

PSALM 146
HALLELUJAH

TRUST THE GOD OF JACOB NOT PRINCES

INTRODUCTION

Psalms 146-150 are a quiver of “Hallelujah” songs with beautiful themes.

Topic for praise:-the gold nuggets of Jacob’s relationship with God

This opening Hallelujah Psalm has been titled by the LXX along with the three that follow “A psalm of Haggai and Zachariah”-in other words they are psalms of the post-exilic period and sung by the home-comers who worshipped in the Ezra-Nehemiah period 460-440B.C. and afterward using these beautiful songs.

The historic note of Delitzsch on the 72nd psalm argues that there are two stars-the Messianic hope of a seed of David from the earth below and the divine redemptive hope of Yahweh’s coming to dwell from above. With the failure of David and Solomon and later Hezekiah to deliver the “kingdom” and the corruption of later kings Delitzsch argues the coming of Yahweh became central to realising the Kingdom hope. In the New Testament these two stars converge and we see clearly the salvation rendered by Jesus Christ-great David’s greater son-through the cross and resurrection and look for his coming from heaven to establish his millennial rule. Delitzsch is saying that the “human” aspect rolled over many kings before the true concept of “the Lord from heaven being made flesh” was developed. Because the prophets spoke wiser than they know and the oracles are there to substantiate the incarnation and the death of Christ and even His resurrection we can say Hallelujah this light did appear in the darkest places of the Old Testament but indeed became more and more luminous as the day of Messiah’s incarnate ministry dawned.

1-2 ALL MY DAYS I WILL SING THIS SONG OF GLADNESS

O my soul, I must **keep praising** the LORD. I will **continually** praise the LORD in my living or in the house of life. I will sing to my God while I am still around. [*ydw*][*b*]
The psalmist may indeed be one of the prophets to which the LXX ascribes the song or a singer of the return but the effect is the same-consistent life-long praise is his aim.

3 BE CAREFUL WHERE YOU PLACE YOU FAITH!

Do not trust in princes –in a son of Adam. There simply exists no “continuing or persistent salvation” [*where salvation j*][*wt* is built on the Piel root of [*w*]] belonging to him. *The second temple period saw princes take foreign wives and prejudice the hope of the nation of Israel. The period induced a deep awareness of the fickle and perfidious nature of the human heart. Salvation must source from heaven.*

4 MAN IS SHORT-LIVED

His Spirit goes forth; he returns to his soil; in that day his thoughts [*purposes fabrications*][*tmtv*][*from tv*][] perish.

5 THREE CHEERS FOR PENIEL-LET EVERY CHRISTIAN GET THERE!

Happy is he who has the ever-existing or Shaddai strong one | *av* of Jacob for his help or Ezra; his expectation [*rbv* literally “His digging for gold”-*God was Jacob’s gold and should be ours too!*] or what he looks to and looks for is unto the LORD his God; whose expectation is upon the LORD his God. *I once stood at Peniel-but now I desire like Moses that it were our Penuel-where we all are!*

At the time of writing Ezra the scribe was the wonderful exception to the rule of dissipation. He was the burning and shining light of the era. He wrestled and took hold of God as Jacob did. He was the man who had true peace-behind this statement we can possibly see a covert tribute to his ministry and to his method-looking to the God of Jacob in prayer.

6 THE PRICE OF GOLD IS HIGH –BUY INTO THE GOLD OF VERSE 6

In the verses 6-10 we find the outstanding love and care of God-the “gold” everyone should quest-the real nuggets of relationship with God that we should treasure.

The maker of heaven and earth the sea and all that is in each of them

(1) He is the guardian or the One who watches over truth and faithfulness for ever-for all time.

Faithfulness was in very short supply in the religion of Israel when the exiles first settled and its restoration was enabled by the LORD who moved the scribe and the prophets and the elders of the time to seek God. The LORD Himself is the guarantor of his creation. He who sustains the laws that govern our lives is also the upholder of covenant faith with man.

7 HE DEFENDS FEEDS LIBERATES

(2) He administers justice for those who are defrauded. *The legal processes that sorted out licentious and idolatrous marriages were headline news in the Israel of the time. But God’s justice protects those defrauded by sinful practice*

(3) He gives bread to the hungry. *He cares deeply for those who are absolutely empty and hungry. So far as we know the returning Jews did not face famine and had all the support of the Assyrian treasury. However it would be strange indeed if none were hungry-since in every land circumstances arise to create pockets of deep need. It is the LORD who satisfies the natural daily hunger of you and me-not to speak of His provision for all who hunger and thirst for food and righteousness. Why even this week James Robison who sustains a mass feeding ministry for children called on viewers for help with 10 new trucks to carry food to multiple thousands of African children. It is the LORD who upholds this marvellous ministry of this and many other compassionate ministries to the hungry.*

(4) The LORD looses the prisoners. *The exiles had returned to Jerusalem with joy and the sinners who had inter-married had repented. Truly God liberates from sin and bondage.*

8 HE ENLIGHTENS LIFTS AND LOVES

(5) The LORD opens the waking eyes –the blinded eyes-the mentally blind [r#[]]

(6) The LORD lifts up or raises [pqz] those who are bowed down or arched or have submitted to slavery.

(6) The LORD loves **THE RIGHTEOUS**. *What enlightenment! What release and redemption! What love and friendship! All these benefits the exiles rejoiced to experience. God “breathes after” the righteous in desire and love.*

9 HE CARES FOR EXILES AND BEREAVED ONES

(7) The LORD preserves or observes the strangers-*what are their needs? Are they seeking Him?*

(8) He continually witnesses and solemnly affirms in favour of the fatherless and widow and the way of the wicked rebellious ones He keeps subverting or bending

back. *There could be no better example than the way in which the opponents of the exiles got their comeuppance from Artaxerxes I. Again and again the LORD overturns wicked ways.*

10 THIS JESUS IS COMING TO REIGN

The LORD will be king for ever or for the millennial era-for the extent of Israel's life-Your God o Zion from age to age. Hallelujah. *The prophets looked for the golden kingdom of Yahweh and this is the vision with which this beautiful song finishes so appropriately.*

PSALM 147

HALLELUJAH

A STUDY OF WHAT GOD IS DOING

The subject of praise is God's nation-building by re-gathering exiles; by healing backsliding; by the providences of seasons and harvest covenant; by His temple and city rebuilt; by children growing within it; by peace and chiefly by His word as he did to Jacob of old. There are 20 specifics of this great divine enterprise brought to our attention in this psalm.

1 LET THE SINGER SMILE-LET GOD LIGHT UP YOUR COUNTENANCE

HALLELUJAH for it is good to sing praise to our God; for radiant praise is pleasant agreeable delightful [*my[n]*] -radiant praise is comely beautiful and suitable. [*han*]

2 GOD GATHERS HIS PEOPLE TOGETHER

(1) **The LORD is building Jerusalem.**

(2) **He gathers up those who were driven away**-the seduced ones-like his own garments. *The setting of the psalm if the LXX context of Haggai and Zachariah for psalms 146-149 is correct is the post exilic period. The building of the city went on apace under Nehemiah and the gathering back of those who had been seduced to marriage with foreign wives was as gracious an act as the bringing back of the exiles. These two acts of God are worthy of praise.*

3 THE LORD IS CALLED JEHOVAH ROPHEKA

(3) **He is the healer [*apir*] of those whose heart is broken**

(4) **And the one who binds up or restrains their grief or pain.** [*bx[]*] *The family break up involved in putting away wives and little ones was heart-breaking but the LORD took His people through this necessary grieving process.*

4 THE MEASURE OF GRAIN AND DUST –HOW SMALL! THE PROGRESS OF STARS-HOW GIGANTIC!

(5) **He appoints weighs and counts the number of the stars.** He is calling and will call out the names that belong to them.

5 EL SHADDAI-THE UNEQUALLED WRESTLER WITH SIN AND SATAN

Great is our LORD and of multiplied strength; there is no reckoning of His insight skill and understanding *The "greatness" of God is reckoned in terms of the twisting of three cords of His glorious person. The "strength" of God is reckoned in untold multiples of anything known to man. His intelligence is beyond estimating. Gentiles just use the word "infinite" but Jews speak in a more concrete manner concerning the LORD. I prefer the Jewish manner.*

6 THE SINGER DEPENDS ON GOD AS A WALL BEFORE THE LAW OR JERUSALEM'S DEFENCES

(6) The LORD continually **surrounds** the humble submissive or afflicted ones; (7) He causes the violent wicked ones to be brought down to earth. *The LORD is described as a wall of protection to the humble.*

7 IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS

Sing continually [*Piel repetitive*] to the LORD with thanksgiving; Praise our God with the harp. *Why the harp? Was it not that instrument that they hung on the willows by the Euphrates? But now the returned exiles have occasion to strike up these instruments of most delicate and joyous sound-for they are home!*

8 WE OUGHT NOT TO DESPISE RAIN-MOST OF THE WORLD CRAVES IT.

(8) (It is God) who hides the heavens with clouds, who prepares heavy rain for the earth, and who causes grass to shoot up on the mountains. *It was ironically during a day of heavy rain that Ezra convened the gathering that decided that the nation would walk with God. God's blessing often accompanies His watering of the earth-which with the rainbow is his sign of covenant blessing.*

9 CONSIDER THE SPARROW!

(9) He gives to the beast its appropriate food; You supply food for the young ravens which keep calling.

10 WAR IS NOT GOD'S DELIGHT-YET HE CONTESTS WITH SATAN AND WILL ENGAGE IN THE BATTLE THAT BRINGS THIS ECONOMY TO A CLOSE

(10a) He does not incline with delight [*xpj*] at the warrior strengths of the horse; He is not satisfied or conciliated [*hxr*] by the legs of man running after his desire. *The text is its best interpreter. The beauty of a horse does delight the LORD but He is not well pleased when the dumb animal is turned into a war machine. The LORD does encourage us to be fit but He gets no satisfaction from our pursuits in which He is not glorified or named. To some extent the total deflection of mammon centred sport qualifies for this disclaimer.*

11 GOD RESPONDES TO FAITH

(10b) The LORD is satisfied with **THOSE WHO REVERENCE HIM**-those who set their expectation on his covenant love or mercy. *The LORD gets joy from those who take Him seriously and respect His dealings. He works for the good of those who lean on His mercy and covenant.*

12 YOU LOVE JESUS? SPEAK ABOUT HIM!

Boast of [*jbv*] Yahweh O Jerusalem and praise your God, O Zion. *Jerusalem is asked to "soothe" or "still" the LORD. The almost unceasing activity of God is only stilled when His people are worshipping. God rested on the seventh day when He had made man-all the stars sang-the angels sang-and hopefully Adam and Eve sang too.*

13 A NATION'S FUTURE IS SEEN IN THE RISING GENERATION

(11) For He has constantly strengthened the bars of your gates by blessing your children within you. *The Strength of the city of Jerusalem was not the bars of its numerous gates but the character of its growing godly sons. The post-exilic leaders enjoyed seeing the population grow and the spirituality too.*

14 "PEACE IN OUR TIME" SAID CHAMBERLAIN-BUT HE COULD NOT DELIVER!

(12) He constitutes your border “peace” or establishes your border of peace; (13) He causes you to be filled with the fat or best of the wheat. *The exiles who returned were protected by Artaxerxes and ensured against strife and clearly their crops were of the best. Ezra in his scheme of things as you will read in the text of his writing encouraged farming and increase of livestock including bullocks for ploughing.*

15 EVENTS MOVE FAST WHEN THE PROPHETIC MOMENT COMES

(14) He commissions His word to earth until his business moves quickly. *As when the adversaries of the returned exiles queried their right to build the reply of Artaxerxes I set the work speedily forward so the commission of Christ given to many believers sets the gospel forward and hastens the day of His return.*

16 THERE ARE SEASONS IN GODS PLAN

(15) He gives snow [gl v] like woollen garments (for the earth); (16) He disperses hoar frost or atonement [rpk] like ashes. *This is not just an observation on the weather. It is saying that God covers the earth with whiteness though it is the scene of sin. The second part of the statement tells us that the glistening frost stands for the atonement – the spent flame of the offering-the grace of God in forgiveness.*

17 MAN COMES TO A STANDSTILL BEFORE GODS SOVEREIGN ACTS

(17) He has cast down or cast forth his ice as crumbs of bread, who can stand and work before His cold? *As crumbs are thrown to the birds icicles and frost patterns are given as a sign of God’s care and provision for the creation of more fertile land. There is a time when man is compelled to cease his labour before penetrating cold. Likewise there is in respect of relationship with God a sense in which our works avail not at all for salvation. We are at a stand to do anything to save ourselves.*

18 THE SPIRIT OF GOD MOVED IN GENESIS 1.1 AND STILL WORKD TO STRANGELY WARM THE HEARTS OF SINNERS

(18) He sends His oracular word and melts them. *All the power of ice and frost loses its grip before the word of God. So mercy rejoices against judgment.* (19) He causes his wind or Spirit to blow and the waters flow and drop down. *Like the Wind the Spirit of God melts the heart and tears flow-man is convicted and converted. The Spirit of God creates spiritual movement.*

19 BACK AGAIN TO PENIEL-SWEET PLACE OF POWER.DO GET THERE SOON!

(20) **He made know his oracular word to Jacob**-his ordinances and judgments to Israel. *The LORD used Ezra to teach the great truths that Jacob learned at Bethel and Peniel. It is from this and other psalms that we learn the centrality of Jacob’s faith to the exposition of “knowing God” in the Old Testament. Compare at leisure Psalms 20.1, 46.7, 75.9, 76.6, 81.1, 84.8, 94.7, 114.7, 132.2, 135.4, and 146.5-12 references in all.*

20 THE REVIVAL UNDER EZRA PROMOTED PRAISE-LORD- REVIVE US EVENAT THE END OF DAYS!

He has not done thus for any nation and they have not known His defence-**HALLELUJAH.** *The last verse reserves the knock out punch. We are being shown that the LORD uniquely defended Israel in the days of Ezra. To read the book of Ezra is to be awed by the absolute and overwhelming backing God gives the returned exiles through the rescript of Artaxerxes I. The prophets Haggai and Zachariah may well*

have written these three psalms as the writers of the LXX believe they did to mark the magnificent providences of God over His people at this time.

**PSALM 148
HALLELUJAH**

**THE CALL FOR A CHORUS OF UNIVERSAL PRAISE
FROM THE DAYS OF THE SECOND TEMPLE**

*This is the third of four Hallelujah or Praise Psalms attributed by the LXX composers to Haggai and Zachariah. The topic for our praise is all that are in heaven and all that is on earth doing his will –especially his saints whose horn is lifted up—who are **near to Him** through a ransom-Ezra’s “nail in the holy place”-Christ-for which reason supremely we are to praise Him.*

1 HEAVEN CANNOT FORGET THE LAMB

Praise the LORD in the heavens; keep praising Him in the lofty heights or among the high ones. *Earth may falter in yielding God no praise but heaven resounds incessantly with singing and His praises.*

2 ANGELS AND ARCHANGELS ARE INSTANT IN PRAISE

Continually praise him all His angels and messengers; continually praise Him all his hosts. *Again the incessant nature of heavenly praise is reflected in the call which may also include those who evangelise and are militant for the LORD’S kingdom-among such giving continual glory and praise is elementary to their mission.*

3 PRAISE WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE INTERMITTENT

Sun and moon keep on praising Him; keep up your praise you stars of light. *The ministry of the sun moon and stars is diurnal and nocturnal but in the celestial sphere it is continuous. We would be ruined if the sun gave up for one day to minister to the earth and fulfil its role to the praise of God.*

*The spacious firmament on high,
With all the blue ethereal sky,
And spangled heavens, a shining frame,
Their great Original proclaim,
The unwearied sun from day to day,
Does his Creator’s power display,
And publishes to every land
The work of an almighty hand.*

(Joseph Addison)

4 HEAVENS AND INTER-GALACTIC HOSTS SING AS THEY SHINE

Continually praise Him O heavens of heavens and you waters that are above the heavens. *The “third heaven” of which Paul speaks –the very dwelling place of the LORD is full of praise. This psalm attributed to the prophetic messengers encourages heaven to go on praising God and adds that the hydrosphere that encircles this earth is an imperative if we are to have protection and nutrition.*

**5 THE HEAVENS PRAISE HIM EVEN AS THEY GROW OLD AS A
GARMENT**

Continue to praise the name of the LORD into the future for He commanded and they created themselves from nothing. *The scripture does not deny a form of self construction of the physical order-the Niphal suggests a natural out-working of*

*principles that are dynamic and automatic-but its instigation and the reason behind the existence of what is seen is **the command** of the unseen and Most High God. The term “command” in Hebrew is **צו** which means “to set up” “to appoint” “to constitute” “to commission”. The LORD set up the whole order of creation much as a scientist would set up what is called “an experiment” where consequences follow-in the scientist’s case not all may be understood or predictable or as planned so it is called “an experiment.” With God there is a very different order of precision.*

6 THE MINISTRY ABOVE US IN THE SKIES AFFECTS US DAILY

He has caused them to stand and minister continually for an aeon. He has given a decree or ordinance and it shall not be overwhelmed or go out of its path or vanish like a cloud. “*God’s decrees are His eternal purpose whereby He ordains whatsoever comes to pass*” (Shorter Catechism) *The original command can only be revoked by God who tells us that the “heavens will pass away”. Thus another age and economy is in the wings and neither scientists nor any on earth should pin our hopes to what is seen.*

7 NEVER FORGET JONAH

Praise the LORD from the earth you enormous animals and all you great depths of the sea.

8 THE ELEMENTS ARE AT HIS COMMAND

Praise Him lightning and hail-stones snow and vapour cloud adverse or violent rushing wind that do what His oracular word said. *The prophets or writer believes that the elements named act in accordance with His purpose. However the fact that the Piel future is used of their praise may well mean that they are to continue to do what He the LORD says. When our Saviour stood up and “rebuked” the wind and the waves we are to take it that for the element to continue to rage would have been out of keeping with His will. We are living in a world where God “rules and overrules”.*

9 THE RESINOUS TREES GIVE INCENSE-THE CEDARS WOOD FOR MAN AND GOD

The mountains and all hills fruit trees and all cedars-praise the LORD. *The mountains fulfil their role by dividing nations and protecting peoples-and by supplying waters from great rivers. The fruit trees give their annual bounty to man to sustain abounding health and the cedars hold to the earth while they grow strong to supply timber. The Lebanon range of mountains supplied Israel’s chief water-way-the Jordan and her cedars would be used as by Solomon so by Nehemiah in the building of the gates and temple at Jerusalem.*

10 BY LIVING AND DYING THE HUMBLER CREATION PRAISED HIM TOO

Beasts and all cattle of the field insects and birds on the wing praise the LORD. *The Birds are famous for their songs-indeed our Saviour drew attention to the trust with which they live their lives. Even the little insects have a role and of course the creatures that live in the wild and the domestic animal alike are part of the glory of creation and not less part of the food chain for the sustenance of mankind.*

11 ALL MEN WITHOUT DISTINCTION MUST ONE DAY BOW-WHY NOT NOW?

Kings of the earth and all peoples; princes and all judges of the earth praise the LORD. *The responsibility of a king and a citizen-of a prince and a judge can be summed up in*

this-to do what God speaks. To know what God says each is to keep in touch with God. The disfunctionality of nations lies in the failure to seek God and His word. Artaxerxes I is an outstanding example of a pagan king who did God's will to the detail.

12 NO-ONE IS EXCEPTED WHERE PRAISE IS CONCERNED

Young men and young women; old men in company with youths praise the LORD. *The call is for those who look to future union in marriage to do God's will and live to His praise. The same call goes out to old as to young. In a post exilic society where family life was abounding where there were "white-haired" elders and many youths the call for a worshipping community goes out loud and clear in this psalm.*

13 CHRIST HAS POWER TO RISE AGAIN-GOD HAS NAMED HIM LORD OF ALL

Praise the name of the LORD for His name separate and alone strengthens itself and is self-evidently lifted up. *[b]y c[n]* His majesty or bright glory is above that of earth and heaven. *The mystery of the glory and "light of God" lies at the root of all being. He who says "Let there be light" can illumine without a light source. All this is an enigma wrapped in a mystery. Yet has the LORD revealed Him to his servants so that along with the hosts of heaven and earth the leaders of the nations and men and women old and young are exhorted to praise the LORD because His is the name of "Life" and of "Salvation"-Yahweh.*

14 JESUS IS LIFTED HIGH

He has raised the horn of His people-He has lifted up the praise of ALL HIS SAINTS that belong to the sons of Israel, a people near to Him-Hallelujah! *The "horn" is the head and the ultimate head is Christ. The immediate raising of the independent nation of Israel is the psalmist's joy. The nation could boast HASIDIM-men and women of holiness of life-and the nation was established around the temple-close to God physically and also spiritually. When God chose to give "a nail in the holy place and seasons of grace and days of reviving" as under Ezra the scribe the time was right to praise the LORD. The psalmist lived at a very special time but it is right to praise God in adversity as well as during revival-as Joni Erickson Tada says "Praise the LORD anyway!" for He is our creator Saviour who sustains all things by His word.*

PSALM 149

HALLELUJAH

AN EVOCATION OF SAINTS TO SING IN LIFE AND DEATH AND JUDGMENT

1 ENCORE

Sing to the LORD a new song- sing continually in the congregation of **THE SAINTS**. *The prophets to whom the previous songs in this selection are attributed have yet another song for God's people. The stirring exhortation is that God's saints shall ever be a singing praising people.*

2 CREATED AND REDEEMED-SO I MUST SING

Let Israel constantly rejoice or shine through his Maker! Let the sons of Zion constantly dance with joy because of their King. *There are scarce two better reasons*

for praising God than for our existence and lives which are by His design alone and for his kingdom into which we have come by grace.

3 DAVID SANG IN THE OUT-OF-DOORS WITH ANIMATION

Let them constantly praise His name in whirling around with animation-they will sing praises to Him with timbrel and harp. *The prophets are not sedate and staid individuals. They are like those whom Saul met-they are like David as he danced before the ark. They are the liveliest enthusiasts.*

4 GOD IS ON THE SIDE OF JOY-“ENTHUSIASM” MEANS “GOD IS IN IT”

For the LORD takes pleasure in His people-He will constantly make the humble beautiful with his salvation. *The beauty of lowliness is seen in its willingness to laud the Redeemer of the outcast and downcast.*

*With gold of obedience and incense of lowliness
Come now before Him the LORD is his name.*

5 WESLEY SAID “COME SEE HOW A CHRISTIAN CAN DIE!”

THE SAINTS will exult and express their joy in glory: they will shout with strident rejoicing [mr] on their beds where they lie down to sleep or even to die. *Death and Glory are not far apart. The thought of praising the LORD as life draws to its close may or may not be prominent here-though it would fit the context. All of these Hallelujah psalms speak of “saints” in the same way Daniel does-persons whose lives lie astride time and eternity!*

6 ALWAYS LIVE TO GOD’S GLORY-AND BY THE BIBLE

Let the exaltation of God be in their throat or in their excited contention and the two edged sword in their hand. *The Hebrew writer explains to us that the two edged sword (Hebrew 4.12) models the word of God which cuts both ways-it separates the thoughts and purposes-the soul and spirit. We might say that the warring saint is in mind and that our war-cry in the vein of Zinzendorf and the Moravians is the “victorious lamb” who was lifted up on the cross. For the prophetic Jews it was the LORD HIGH AND LIFTED UP-Isaiah’s picture of the coming Christ.*

7 THE END OF THE TIME OF THE GENTILES HERALDS SOLEMN DISCIPLINE

To do vengeance upon the Gentiles and rebukes chastisement or conviction for peoples. *There appear to be two aspects to spiritual warfare- the notion of “vengeance” [mkñ] and the notion of “conviction” [j ky] both of which are not ours but Gods to deliver. However the Jewish people are the apple of God’s eye and to touch them is to touch God and so their enemies may expect divine vengeance in the latter day or contrariwise upon repentance conviction and conversion may be gifted to them.*

8 CORRUPT WORLD GOVERNMENT WILL END MOMENTOUSLY

To bind their kings with chains and their mighty men in twisted fetters of iron

9 THE PROPHETIC PSALMIST HAS THE END OF JACOB’S TROUBLE IS IN VIEW

To execute on them the judgment written This honour belongs to all **HIS SAINTS**. The “respect” [rdj] registered here is settled upon the saints of God when the King returns to judge the nations. His companions will be the saints and though we might shun the thought He will use saints in His settlement of Messianic rule and the administration of judgment that is entailed in this restitution. *O saint of God don't lose your song!*
HALLELUJAH.

PSALM 150
HALLELUJAH
A CALL FOR PRAISE OF OUR VICTORIOUS LORD
VICTORY OVER SIN AND DEATH AND HELL AND CHAMPION OF
HISTORY

1 PRAISE YE THE LORD

Hallelujah- Keep praising the LORD!

2 PRAISE TO THE HOLIEST IN THE HEIGHTS!

You must continue to praise God for his holiness or in His **holy place**. Keep praising Him in the **firmament** of His power. *The man or woman who sings to the LORD is not in the firmament. Some take it to be the “ocean” of space above the stars which was part of the ancient cosmogony. The Raqiah Aoz-the firmament of majesty –the spreading sapphire of God's victorious strength. The firmament is simply explained in Psalm 19.1 as the “place where God's handiwork is demonstrated”. God's power in building the universe is show-cased in the heavens we can see. God inhabits the third heaven though He cannot be contained by any abode for He transits at will betwixt earth and heaven and even in Hades “You are there” says the psalmist. However this final psalm directs us high above this earth to God's grand creation and beyond the ocean of the skies to the “holy place” where He is worshipped by the angels. We are told we will continue our praise there one day. Meantime we on earth praise the God of heaven.*

3 LO HE IS THE MIGHTY CONQUEROR SINCE HE RENT THE VEIL IN TWO!

Praise Him evermore **for His acts of warrior defence and victory in struggle**. [myrwbq] Praise Him according to the vastness of His greatness. *The victorious actions of the LORD which culminate in Calvary and the resurrection in the last era-in the birth and development of the church in this time and will culminate in the glory of the Messianic Kingdom in the next and the glory of His triune person with its triple twist of power in Father Son and Holy Spirit. This is what the psalm written 400 years before Christ means today-but even to its composers it gloried in the victories of Yahweh since the dawn of time-using Abraham and Moses and Joshua and Gideon and David and many other saints. The psalm called for awesome worship of the same Yahweh Elohim-the God of Glory and of Grace.*

4 WHY SHOPHAR & NABAL?

Continue to praise Him with the signal or trumpet sound of the Shophar-continue to praise Him on the Nabal of 10 strings and the harp. *The Shophar was the preferred*

instrument for calling an assembly to feast and praise God since the days of Aaron. The Nabal or Lyre and Harp were David's favourite stringed instruments and since the return from exile the "harp" came afresh into use as the accompaniment of the singing saints whom the prophets and singers encouraged in divine praise. So the harp once hung on Babylon's willows became the choice instrument of song for the returned backsliding nation. It reflected in its range of sound and combination of pathos and exuberance how low they stooped and how high God lifted His people.

5 VICTORY IN PASSOVER

Keep on praising Him with the timbrel and the dance. *The earliest music was that of Miriam who lead the praises of the nation with a timbrel-with simple vibrations that echoed the human voice of her song as she sang and danced. The writer does not want Israel to loose the thrill of ransom-the joy of redemption and this theme must always figure in her music. Praise Him with weighed or numbered strings and "blowing" or wind instrument. The latter hints praise expressed by breathing and deep devotion and love. The former speaks of the singer as counting his notes and accentuating each element of God's word and works.*

6 OUR VICTOR IS CROWNED

Continually praise Him on cymbals that echo and command attention or which reflect the sound of wings or an army in the clamour of battle. Constantly praise Him on the cymbal of joyful noise. [h[ur]t] This cymbal was used in Ezra 3.11 when the foundation of the LORD'S house was celebrated. It also was used as in Numbers 23.21 when Balaam hear "as the shout of a king" or a coronation among the Jews. The LORD was Israel's king and their praise specified his rule when they used the "high-sounding" cymbal. Let everything that has soul or life continually praise the LORD. HALLELUJAH- PRAISE YE THE LORD.

SCRIBAL ADDENDUM

qzj

Prevailing strength or Repair

"There were two thousand and fifty early praises from open lips –others were written songs –two hundred and twenty seven and we appointed them or set them in our hearts...

I love the refuge of Your House where Your glory dwells. But a proportion of men will be enticed by their mouths. We place our satisfaction or riches in the cheer or happiness of Your pleasure or eternity."

*HEBREW FOR
DEVOTIONS*

HALLELUJAH

PSALMS

146-150

ALBION BIBLE CLASSICS