I chose Psalm 150 to celebrate Christmas of the 2019 year. Simultaneously, therefore, let’s celebrate and praise the birthday of Jesus Christ and incarnation of **יְהוָה** YHWH together. Because of Jesus Christ’s birth, we got the eternal life, a thousand years, paradise, let's celebrate **בְּתִקְעַ שׁוֹפָר** with (the) sound of (the) trumpet, **בְּנִבְלָ וְכַנּוֹר** with psaltery and harp, **בְּתִרְצִי וּמְחֹל** with timbrel and choir, **בְּצִלְצְלֵי־שִׁמְעַ** with high-sounding cymbals, **בְּמִנִּים וְעוּגָב** with strings and organs, **בְּצִלְצְלֵי תְרוּעָה** with cymbals of joy.