

I. The Book of Psalms – The Book of Praise

A. The book of Psalms is divided into 5 books. Each book ends with a doxology.

1. Book 1 Psalm 3-41; Doxology: Psalm 41:13
Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.
2. Book 2 Psalms 42-72; Doxology: Psalm 72:18-19
Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen!
3. Book 3 Psalms 73-89; Doxology: Psalm 89:52
Blessed be the LORD forever! Amen and Amen.
4. Book 4 Psalms 90-106; Doxology: Psalm 106:48
Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the LORD!
5. Book 5 Psalms 107-150; This book is a doxology to the whole book of Psalms

B. Doxology is a liturgical formula of praise to God. The word doxology comes from the Greek doxa meaning glory, splendor, grandeur and logos meaning word or speaking

1. Although there are more psalms that are laments, the movement in the entire book and in each individual book is generally from lamentation to praise.
2. *Futato says, "It is clear that at least in a general way the psalms have been arranged in a purposeful order. There is a movement from songs of lamentation to songs of praise, from the chords of suffering to the chorus of glory. The Book of Psalms has much to teach us about worship. The overall shape of the book teaches us that our worship is to be doxological. This means that the dominant and perhaps even the final note of our worship is ordinarily to be praise."*

II. Psalm 150

A. Where are we to praise the Lord?

1. In the Sanctuary: The word for "sanctuary" is the Hebrew word for holiness. God dwells in perfect holiness.
 - a) In the New Covenant Christ has provided for us access into the Holyplace. We do not technically have an earthly sanctuary today. God dwells within each of His people. We have become His temple.

2 Corinthians 6:16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

- b) When we gather together for corporate worship the place becomes the sanctuary of God as He meets with us.

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

2. In His mighty heavens.

Kidner – "The call is to God's worshippers on earth, meeting at His chosen place, but also to His heavenly host to mingle their praises with ours. His glory fills the universe; his praise must do no less."

B. The Why of Praise

1. We praise Him for who He is – His excellent greatness

- a) He is wise - *Psalm 104:24 O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.*
- b) He is merciful & steadfast – *Psalm 6:4 Turn, O LORD, deliver my life; save me for the sake of your steadfast love.*
- c) He is holy, just & righteous – *Psalm 99:2-3 The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. Let them praise your great and awesome name! Holy is he! The King in his might loves justice. You have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.*
- d) He is sovereign – *Psalm 115:3 Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.*
- e) He is truth - *Psalm 19:9 the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.*

2. We praise Him for what He does - God's mighty deeds are boundless

- a) He is the Creator and sustainer of all things
- b) He providentially cares for His creation

Psalm 66:5-7 Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man. He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There did we rejoice in him, who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations—let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah

- c) The greatest demonstration of God's mighty acts is in redemption as He sent forth His Son as our Redeemer.

1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

- d) As we consider His mighty acts we are to ascribe to Him all glory and honor

Psalm 150:2 Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!

- e) God is worthy of praise no matter what he does or does not do. He is worthy of praise when we are healed of our diseases and when we are not. He is worthy of praise when we are delivered from our enemies and when we are not.

Daniel 3:16-18 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

C. The How of Praise - Praise God in every way

1. Israel used all sort of instruments in their worship - Trumpet, psaltery, harp, stringed instruments, and organ along with timbrel and dance.

Kidner – "every kind of instrument, solemn or gay, percussive or melodic, gentle or strident, is rallied here to the praise of God."

Longman – “the poet is piling up a number of instrumental names in order to communicate that the whole orchestra is involved in this crescendo of praise.”

2. Scripture also tells us other ways we can praise the Lord:

- a) Song & shouts - *Psalm 33:3 Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.*
- b) Raised hands – *Psalm 63:4 So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.*
- c) Clapping - *Psalm 47:1 Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!*
- d) Declaration - *Psalm 51:15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.*
- e) Praying - *Psalm 95:6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!*

D. The Who of Praise

- 1. All who breathe owe God glory - God is the source of all life. Every living creature exists to the praise of God. All was created by God and for God
- 2. Psalm 148 spoke of the great variety of creatures God has made, all of which owe praise to God

Psalm 148:7-10 Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word! Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!

3. But human beings are His special creation

Genesis 1:26-27 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

- a) Every human being owes God praise. We were created to praise God. We alone were created in His image. We alone were created as rational beings with the capacity to know Him, to worship Him.

Isaiah 43:20-21 The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.

- b) The great sin of humanity is a failure to praise God

Romans 1:21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

E. Christ is the “Who” we praise and He is our Singing Savior

Clowney: “Praise His name, the Christ who sings in the congregation sings a missionary hymn among the Gentiles. Paul reminds us that Jesus has fulfilled the mission of Israel as the great Minister of the circumcision, “that he might confirm the promises given unto the fathers, and that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.” Then Paul ascribes to Jesus this verse from the Psalms: “Therefore will I give praise to thee among the Gentiles and sing unto thy name” (Rom. 15:9; Ps. 18:49). Jesus sings among the nations. His missionary hymn is a doxology, calling the Gentiles to join Him in singing praise to His Father’s name.”

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