

Biblical doxologies

Introduction

'Doxology' is a short liturgical formula of praise to God. The word derives from the mid-17th century [via medieval Latin] from the Greek *doxologia*, which is derived from *doxa* 'appearance, glory' (from *dokein* 'seem') plus *-logia*. Literally, 'the word of glory or praise'. Historically, doxologies have appeared as short psalms or hymns.

A doxology is often spoken by a church leader at the end of a church service or meeting. While there are many human forms of this in different denominations, the Bible has its own doxologies which are to be much preferred.

This paper seeks to identify and reproduce some of these without any significant comment.

Example of a human composition

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise him, all creatures here below
Praise him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

Protestant Churches (1675, published in this form 1709), composed by the Anglican Bishop of Bath and Wells, Thomas Ken (1637-1711).¹

Doxologies in the OT

Blessed *be* the LORD God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His mercy and His truth. **Gen 24:27**

The LORD *is* my strength and song, and He has become my salvation; He *is* my God, and I will praise Him. **Ex 15:2**

Ascribe greatness to our God. *He is* the Rock, His work *is* perfect; for all His ways *are* justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright *is* He. **Deut 32:3-4**

Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy *endures* forever. **1 Chron 16:34**

Yours, O LORD, *is* the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all *that is* in heaven and in earth *is Yours*; Yours *is* the kingdom, O LORD, and You are exalted as head over all. Both riches and honour *come* from You, and You reign over all. In Your hand *is* power and might; in Your hand *it is* to make great and to give strength to all. Now therefore, our God, we thank You and praise Your glorious name. **1 Chron 29:11-13**

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. **Ps 19:1**

Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth. **Ps 96:9**

¹ It first appeared in *A manual of prayers for the use of the scholars of Winchester College* (1675) as an added doxology in the final stanza of three hymns. This book had first appeared in 1674 without the doxology. However, the words, 'Praise him above y'angelick host' was later changed to 'heavenly host' in 1709.

Doxologies in the Gospels

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. **Mat 6:13**

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men! **Lk 2:13**

Blessed *is* the King who comes in the name of the LORD! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest! **Lk 19:38**

Doxologies in the apostolic letters

Romans

The Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. **Rm 1:25**

For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen. **Rm 11:36**

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Rm 15:13**

Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now has been made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures has been made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith -- to God, alone wise, *be* glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen. **Rm 16:25-27**

1 Corinthians

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. **1 Cor 16:23**

2 Corinthians

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort. **2 Cor 1:3**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen. **2 Cor 13:14**

Galatians

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit. Amen. **Gal 6:18**

Ephesians

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ. **Eph 1:3**

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. **Eph 3:20-21**

Philippians

Now to our God and Father *be* glory forever and ever. Amen. **Phil 4:20**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen. **Phil 4:23**

1 Thessalonians

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you *is* faithful, who also will do *it*. **1 Thess 5:23-24**

2 Thessalonians

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work. **2 Thess 2:16-17**

Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ. **2 Thess 3:5**

Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord *be* with you all. **2 Thess 3:16**

1 Timothy

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, *be* honour and glory forever and ever. Amen. **1 Tim 1:17**

Without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory. **1 Tim 3:16**

He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom *be* honour and everlasting power. Amen. **1 Tim 6:15-16**

2 Timothy

To Him *be* glory forever and ever. Amen! **2 Tim 4:18**

The Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit. Grace *be* with you. Amen. **2 Tim 4:22**

Philemon

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit. Amen. **Phm 1:25**

Hebrews

Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* glory forever and ever. Amen. **Heb 13:20-21**

1 Peter

Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. **1 Pt 4:11**

To Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. **1 Pt 5:11**

2 Peter

To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen. **2 Pt 3:18**

Jude

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Saviour, who alone is wise, *be* glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen. **Jude 1:24-25**

Doxologies in Revelation

Revelation

Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. **Rev 1:5-6**

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come! **Rev 4:8**

You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created. **Rev 4:11**

You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth. **Rev 5:9**

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honour and glory and blessing! **Rev 5:12**

Blessing and honour and glory and power *be* to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever! **Rev 5:13**

Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb! **Rev 7:10**

Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour and power and might, *be* to our God forever and ever. Amen. **Rev 7:12**

Great and marvellous *are* Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true *are* Your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For *You* alone *are* holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested. **Rev 15:3-4**

Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honour and power *belong* to the Lord our God! **Rev 19:1**

Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! **Rev 19:6**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen. **Rev 22:21**

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