

## THE PREEMINENCE OF PRAISE

### Psalm 150

*True worship* is *indescribably awesome*. We know this is true because God is *awesome*. *Authentic worship* always results from a *personal encounter* with God...resulting in the most *soul-inspiring, heart-moving experience* any *redeemed individual* can ever enjoy. There is *nothing boring* about *authentic, true worship*...because there is *nothing boring* about God...the *object* of our *worship*.

Worship can be *defined* as the *appropriate response* of the *entire person*...their *mind, will, heart, and soul*...to all who God is...*Creator, Ruler, and Redeemer*. It encompasses *all* that one is *acknowledging*...the *greatness* and *majesty* of God.

*Flat worship* or *dead worship* is an *oxymoron*...it's the *contradiction* of *true worship*...and it's an *inconsistency* of the highest order. *Empty, tired praise* is dishonoring to God...it's an *insult* to God...it's insinuating that His *matchless glory* is anything but *glorious*.

God is *infinitely magnificent* and *exponentially supreme*. All worship should *reflect* this. Because God is *sovereign*...*absolutely holy*...and *incomprehensibly majestic*...genuine, true worship is always *awe-inspiring* for all who *know* Him.

Remember the *woman at the well* in **John 4**? She asked...

*“Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.” Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is*

*spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth’.*”

~John 4:20-24

**Psalm 150** is a *psalm* not meant to be *studied*...but to be *done*. It contains the *final great hallelujah*...of the entire **Book of Psalms**. Here is praise that is *full of life, passion, and dynamic energy*. This *psalm* is exciting in its *adoration* of God.

To *praise God* is to *recognize God's worth*. It *acknowledges* that God is who He *claims to be*...the *only true* God.

*“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”*

~John 17:3

He is *Creator* of everything, and the *source* of every *blessing*. *Worship differs* somewhat from *thanksgiving*. *Thanksgiving* describes *what* God *has done*...*worship* describes *who* He is.

- *God alone is worthy of our praise* (**Psalm 18:3; Psalm 113:3**).
- *It's His will for us that we praise Him* (**Psalm 50:23; Isaiah 43:21**).
- *Praise should be continuous* (**Psalm 34:1; Psalm 71:6**)...*and also public* (**Psalm 22:25**).
- *We are to praise God for His holiness* (**II Chronicles 20:21**)...*grace* (**Ephesians 1:6**)...*goodness* (**Psalm 135:3**)...*and kindness* (**Psalm 138:2**).
- *All nature praises God* (**Psalm 148:7-10**).
- *The sun, moon, and stars praise Him* (**Psalm 19:1; Psalm 143:3**).
- *The angels praise Him* (**Psalm 148:2**).
- In fact...*we are told that on occasion God uses even the wrath of men to praise Him* (**Psalm 76:10; Genesis 37:28**).

## I. THE CALL TO WORSHIP: (vs. 1)

This *final psalm begins* and *ends* with a *loud crescendo*, *proclaiming Praise the Lord!* The *psalmist* couldn't be *silent* about such *supreme...sovereign...consecrated...dedicated...sanctified...holiness*.

**Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty expanse (vs. 1)...**

**Praise God...the Lord God Almighty...in His sanctuary.**

**Sanctuary...literally means *holy place* or *sacred place*... because of *the presence of God*. (the believer's heart).**

**Praise Him in His mighty expanse...refers to *the heavens above*...a reference to His *glory*. *Redeemed saints* and *angels* are to *worship* God in the *heights of heaven*. God is to be *praised* everywhere...whether on earth below, or heaven above. There's no place where praise is out of place.**

## II. THE CAUSE FOR WORSHIP: (vs. 2)

Having called for *praise in every place*, the *reason* is now given for this worship. God is to be *praised for His great power*...His *omnipotence*.

**Praise Him for His mighty deeds; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness (vs. 2)...**

**Praise Him** because of **His mighty acts**...His **greatness**. This refers to the *major areas of divine work...creation, salvation, providence, and judgment*. All His acts work together perfectly with *precise unity of purpose* and should be the cause for *great praise*.

**“O Lord God, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your strong hand; for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as Yours?”**

~Deuteronomy 3:24

**Praise Him according to His excellent greatness...in addition, *praise* is to be *rendered* to God because of *who He is*...the *essence of His divine attributes*. The Lord should be worshipped for His *holiness, sovereignty, righteousness, omniscience, omnipotence, omnipresence*, and the fact that He is *eternal*...the *Alpha* and *Omega*.**

**Everything** about God is to be *praised*...both for His *acts* and His *attributes*. **Who He is** and **what He has done!**

## III. THE CELEBRATION IN WORSHIP: (vs. 3-5)

The *psalmist* gives instruction regarding the *manner in which* God is to be *praised*. Both *musical instruments (vs. 3-5)*...and *human voices (vs. 6)* are to be *employed*.

**Praise Him with trumpet sound; Praise Him with harp and lyre (vs. 3)...**

Both *wind* and *string instruments* are listed here...those to be used in *praising* God.

**Trumpet**...the *shofar* or *ram's horn*. Used for the *announcement of a proclamation*...used to *gather* and *assemble* God's people.

**Harp** and **lyre**...use of both *larger* and *smaller portable harps*...harps that *varied in size* and *number of strings*.

**Praise Him with timbrel and dancing; Praise Him with stringed instruments and pipe (vs. 4)...**

**Timbrel**...*tambourine*.

**Dancing**...sometimes it just isn't enough to praise the Lord by *singing* only. In Scripture, this was *always done* by a *single individual* or by a *large group*...*never a couple (II Samuel 6:16)*. Typically it describes a *rotating, circling motion*.

The **timbrel** and **dancing** often *went together*...and often *by women* when they *danced* after *God-given victories* (**Exodus 15:20**).

**Stringed instruments**...a *general term* for *all kinds* of stringed instruments.

**Pipe**...*flute-like instruments*.

**Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with resounding cymbals** (**vs. 5**)...

**Cymbals**...instruments usually made of *brass* or *silver*. Apparently, there were *larger, louder ones* as well as *smaller, higher-pitched* ones.

These verses *aren't intended* to cover *every instrument* that is *acceptable* to God, but to be a *sampling* of *various kinds* of *musical instruments* to be *played* in God's house.

#### IV. THE CLIMATIC COMPULSION TO WORSHIP: (**vs. 6**)

**Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!** (**vs. 6**)...

Those who should **praise** the Lord *encompasses everything that has breath*. This includes all the *redeemed* who gather at God's house. The *human voice* is the *greatest instrument* of all.

In Old Testament times, when God's people would *sing*, they would typically be *accompanied* by the **trumpet** (**vs. 3a**) blown by *priests*...**harps** and **lyres** (**vs. 3b**) played by the *Levites* ...**timbrels** and **tambourines** (**vs. 4a**) played by *women*; and **strings, flutes, and cymbals** (**vs. 4b-5**) played by *men*. *Everyone* in God's house were to *sing praises* to God, *supported* by the *playing of instruments* by the *priests* and *people*...both men and women.

Today...*everyone* in God's house is still *exhorted* to *sing praises* to God, *supported* by the *playing of instruments*.

This *psalm*, as well as the entire *Book of Psalms*, now concludes with this *dramatic declaration*...**Praise the Lord!**

This *final, great Hallelujah* is proclaimed by a *mighty choir*...not only by the *psalmist* but by *all people* in *heaven* (**Revelation 4** and **7**) and on *earth*. This is the *ultimate purpose* for all that *live* and *breathe*...all should **Praise the Lord!**

#### LESSONS WE CAN LEARN:

- **Praise moves a person away from SELF-ABSORPTION.** You cannot focus on yourself and God at the same time. Praise moves one's focus away from self and focuses on God.
- **Worship is a LIFESTYLE...not an ISOLATED act.** We can never separate worship from the whole of our life. If God is real in our life, then we should be praising Him with all of our heart...with all our very being.
- **Worship must become PREEMINENT for the believer.** A passionate life pursuit of rendering praise to God will become a deepening reality that permeates our entire existence.