

“Let Everything That Has Breath Praise The Lord”

Psalm 150

Introduction:

- 1) For many, if not most Christians, Psalms is the richest and the most comforting portion of the Old Testament, if not the whole of God’s Word. Therefore it is appropriate that it would conclude on a hallelujah note, with a psalm (150) totally and completely dedicated to the praise of our good, great and gracious God.
- 2) • Psalm 150 is the grand finale of the book of Psalms.
 - It functions like a final doxology. If Psalm 1 is an appropriate introduction, then Psalm 150 is an equally appropriate conclusion.
 - The first 4 books of the Psalter ended with a benediction highlighting the word “blessed”, though book 4 also contains a concluding “hallelujah.” (see 41:13; 72:18-19; 89:52; 106:48). This final psalm along with its 4 companions (146-149) is a hallelujah hymn from beginning to end.
- 3) In this psalm we will see that worship is 1) a universal privilege, 2) always and only for our God, 3) result of who God is and what He has done, and 4) that it should be an exciting and soul-moving experience.

I. Where Should We Praise The Lord? 150:1

- The psalm begins and concludes in the same way as Psalms 146-149, with the word, “Hallelujah”, meaning “praise to *Ya*.” This is a shortened form of the covenant and personal name of Israel’s God, *Yahweh*. Note the word “praise” occurs 13 times in the psalm.
- Following quickly on this verbal command are instructions specifying “where” Yahweh, the excellently great God (v. 2), should be praised.
 - His sanctuary, lit. “his holy place.” The earthly tabernacle or temple in Jerusalem is in view.
- His mighty firmament (*NASV*, “mighty expanse”; *ESV, NIV*, “mighty heavens”).
- His greatness and glory fill the universe and so must His praise. There is no place where praise is not welcomed and rightly voiced.

Application: 1) Church buildings are fine but not necessary. Church buildings can be a good thing but never an essential thing.

2) We can praise God anywhere, anyplace and anytime.

II. Why Should We Praise The Lord? 150:2

- Scripture does not call us to a blind or uninformed worship.
- On the contrary, we come in faith to a living God who 1) has done mighty acts and 2) is excellent in His greatness.
- “Mighty acts” (*NIV*, “acts of power”) speak of what He has done. They look to His 1) great acts of salvation, 2) His mighty work of Creation, and 3) His sovereign reign over all that He has made.
- “Excellent greatness” (*NIV*, “surpassing greatness”) speaks of who He is. He is not the God of deism, pantheism, polytheism or finite theism. He is not the God we create in our own minds that we are comfortable with, that we wish Him to be.

- We need 20/20 spiritual vision when it comes to our God. We see what He has done with one eye and who He is with the other.

III. How Should We Praise The Lord? 150:3-6

- The simple answer is with everything that we are and with everything that we have. The psalmist however has some particular things in mind that are instructive for God's people as they come together for worship.
- The worship of Jehovah is properly accompanied with a variety of musical instruments. 8 are listed in vs. 3-5 though the list is selective and not exhaustive. Wind instruments, string instruments and percussion instruments are welcomed in a symphony of praise to the excellently great God. Anything that rightly honors God should be welcomed.
 - 1) Trumpet (*sophar*) – the ram's horn.
 - 2) Lute – harp like but smaller. (?)
 - 3) Harp – stringed instrument larger than the lute.
 - 4) Timbrel & dance – tambourine. (cf. Exodus 15:20-21).
 - 5) Stringed instruments – general term for all types.
 - 6) Flutes – (*ESV*, “pipe”).
 - 7) Loud cymbals – perhaps small percussions like castanets.
 - 8) Clashing cymbals – large, loud cymbals with a crashing sound.
- C. S. Lewis wisely reminds us, “let choirs sing well or not at all!” This is a good concluding word on how we should praise the Lord.

IV. Who Should Praise The Lord? 150:6

- This question receives an easy and expected answer: everything! Everything/everyone should praise the Lord. This theme finds ample support in both our Old and New Testament. (Psalm 148:7-14; Revelation 5:13).

Everything That Has Breath

Let everything that, everything that
 Everything that has breath praise the Lord.
 Let everything that, everything that
 Everything that has breath praise the Lord.
 Praise you in the morning
 Praise you in the evening
 Praise you when I'm young and when I'm old.
 Praise you when I'm laughing
 Praise you when I'm grieving
 Praise you every season of my soul.
 If we could see how much your worth
 Your power your might your endless love
 Then surely we would never cease to, praise you.
 Praise you when the heavens, joining with the angels
 Praising you forever and a day.
 Praise you on the earth now, joining with creation
 Calling all the nations to your praise.
 If they could see how much your worth
 Your power your might your endless love
 The surely they would never cease to, praise you.