

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

HAPPY IS HE THAT HATH THE GOD OF JACOB FOR HIS HELP PSALMS 146

Text: Psalms 146:5

Psalm 146:5

*⁵ Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help,
whose hope is in the LORD his God:*

Introduction:

The next five psalms deal with praise, probably written around the time Israel returned from a horrible time of bondage in Babylon.

After they returned from exile, the Jews rebuilt the city walls of Jerusalem; they rebuilt their Temple and they reestablished their nation.

To commemorate the grace of God in bringing them back from the edge of extinction; these praise Psalms were written to glorify the name of the Lord.

All five of these Psalms begin and end with a declaration of God's praise, and a call for others to become involved in God's praise.

They all begin and end with the phrase “Praise ye the LORD!” That phrase translate the Hebrew word “Hallelujah!”

These people were praising the Lord because of all that He had done for them.

We too should remember He is still worthy.

He is worthy of our devotion

He is worthy of our obedience

He is worthy of anything we can offer to Him.

But we will consider in this message that He is worthy of our praise.

Notice:

Sermon Content:

1. THE CHALLENGE TO PRAISE (VS. 1-2)

Psalm 146:1-2

¹ *Praise ye the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul.*

² *While I live will I praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.*

Note two things concerning this challenge:

A. A Call to Praise (vs. 1)

Psalm 146:1

¹ *Praise ye the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul.*

The Psalmist calls upon his soul to praise the Lord.

There are many times when these fleshly bodies can find no reason to praise the Lord; but the redeemed soul can find unlimited reasons to praise to the Almighty.

We note not only the Call to Praise but also:

B. A Commitment to Praise (vs. 2)

Psalm 146:2

² *While I live will I praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.*

The writer goes on to tell us that his praise will know no boundaries and no limits.

As long as breath fills his lungs; this psalmist declares his intention to praise the Lord.

For the believer disease, age, pain, suffering sorrow, or even death should never affect our praise.

We are commanded to be thankful for all things.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

¹⁸ In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Ephesians 5:20

²⁰ Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Philippians 4:6

⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

The psalmist goes on to tell us that as long as he exists, in any form, he will still be personally involved in the business of praising the Lord.

We have considered the Commitment to Praise note secondly:

2. THE CAUTION IN PRAISE (VS. 3-4)

Psalm 146:3-4

³ Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. ⁴ His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.

We are cautioned against praising other men in these verses.

There is a two-fold reason why.

A. Man Is a Powerless Creature

The psalmist cautions us against making any man the object of our praise. We are told that man lacks the ability to “help.”

That is an interesting word!

The idea here is this: man can be helpful from time to time in this life; but man can never offer you eternal help.

Therefore, we are to be cautious in giving our praise to men.

Thought:

The trend in our society to give praise to actors, singers, athletes, etc.

The trend in the modern church to give praise to preachers and singers.

The only One Who is worthy of our praise is the Lord.

He is the only One Who can redeem us from our sins and change our eternal destiny.

Not only is Man a Powerless Creature but also note:

B. Man Is a Passing Creature

At his best, man is a temporary creature. He is here in this world for a short time and then he is gone.

James 4:14

¹⁴ Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

When man passes from the scene; all that he was passes away with him.

Ecclesiastes 2:16

¹⁶ For there is no remembrance of the wise more than of the fool for ever; seeing that which now is in the days to come shall all be forgotten. And how dieth the wise man? as the fool.

Ecclesiastes 8:10

¹⁰ And so I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of the holy, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done: this is also vanity.

Ecclesiastes 9:5

⁵ For the living know that they shall die: but the dead

know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.

God, on the other hand, is eternal. What He does and what He gives are eternal as well.

Therefore, He and not man, deserves all the praise we can render to Him! He is worthy!

We have considered the Challenge To and the Caution In Praise.

Note lastly:

3. THE CAUSE FOR PRAISE (VS. 5-10)

The Psalmist shows us why the person who knows the Lord has many reasons to praise his name.

You see, those who place their trust in themselves or others have no reliable reasons for rejoicing; but all those whose faith is in God have more to praise Him for than they can ever comprehend!

That is the message of vs. 5:

Psalm 146:5

⁵ Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God:

Support or proof for this is found in verses 6-10.

Note

A. The Greatness of God (vs. 6)

Psalm 146:6

⁶ Which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: which keepeth truth for ever:

God is great in His

- Power – He is the God of creation.

He said “let there be” and there was.

Isaiah 40:12

¹² Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

His power is limitless.

Not only do we see the God is great in His power but also we see God is great in His:

- Promises – He keepeth truth forever

Psalm 146:6

⁶ Which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein *is*: which keepeth truth for ever:

God will stand by His word.

Quote:

F. B. Myer once said, “If any promise of God should fail, the heavens would cloth themselves in sackcloth; the sun, the moon and the stars would reel from their courses; the universe would rock, and a hollow wind would moan through a ruined creation the awful fact that God can not lie.”

Hebrews 6:18

¹⁸ *That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:*

Titus 1:2

² *In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;*

Not only does the Greatness of God support or prove verse 5 but also:

B. The Grace of God (vs. 7-9)

Psalm 146:7-9

⁷ Which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. The LORD looseth the prisoners: ⁸ The LORD openeth the eyes of the blind: the LORD raiseth them that are bowed down: the LORD loveth the righteous: ⁹ The LORD preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down.

Look at what He does for His people and I think you will agree: He is worthy!

- He Fight for the Helpless (vs. 7)
- He Feed the Hungry (vs. 7)
- He Frees the Hostage (vs. 7)
- He Gives Sight to the Blind (vs. 8)
- He Lift the Broken (vs. 8)
- He Loves the Righteous (vs. 8)
- He Preserves the Strangers (vs. 9)
- He Supports the Sorrowful (vs. 9)

- He Sentences the Sinner (vs. 9)

Not only does the Greatness of God and the Grace of God support or prove verse 5 but also:

C. The Glory of God (vs. 10)

Psalm 146:10

¹⁰ The LORD shall reign for ever, even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations. Praise ye the LORD.

- He will forever be God. He will forever reign.
- He will forever be worthy of our praise.
- His promises will forever stand.
- His people will be preserved forever.

Close:

As eternity unfolds, all believers we forever lift their voices in praise to the King of Kings.

We will forever declare that He is worthy.

But may we be reminded He is worthy here and now to praise Him.

May we praise Him throughout our days; for He is worthy.