

Our Great God Lifts Up the Humble

Psalms 113

Group ¹	C	V	Description
The LORD Exalts the Humble	113	1-4	The greatness of God – above all – worthy of praise
		5-9	Yet, God raises up those who are humble

Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them. *William Shakespeare*²

While the quote above might ring true for certain things, for those who know the truth of God's existence it is especially true. Considered the following selected verses about people who were humbled or humbled themselves.³

God's Purpose for and Response to	Leviticus 26:41 NASB I also was acting with hostility against them, to bring them into the land of their enemies—or if their uncircumcised heart becomes humbled so that they then make amends for their iniquity,
	Deuteronomy 8:3 NASB "He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.
	2 Chronicles 28:19 NASB For the LORD humbled Judah because of Ahaz king of Israel, for he had brought about a lack of restraint in Judah and was very unfaithful to the LORD.
	2 Chronicles 34:27 NASB "Because your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before God when you heard His words against this place and against its inhabitants, and <i>because</i> you humbled yourself before Me, tore your clothes and wept before Me, I truly have heard you," declares the LORD.
	Psalms 107:12 NASB Therefore He humbled their heart with labor; They stumbled and there was none to help.
Ahab Israel	1 Kings 21:29 NASB "Do you see how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself before Me, I will not bring the evil in his days, <i>but</i> I will bring the evil upon his house in his son's days."
Josiah Judah	2 Kings 22:19 NASB because your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants that they should become a desolation and a curse, and you have torn your clothes and wept before Me, I truly have heard you," declares the LORD.
Rehoboam Judah	2 Chronicles 12:6-7, 12 NASB So the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, "The LORD is righteous." 7 When the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah, saying, "They have humbled themselves <i>so</i> I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some <i>measure</i> of deliverance, and My wrath shall not be poured out on Jerusalem by means of Shishak. ... 12 And when he humbled himself, the anger of the LORD turned away from him, so as not to destroy <i>him</i> completely; and also conditions were good in Judah.

1 (NASB) "Group" column from the headings in the NASB text.

2 ("Greatness")

3 (Meyers) a search for "humbled"

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Hezekiah Judah	2 Chronicles 30:11 NASB Nevertheless some men of Asher, Manasseh and Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem.
	2 Chronicles 32:26; 33:12, 19 NASB However, Hezekiah humbled the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD did not come on them in the days of Hezekiah. ... 33:12 When he was in distress, he entreated the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. ... 33:19 His prayer also and <i>how God</i> was entreated by him, and all his sin, his unfaithfulness, and the sites on which he built high places and erected the Asherim and the carved images, before he humbled himself, behold, they are written in the records of the Hozai.
David	Psalms 35:13 NASB But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth; I humbled my soul with fasting, And my prayer kept returning to my bosom.
Isaiah's messages from God to the leaders of Judah	Isaiah 2:9, 11, 17 NASB So the <i>common</i> man has been humbled And the man of <i>importance</i> has been abased, But do not forgive them. ... 11 The proud look of man will be abased And the loftiness of man will be humbled, And the LORD alone will be exalted in that day. ... 17 The pride of man will be humbled And the loftiness of men will be abased; And the LORD alone will be exalted in that day,
	Isaiah 5:15 NASB So the <i>common</i> man will be humbled and the man of <i>importance</i> abased, The eyes of the proud also will be abased.
	Isaiah 58:3 NASB 'Why have we fasted and You do not see? <i>Why</i> have we humbled ourselves and You do not notice?' Behold, on the day of your fast you find <i>your</i> desire, And drive hard all your workers.
Daniel to Belshazzar	Daniel 5:19, 22 NASB "Because of the grandeur which He bestowed on him, all the peoples, nations and <i>men of every</i> language feared and trembled before him; whomever he wished he killed and whomever he wished he spared alive; and whomever he wished he elevated and whomever he wished he humbled. ... 22 "Yet you, his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this,
Jesus' Teaching	Matthew 23:12 NASB "Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.
	Luke 14:11 NASB "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."
	Luke 18:14 NASB "I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."
Jesus our example	Philippians 2:8 NASB Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

When we think of greatness, often it is centered around those who affect change on a large scale (like the kings in the verses above), which is important. However we can also exhibit greatness in the little things that we can do, especially when they are done with pure motives, wanting to please God and do good for others. These little things can create a collective change on a much larger scale.

Few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total; of all those acts will be written the history of

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this generation. *Robert Kennedy*⁴

Be faithful in the little things and you will find God working in and through you to accomplish more than you can think or imagine (Ephesians 3:20-21). Give Him the glory He deserves and you won't be disappointed.

Key Words: Old Testament, Wisdom, Psalms, God, Worship, Greatness, Humility



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4 (“Greatness”)