

A Shocking Revelation

by Wayne Goff

Are you sitting down so that I can tell you about a shocking revelation? Okay, here it is: **“Hallelujah”** does not appear in the Bible. Well, at least not in the **KJV** or **NKJV**. Only four times in Revelation does its transliteration **“Alleluia”** appear (Rev. 19:1, 3-4, 6). In the ASV (1901) the word is translated as *“Hallelujah.”*

For those who are just now coming out of shock, it might be comforting to know that the **HCSB** uses the word *“Hallelujah”* 27 times in their translation. So what is going on here?

Well, the word *“hallelujah”* is a Hebrew word which means *“Praise ye the Lord.”* Fifteen of the Psalms either begin or end with this word. The Jewish anthem of praise (Psalms 104-109) either begin or end with this word, but it is translated in the **KJV** as *“Praise ye the Lord”* (Ps. 104:35; 105:45; 106:48; etc.). Psalm 148 is the text from which we get the famous song: *“Hallelujah! Praise Jehovah!”* The Hebrew word is a compound of **halelu-** (praise) and **-Yahweh** (Jehovah, LORD). This Hebrew word appears 26 times in the Old Testament, every time in the book of Psalms!

Now if you knew all of this already, then consider yourself well-informed. But as for me, I would have assumed that *“Hallelujah”* or *“Alleluia”* (Greek) was strewn throughout the Bible because of its often used praise of God. So it is surprising to me to learn something different. Now the phrase *“praise the Lord”* appears 48 times in the Old Testament, and this is explained by the use of different Hebrew prefixes for *“praise.”*

So how do we “praise” the Lord? We do so when we “give thanks, extol, make a public confession, make an admission” or “speak of the excellence” of God with a heart filled with gratitude. Psalm 148 and Revelation 19 would be great places to begin to find out the things for which we should say **“Hallelujah!”** to God the Father, His Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

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