

PSALM 145

The Lord Extolled for His Goodness

INTRODUCTION.

- A. A Praise of David. "The Lord is Extolled for His Goodness and Power."
- B. This is the last psalm in Book V that is ascribed to David. It is an acrostic, as are David's Psa. 25,34. Other alphabetic psalms are 9-10, 37, 111, 112, and 119.

Clyde M. Miller titles it, "Praise Par Excellence" and says, "There is no more beautiful or skillfully structured hymn of praise in the Psalter than this." He points out that the Hebrew letter nun has been omitted from our present Hebrew text, it is in the Septuagint and in one Qumram text, and added after v13, reading "Faithful is Yahweh in his words, and holy in all His works." Miller sums up his description of this psalm: "The psalm gives the impression of being the product of a studious and pious effort to combine and unify the various themes in the Psalter. At any rate, this end result is marvelously achieved."
- C. The psalm is organized in three stanzas of seven lines each. (This may be why one letter is left out.)
 1. God's Greatness Is Visible to All Mankind (145:1-7).
 2. God's Special Blessings of His Own People Regarding the Kingdom of God (145:8-14).
 3. The Universality of God's Blessings (145:15-21).

II. THE TEXT.

I will extol You, my God, O King,
And I will bless Your name forever and ever.
2 Every day I will bless You,
And I will praise Your name forever and ever.
3 Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised,
And His greatness is unsearchable.
4 One generation shall praise Your works to another,
And shall declare Your mighty acts.
5 On the glorious splendor of Your majesty
And on Your wonderful works, I will meditate.
6 Men shall speak of the power of Your awesome acts,
And I will tell of Your greatness.
7 They shall eagerly utter the memory of Your abundant goodness
And will shout joyfully of Your righteousness.
8 The LORD is gracious and merciful;
Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.
9 The LORD is good to all,
And His mercies are over all His works.
10 All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD,
And Your godly ones shall bless You.
11 They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom
And talk of Your power;
12 To make known to the sons of men Your mighty acts
And the glory of the majesty of Your kingdom.
13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
And Your dominion *endures* throughout all generations.
14 The LORD sustains all who fall
And raises up all who are bowed down.
15 The eyes of all look to You,
And You give them their food in due time.
16 You open Your hand
And satisfy the desire of every living thing.
17 The LORD is righteous in all His ways
And kind in all His deeds.
18 The LORD is near to all who call upon Him,
To all who call upon Him in truth.

- 19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him;
He will also hear their cry and will save them.
- 20 The LORD keeps all who love Him,
But all the wicked He will destroy.
- 21 My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,
And all flesh will bless His holy name forever and ever.

COMMENTS.

A. God's Greatness is Visible to All Mankind (145:1-7).

[v1-3] "I will extol You, my God... I will bless Your name forever... Every day I will bless You..." God's blessings are always with us, so our blessing and praise for Him should also be continual. These first three verses form a doxology of praise.

[v4] "One generation shall praise Your works to another..." The Bible is full of commands and admonitions for parents to teach their children (Deut. 6:1-9) and the Passover and other feasts were to serve as reminders of God's mighty works for their fathers. Many memorials were also set up in Canaan to remind them, as the pile of stones taken from the middle of Jordan to commemorate their crossing with Joshua at flood stage (Jo. 4:20-24).

[v6,7] "Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, and I will declare Your greatness... utter the memory of Your great goodness, and shall sing of Your righteousness." David could not have imagined how many and for how long they would sing these psalms of God's praise. These mighty acts of God are still wonders and cause faith in Him.

B. God's Special Blessings of His Own People Regarding the Kingdom of God (145:8-14).

This second stanza emphasizes the Kingdom of God, as in 145:10,11,12,13: "Your saints... Your kingdom... His kingdom... Your kingdom... Your kingdom." In David's day, it may have brought to mind the kingdom of Israel.

[v8] "The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy." This is very similar to God's description of Himself to Moses (Ex. 34:6,7).

[v10] "All Your works shall praise You, O Lord..." This is similar to Psa. 19:1.

[v10-12] "...Your saints... shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom... to make known to the sons of men His mighty acts and the glorious majesty of His kingdom." This is our main responsibility even today.

[14] "The Lord upholds all who fall, and raises up all those who are bowed down." Sometimes this is a contrast with men. We may reject and abandon those that fall rather than "restore them with the spirit of meekness, considering ourselves lest we also be tempted" (Gal. 6:1).

C. The Universality of God's Blessings (145:15-21).

[v15,16] "The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and You gave them their food in due season." Our materialistic society gives the focus that the "mother earth" provides for us and is the "mother of us all," and from her we all came. This is often being taught in schools and is prominent on TV.

[v17,18] "The Lord IS righteous... gracious... near to all who call upon Him..." These characteristics should also characterize us to the extent possible.

[v19,20] "He WILL fulfill the desire of those who fear Him... hear the cry... save them... preserves all who love Him, but the wicked He will destroy." These characteristics of blessings are just as righteous as the ones of punishment. Both are inherent in the nature of God.

[v21] "My mouth shall speak the praise... all flesh shall bless His holy name forever and ever." This is a continual obligation of all men. We should love and appreciate Him enough that it is a joy and not burdensome.