

Praises

Psalm 145 – 150

Praises Introduction

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- The **Book of Psalms** take in a full spectrum of moods.
- Some are purely joyful.
- More are sad, but reaching toward joy near the end.

Praises Introduction

- The mood of the whole book moves from wisdom and anguish toward joy.
- We are now at the end of the book – the most joyful part.
- This is the goal of the **Book of Psalms**.

Praises Introduction

- Today we will seek a fuller understanding of praise.
- With God's help a movement toward joy and praise will be the direction of our lives.

Praises Introduction

Psalm 126:5-6 (ESV) ⁵ Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!

⁶ He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.

Praises Introduction

- The word *psalm* comes from a Greek word meaning “to pluck” or “to strum”.
- Psalms were performed to the accompaniment of stringed instruments, like a guitar, a harp or a lyre.
- The Hebrew name of the book is *tehillim*, or “praises”.

Praises Introduction

- There are **four main Hebrew words** translated “praise.”
- Each one has a slightly different meaning.
- They appear more in the **Book of Psalms** than anywhere else in the Bible.

Praises Introduction

- Three of them appear in the first psalm we'll look at today.
- All four appear in this final section of the book.

Psalm 145 A Praise of David

Psalm 145 A Praise of David

- Word #1 *tehillah*
- This gives the title to the **Book of Psalms** in Hebrew.
- This is the only psalm that is specifically called a *tehillah* or “Praise”.

Psalm 145 A Praise of David

- Word #1 *tehillah*
- It emphasizes the glory or the praiseworthiness of God as a quality or an attribute.
- It also refers to His deeds, which are worthy of praise.

Psalm 145 A Praise of David

- Word #1 *tehillah*
- The first use of this word in the Bible is instructive as to its meaning.

Exodus 15:11 (ESV) *Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?*

Psalm 145 A Praise of David

- **145:2** Extra Word *barach – to bless*
- **When used of people:** speak words invoking divine favor, with the intent that the object will have favorable circumstances or state at a future time.
- **In other words:** to call forth a blessing.
- **When used of God:** extol, thank for greatness/goodness, i.e., speak words of his excellence; usually used as an act of worship.

Psalm 145 A Praise of David

- 145:2 I will ... praise your name
- Word #2 **halal**
- The word from which we get “**Hallelujah**”.
- It has a sense to it of boasting, bragging, shouting and celebration.
- Can be used of boasting in a negative sense.

Psalm 145 A Praise of David

- 145:2
- Q: How often should we bless the Lord?
- A: Every Day.
- Q: How long will praise him?
- A: Forever and ever.

Psalm 145 A Praise of David

- **145:10** All Your works shall give thanks to you
- Word #3 **yadah**
- Some translations (NKJV, NIV) “works shall praise you”
- This word means to laud, praise or extol with a sense of gratitude.

Psalm 145 A Praise of David

- 145:10 All Your works shall give thanks to you
- Word #3 yadah
- God deserves our thanks and praise.
- It is healthy for us to give it to him.

Psalm 145 A Praise of David

- **145:10** All Your works shall give thanks to you
- Word #3 **yadah**
- First usage of this word in the Bible is

Genesis 29:35 (ESV) And [Leah] conceived again and bore a son, and said, “This time I will praise the LORD.” Therefore she called his name Judah.

Psalm 146 Praise the Lord. O my soul!

Psalm 146 Praise the Lord. O my soul!

The final five psalms in the book of Psalms all begin and end with the Hebrew word 'Hallelujah', which means Praise the Lord. The psalmist is determined to keep praising God as long as he has breath to do so.

*– Zamani Kafang,
ECWA Theological Seminary, Nigeria*



Psalm 146 Praise the Lord. O my soul!

- We have seen sadness along the way, but the end of this book is full of praise.
- As we look toward heaven, let this be the direction or shape of our lives.

Psalm 147 It is good to sing praises!

Psalm 147 It is good to sing praises!

- 147:7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving
- Word #4 todah
- It is rightly translated “thanksgiving” as it is here in ESV.
- In Modern Hebrew it is the normal word for “thanks”.

Psalm 147 It is good to sing praises!

- 147:7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving
- Word #4 todah
- The biblical meaning is somewhat deeper, and it has the sense of “thanks expressed as an act of worship.”

Psalm 147 It is good to sing praises!

- 147:7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving
- Word #4 todah
- It first appears in Leviticus 7,
- The passage is about a *thank offering*.
- The animal was offered and a meal was shared among friends for both worship and fellowship.

Psalm 147 It is good to sing praises!

- 147:7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving
- Word #4 todah
- Jeremiah twice uses this word to speak of “sacrifices of praise” (Jeremiah 17:26, 33:11).

Psalm 147 It is good to sing praises!

- **147:7** Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving
- Word #4 **todah**
- This phrase is also found in the book of Hebrews.

Hebrews 13:15-16 (ESV) ¹⁵Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Psalm 148 Praise him from the heavens!

Psalm 148 Praise him from the heavens!

Like all of the last five psalms, Psalm 148 begins and ends with Praise the Lord. It invites everything in heaven and on earth to join in a great choir praising the Lord. The psalmist first addresses all the inhabitants of heaven and then summons everything and everyone on earth to join in the song.

*– Zamani Kafang,
ECWA Theological Seminary, Nigeria*



Psalm 148 Praise him from the heavens!

- This reminds us that all of creation is intended to glorify God.

Psalm 149 Sing to the Lord a new song!

Psalm 149 Sing to the Lord a new song!

Psalm 148 summoned all creation to worship, but in the last verse referred specifically to 'Israel, the people close to his heart' (148:14). Now, in Psalm 149, it is Israel itself that is called to praise. Like the psalms that surround it, this psalm begins and ends with Praise the Lord.

*– Zamani Kafang,
ECWA Theological Seminary, Nigeria*



Psalm 149 Sing to the Lord a new song!

- **149:1** Old hymns can be great, but the Bible never encourages us to sing the same old songs repeatedly.
- There are **nine places** where the Bible speaks of singing a **new song** to the Lord.

Psalm 149 Sing to the Lord a new song!

Psalm 33:3 (ESV) Sing to him a new song;
play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

Psalm 40:3 (ESV) He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear,
and put their trust in the LORD.

Psalm 149 Sing to the Lord a new song!

Psalm 96:1 (ESV) Oh sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth!

Psalm 98:1 (ESV) Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.

Psalm 149 Sing to the Lord a new song!

Psalm 144:9 (ESV) I will sing a new song to you, O God;
upon a ten-stringed harp I will play to you,

Psalm 149:1 (ESV) Praise the LORD!

Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the godly!

Psalm 149 Sing to the Lord a new song!

Isaiah 42:10 (ESV) Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise from the end of the earth,
you who go down to the sea, and all that fills it,
the coastlands and their inhabitants.

Psalm 149 Sing to the Lord a new song!

Revelation 5:9 (ESV) And they sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are you to take the scroll

and to open its seals,

for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed
people for God

from every tribe and language and people and nation.”

Psalm 149 Sing to the Lord a new song!

Revelation 14:3 (ESV) and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders ...

Psalm 149 Sing to the Lord a new song!

- Sometimes people decide old hymns are better because the content is deeper than much of our newer music.
- The best solution is not to give up on new songs, but to write better ones.

Psalm 149 Sing to the Lord a new song!

- Since God is infinitely glorious, we will find new reasons and new words to praise him for all eternity.
- The longer and better we know him, the more praise we will desire to give.

Psalm 150 Praise the Lord!

Psalm 150

Praise the Lord!



God apparently loves music, since He orchestrated the angelic choir at creation when “the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy” (Job 38:7) ...

– Norman Geisler

Psalm 150 Praise the Lord!



The psalmist commanded that God be praised with the trumpet, harp, lyre, tambourine and cymbals ... Music too is a manifestation of God. Like the rest of His creation, it is an expression of His glory.

– Norman Geisler

Psalm 150 Praise the Lord!

- Some people sincerely believe that musical instruments should not be a part of New Testament worship.
- The composer of **Psalm 150** probably wouldn't like their church.

Psalm 150 Praise the Lord!

- Personally, I believe music adds joy and life to our praises.
- Why should our music be less lively than the praises in the Old Testament – when we know Jesus and they didn't?

Praises

Conclusions

Praises Conclusions

- So ends the **Book of Psalms**.
- It has not always been joyful, but it certainly ends with joy.
- May this be the direction of each of our lives.

Praises Conclusions

The heart that does God's will in the world may not be always happy, but it is always blessed; and when patience has had her perfect work, it will break into such rapture as to need all creation to help its song to perfect and complete expression.

– F. B. Meyer



Praises Conclusions

- This is the shape of the book of Psalms.
- And the shape of the Bible itself.

Praises Conclusions

- It starts with a fall into sin.
- Everything changes with Christs provision for our sin.
- Finally, sin is judged and eliminated. Eternal praises begin.

Praises Conclusions

Revelation 19:1-8 (ESV) ¹After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out,

“Hallelujah!

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

² for his judgments are true and just;

for he has judged the great prostitute

who corrupted the earth with her immorality,

and has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”

Praises Conclusions

Revelation 19:1-8 (ESV) ³ Once more they cried out,
“Hallelujah!

The smoke from her goes up forever and ever.”

⁴ And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, “Amen. Hallelujah!”

Praises Conclusions

Revelation 19:1-8 (ESV) ⁵ And from the throne came a voice saying,

“Praise our God, all you his servants,
you who fear him, small and great.”

⁶ Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,

“Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

Praises Conclusions

Revelation 19:1-8 (ESV) ⁷ Let us rejoice and exult

and give him the glory,

for the marriage of the Lamb has come,

and his Bride has made herself ready;

⁸ it was granted her to clothe herself

with fine linen, bright and pure” —

for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.