

Psalm 150 (Praise to you, God)

The Book of Psalms concluded with this praising psalm. It signifies two points: 1. Praise God is the most important theme for this Bible book, and 2. Authors (David and others) have written these 150 psalms under different life situations such as suffering but still be able to praise God.

Psalm 150 begins and ends with the same verse “Praise the Lord.” The original Hebrew words (הללויה) for this phrase (compound words) are Hallelujah “Halal lu Yah”. Halal means praise that ties to the meaning of greatly appreciate and thankful for someone’s great act or someone’s super quality. “lu” means you. “Yah” is a short form of Yahweh. The full phrase translated to be “Praise to You, God”, and many Bible versions translated it as “Praise the Lord”.

1. Action is praise to God directly

We sometimes talk to others and say “Praise God!”. It is mainly about your sharing with others about God’s deed. In this case, you testify God’s goodness in your life or His goodness overall to others. For example, you praise your friend’s child that the child did a great job in school. The praise is about the child’s deed, but the person you said the praise to is his parents. That is different from praise the child directly. Various parts of the Bible described group praise and sharing praises of God. Here, the psalm emphasizes for **you to praise God directly**.

2. Location is God’s dwelling

The second half of verse 1 is about praise God in His sanctuary and his mighty heavens. Verse 1 here describes the praises take place in God’s dwelling such as people gather in churches and angels together in heaven. Each one shall praise Him in His dwelling. His dwelling is holy. Thus, each one of us shall have a pure heart when you and I praise God. In the New Testament, I Cor. 6:19-20 states your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and Eph. 4:6 states God is over all and through all and in all. Therefore, praise is not restricted inside the church but shall be anyway as long as it is from your sincere and pure heart because He dwells in you.

3. **Creation and characters of God to be praised**

Verse 2 describes why each of us shall praise God. Various psalms have praised God's great creation and power. God's almighty power in creation, in control of the universe and defeat of the Satan are worthy of our praise. Other God's characters shall also be praised such as His greatness that includes His wisdom, His grace, His kindness and love, His providence, His protection, etc.

4. **Expression in various forms to praise God**

Verses 3 to 5 describe the types of praise expressions. God created our eyes and ears for us to receive. The mouth and the body are mainly designed for us to express. Here, the Bible tells each of us to express praise to God. Each one can use his/her mouth say praises, sing songs and blow instruments to praise Him. Verses 3 and 4 list trumpet and pipe as instrument examples blow by mouth. The body shall also be used to express praise to God. Each one can use his/her hand to play instruments, such as those shown in the Bible verse, to praise Him. Moreover, one can use the body to dance to express praise to Him (verse 4). Recently, I sometimes attend a church that has a large choir (100 members), a full orchestra and a band. Occasionally, they have children dance like ballet that is accompanied by the orchestra during praise time in the worship. That praise worship confirms my understanding of these few verses, and I can relate to the worship described in this psalm in the Old Testament.

5. **Passion in praising is required for each person**

Verse 6 clearly says each of us shall praise God our Lord. The emphasis here is individually although God also wants us to praise together with others. One can see that God is pleased when each of us has the passion and deep desire to praise Him.

The impression I had when I read this Psalm the first time is just a praising psalm with a lot of different instruments, and not sure why all those instruments listed. Then years later, I heard a children choir sang and did hand motion based on the words on this song at a church I used to worship. I was very impressed and pleased of those kids, and they were so cute and wonderful. I was thinking God must be very pleased when His

children like me to praise Him that way. Thus, I really got the 5th point above that is passion. After that, I took a deeper study on this psalm, and the fascinating five points revealed to me as listed above. It is a great conclusion psalm – Hallelujah!