

# **Hallel (Hallelujah)**

## **Psalms: A Call to Honor God**

### **1. Background and Nature of “Hallel” Psalms**

A. From the verb Halal – “to praise”

- Typically, although not exclusively, identified as Psalms 113-118.
- These Psalms are known as the “Egyptian Hallel.” These Psalms recount Yahweh’s saving deeds in deliverance. Moses is often given credit as the author.
- Sung during 3 major feasts: Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacle

Hallel Psalms were especially central to the Passover Feast:

- Pilgrims sang them on the way to Jerusalem
- Jewish families sang Psalm 113-114 before the Seder meal and Psalm 115-118 afterward.
- Jesus and the disciples sang a hymn between Passover meal and Mt. of Olives (Mark 14:26)

B. Psalms were sometimes sung antiphonally

## **2. Psalm 115: An exposition**

### A. The Introduction (v.1)

- the theme of the Psalm is set forth
- “theo-centric” worship

### B. Comparison (vv.2-8)

- the Creator God vs. Idol gods

### C. Exhortation (vv.9-11)

- a call to trust one who is trustworthy

### D. Annunciation of Blessing (vv. 12-16)

### E. Adoration: (vv.17,18)

- the blessing and responsibility of being alive
- Praise as a command