

“Psalms: Week 14”

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025 - MICHAEL BOWERS



Summary - “Psalms: The Gift of Praise”

As we close out our series in Psalms on Palm Sunday, we do so with Psalm 150. We have seen in the collection of Psalms, who God is, what His character is, and why he is worthy of our praise. Psalm 150 is a song of Praise, a song of redemption, a song of God’s greatness. The greatest reason to praise, rejoice, and prepare our hearts for is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Psalm 150, if we will allow it to do so, is the perfect preparation for our hearts toward Easter. Praise the LORD! In the 150 Psalms, this phrase is used thirty-six times; in this final Psalm, we find it thirteen times. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! We have been invited to worship the God of creation. We have been given front-row seats to praise the God of redemption. We have been given a voice to do so with. We have been gifted to play a tune, whistle, strum, drum, clang cymbals, sing, and make a joyful noise to the Lord as a response to God’s grace. We have been given God’s word to guide us and lead us. Essentially, God’s word displays God’s love for us by saying, “I have invited you, through My Son Jesus Christ, and His payment for your sins, to approach Me with confidence in your salvation, thankful for My grace and willing to live a life of obedience as a response to My moving on your behalf.” Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!

Scripture - Psalm 150 “Let Everything Praise the Lord”

Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! ² Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! ³ Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! . Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! . Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! . Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Key Terms - “Praise” - Strong’s Definition

Praise: 7717 hālal (haw-lal’) - to shine; hence, to make a show, to boast; and thus to be (clamorously) foolish; to rave; causatively, to celebrate

Praise the LORD is the word Hallelujah, but in Hebrew, it was two words: Halal Yah. Halal means praise. Yah is the shortened version of the Holy name of God, Yahweh, YHWH, but here, the word for the Lord is Yah. Put it together, and we have Halal Yah, and we say, Hallelujah.

Key Apps, Websites, and Online Tools for Further Study

- <https://www.blueletterbible.org/>
- <https://www.biblegateway.com/>
- <https://biblehub.com/>
- <https://www.youversion.com/>
- <https://www.bibleref.com/>
- <https://bible.org/>
- <https://netbible.org/>
- <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/>
- <https://www.gty.org/>
- <https://www.gotquestions.org/>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/>
- <https://carm.org/>
- <https://dwellapp.io/>

Further Scripture Study

2 Samuel 6:21-22; Psalm 9:1-2; Psalm 34:1; [Psalm 150](#); Isaiah 25:1; Ephesians 1:3; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 3:16-17; Hebrews 13:15; Revelation 5:11-13

As you study the scripture verses provided for this week, study for right context and right questions...

Right Context:

- The verse itself and key word(s) that stand out in the verse (meanings)
- The verses around the verse, the section of scripture, the chapter, the book, old/new testament, and relation to the rest of scripture
- Author and Date (Who wrote the book and when?)
- Audience (Who is the book written to? Main characters in the story and/or text?)
- Main points and overall purpose of the book
- Historical background, cultural significance, setting, people, rulers, etc.
- Scripture references; let scripture interpret scripture as much as possible

Right Questions:

- What does this passage say?
- What does this passage mean to its original audience?
- What is this passage teaching me about God?
- What does this passage tell us about man?
- What does this passage demand of me? (Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a sin to avoid? How is this applicable to me?)
- How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (What actions must I take in response to this passage?)
- What does this passage prompt me to pray? (For God, for others, for my community, for family, etc.)

Key Thoughts

We must ensure the things we praise/worship are worthy of our worship. We must examine our thoughts about our times to gather corporately and ask as we enter our seats, "How am I going to praise the LORD today."

We have seen in the collection of Psalms, who God is, what His character is, and why He is worthy of our praise.

- God desires us to walk in habits, listen to the right people, and surround ourselves with Godly friendships. (Psalm 1)
- God is with us in the most challenging seasons of our lives. We can cry out to God, weep, lament, and pray. And trust. (Psalm 13)
- God's creation announces the greatness of God's worship to be praised, but God's word also leads us to a God who loves us and offers salvation. (Psalm 19)
- In Psalm 32, we experience God's hatred of sin and the pattern of repentance. (Acknowledge our sin, confess our sin, God forgives, and we pause, then we worship.) And just as the Psalmist called the people to repent, we read in the New Testament the calling to repent of our sins and believe that God is faithful in forgiving us through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
- Why praise the LORD? When we are in hardship, our soul longs for God, even if the circumstances do not change. In our desperation, we can come to God. (Psalm 42) There is only one God worthy of our praise.
- When we came to Psalm 57, we were reminded that God is a God of refuge, and we can move from destruction to praise.
- As we continued our journey through Psalms, we were led to discuss our hearts for worship and the greatness of God. (Psalm 66)
- God is worthy to be praised with untethered worship because God knows our sorrows, even when we ask the hardest of questions. (Psalm 77)
- Why is God worthy of our praise? Because God is the giver of all good things and does not withhold from those who pursue Him. (Psalm 84)
- We praise the LORD because He has taken us out of darkness
- and into the light. (Psalm 101) And God desires to guide us on blameless paths, full of integrity and setting our eyes on things of value.
- Praise the Lord because God has paid for our sins and removed the shame. (Psalm 106)
- Praise the LORD because he has given us His word to guide and lead us. He did not leave us to wander alone and on our own. (Psalm 119)
- Praise the LORD because he cares about this house (congregation) and your family. And he desires to give us rest rather than anxiety. (Psalm 127)

Key Thoughts

Where do we praise? In every place, “praise the LORD! ...praise him in his mighty heavens!” The location is not the focus; a Holy God is the focus. He is not calling us to make creation the object of our worship, but all of creation should leave us in awe of our Creator. But what about beyond creation, the heavens? (vs. 1; see also Revelation 5:11-13)

Revelation tells us that at least a million angels are worshipping; Jesus says in Matthew 6:8-10, warm up the praise, get your “halal” ready, and “worship on earth, as it is in heaven.” This leaves no room for us to worship about ourselves. This leaves no room for us to be complacent in our praise, whether in this room, in our quiet time with the LORD, or our praise with our kids.

Praising the LORD combines our heart's affection, mind's attention, body's position, and soul's desperation for the one true GOD.

Who do we praise? A God Who Acts and a God who is Great. The mightiest act of all isn't creation; it's redemption. The mightiest act is God sending his Son from heaven to earth to pay for our sins. (vs. 2)

We praise God for what He has done, but we also praise Him for who He is. This is important because sometimes in our lives, we can't readily think of what He has done; sometimes, our lives are all about the hard stuff, the difficult days. It is here where we must praise Him for His greatness; who He is.

We “praise him according to his excellent greatness!” When we declare praise, we declare God's value, despite and regardless of what we may be experiencing. Making much of God in some of the most challenging moments of life will often give us the strength to overcome our hardships.

How do we praise? We use instruments and voices. (vs. 3-6)

Praise is not limited to 70 minutes on a Sunday. Praise is a preparation for all seasons. The gift of praise is only possible because of the gift of salvation.

God's word displays God's love for us by saying, “I have invited you, through My son Jesus Christ, and His payment for your sins, to approach Me with confidence in your salvation, thankful for My grace and willing to live a life of obedience as a response to My moving on your behalf.”

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!

Reflect & Respond

Where in your life have you shown great praise for something? Where have you found yourself “hallaling”? Where have you experienced being unhinged in your worship of something or someone?

What is your attitude of praise? What is your attitude of worship? What does this look like for you on a Sunday morning or when gathered with other believers? What does it look like for you when you are alone?

Think about seasons in your life where your praise for the Lord through song was high and often. What was your walk like during these times? How did your praise for God increase your growth as a Christian or bring you closer to the Lord?

What do you believe makes God worthy of your praise? Think of things that God has done in your life (past and current). Consider His greatness from the truth of scripture. Talk about this within your group.

Are we going to give praise to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, or are we going to allow imposters and idols to steal His praise? What imposters and/or idols are currently stealing your praise for the Lord?

Is your praise for the Lord based upon your own life situations, your preferences, and your desires, or, is it based upon what He has done and the greatness of who He is? This matters, because one is ultimately about ourselves and the other is about the Lord. Who are you praising and worshipping? Pray through this personally.