

PSALM 150

A Psalm of Praise

I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. "Praises."
- B. Each of the first four books of the Psalms ended with a doxology or expression of praise. This psalm seems to be the doxology for the entire psalter. It is a pure expression of praise in its entirety. Clyde Miller points out that this psalm has the title "Praises" in the Hebrew.
- C. He also points out that the psalm tells us four different things about this praise:
 1. Where (150:1)?
 2. Why (150:2)?
 3. How (150:3-5)?
 4. Who (150:6)?
- D. We will use these as divisions of the psalm.

THE TEXT.

- Praise the LORD!
Praise God in His sanctuary;
Praise Him in His mighty expanse.
- 2 Praise Him for His mighty deeds;
Praise Him according to His excellent greatness.
- 3 Praise Him with trumpet sound;
Praise Him with harp and lyre.
- 4 Praise Him with timbrel and dancing;
Praise Him with stringed instruments and pipe.
- 5 Praise Him with loud cymbals;
Praise Him with resounding cymbals.
- 6 Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.
Praise the LORD!

COMMENTS.

- A. Where is God to be Praised?
[v1] "...Praise God in His sanctuary... in His mighty firmament!" The firmament is often used as a synonym for heaven, and His sanctuary is paralleled here with it. God dwells symbolically in His tabernacle or later, in the temple in Jerusalem--at His designated place of worship.
- B. Why Should God be Praised?
[v2] "Praise Him for His mighty acts... according to His excellent greatness!" Both of these attributes have been given as reasons to praise and give thanks to Him in many of the other psalms.
- C. How Should They Praise God?
[v3-5] God is specific in describing the kind of worship He wanted from Israel. Here He lists the kinds of musical instruments that He wanted them to use:
 1. The "trumpet" here was the ram's horn or goat's horn and was used to give signals and was not the musical instrument of the silver trumpets that are sometimes mentioned.
 2. The "lute" was a stringed instrument, usually of wood with gut strings and sometimes made with ivory or metal.
 3. The "harp" is usually translated "lyre" and was a small portable stringed instrument.
 4. The "timbrel" was a small percussion instrument that was usually played by women.
 5. The religious "dance" was often performed by women with timbrels as Miriam and the women after the deliverance from Egypt at the Red Sea (Ex. 15).
 6. The "stringed instruments" seems to be a generic term for a variety of stringed instruments.
 7. The "flutes" or pipes were wind instruments for festive occasions.
 8. The "loud cymbals" were described by Miller as made of brass and with low-pitched sounds.

9. The “clashing cymbals” or “high sounding cymbals” seemed to be those with higher pitch than the “loud cymbals.”

These definitions were given by Clyde M. Miller in *The Living Word Commentary*, p. 455.

God has always been able to be very specific in giving directions on how He wanted to be worshiped. He gave specific instructions to Israel, and when they did something He had not commanded, they were severely punished, as Nadab and Abihu in Lev. 10:1-3. When they offered fire that God had not commanded them to use, He burned them up and said, “By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; and before all the people I must be glorified” (Lev. 10:3). When men followed their own desires by adding something He did not command, God considered it contempt.

D. Who Should Praise the Lord?

[v6] “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.” Some think this may include the animals, but it seems more likely that it means all mankind.