

# 150 Days in the Psalms

*For the Lord takes pleasure in his people;  
he adorns the humble with salvation.*

This is it. It's time to turn the page on 2020 into 2021. It's been a long road. So much has happened this year; more than we could have possibly imagined. And, as to 2021, we know that the same challenges that we've had this year will still be with us. Covid will still cause massive disruptions, at least for a time. There will still be war, violence, drugs, gangs, racism, sickness, sadness, and all these things. People will make resolutions; they will be broken. Broken, because we live in a broken nation within a broken world.

And yet, we close out this year with Psalms of pure, unadulterated praise. Whereas many of the Psalms spoke of faith and joy in the midst of unenviable turmoil, the hymnal of God's people, both ancient and modern, ends with words of lavish praise for our Yahweh of the universe.

It's been a tough year, and praise has not always been on our lips. Yet, despite all that's gone on, we can rest assured that the important things; the cosmic things; the eternal things have remained unchanged. We're still sinners. We're still saved. We're still on the way to heaven. Jesus is still king, and the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Psalm 148 speaks of raising up a horn for his people. This language, while archaic, is a metaphor for our salvation. God has indeed raised up salvation for us, and still does so today. Everytime we remember what our Savior has done for us; every time we sin and are forgiven; every time we're comforted with the sweet words of Scripture, God's horn of salvation comes to us.

And so, knowing this, how can we not help but praise our Redeemer; our Savior; our Jesus; our God, at all times? Through His Holy Cross and glorious Resurrection, God prepares the path for us to eternal life. And that's something worth putting our praise on for.

Praise the Lord! Happy New Year! Amen!

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# Psalm 148

Monday



The 148<sup>th</sup> Psalm is a psalm of thanks which excites and exhorts all creatures in heaven and earth to praise God – especially His saints, the children of Israel, who worship Him, that is, have His word and worship. And note that this psalm confirms all the stations of life – kings, judges, old and young – are all created by God and are good and honorable. For if the office of king or of judge were evil and not God-given one could not, in such an office, praise God. But where there are kings and judges, there will also be subjects: servants, soldiers, laborers, farmers, merchants, townspeople, and the like. Where there are young and old, there will be married people and children, widows and those yet single. All are honorable and good and show that their creator is good. Rightfully, all of creation should be nothing but a tongue, always praising this great goodness of God.

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights!

<sup>2</sup> Praise him, all his angels;

praise him, all his hosts!

<sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon,

praise him, all you shining stars!

<sup>4</sup> Praise him, you highest heavens,

and you waters above the heavens!

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord!

For he commanded and they were created.

<sup>6</sup> And he established them forever and ever;

he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.

<sup>7</sup> Praise the Lord from the earth,

you great sea creatures and all deeps,

<sup>8</sup> fire and hail, snow and mist,

stormy wind fulfilling his word!

<sup>9</sup> Mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars!

<sup>10</sup> Beasts and all livestock,  
creeping things and flying birds!

<sup>11</sup> Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the earth!

<sup>12</sup> Young men and maidens together,  
old men and children!

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for his name alone is exalted;  
his majesty is above earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup> He has raised up a horn for his people,  
praise for all his saints,  
for the people of Israel who are near to him.

Praise the Lord!

## Prayer

O Lord God, whose Name is truly excellent and whose praise is above Heaven and Earth, we adore and bless Your mercy and Your power for creating us after Your own image. You spoke the word, and we were made, and as You have established Your Creation forever, so give us grace that the laws of sanctity, of faith, and obedience, which You have given to us, may never be broken, that in our service, not only in the order of Your creatures, but in the capacity of Your children, may sing Your praises among the angels and the numerous host of saints reigning in Your kingdom forever and ever. Amen.

# Psalm 149

Tuesday



The 149<sup>th</sup> Psalm is a psalm of thanks for the blessing that God is gracious and merciful to His people, and that they know that they have a gracious God and that they rightly should rejoice. They have this blessing or grace – which is rightly called the forgiveness of sins – that God will not avenge how evil and sinful they are. Therefore, this psalm, in reality, belongs to the New Testament. It calls itself a new song to sing to the king of Zion, whom they should praise in their churches.

Again, it is of the New Testament that they should have a sharp sword in hand to punish the heathen, to throw the kings in stocks and dungeons and to thate vengeance, as it is written. Now, this may sound violent, but it nevertheless is the vengeance which is spoken of in the Scriptures, that Abraham's seed should strike down idolatry in all the world through the Gospel, the spiritual sword, taking prisoner all the holiness of the kings and subjecting them to Christ.

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord!

Sing to the Lord a new song,

his praise in the assembly of the godly!

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel be glad in his Maker;

let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!

<sup>3</sup> Let them praise his name with dancing,

making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!

<sup>4</sup> For the Lord takes pleasure in his people;

he adorns the humble with salvation.

<sup>5</sup> Let the godly exult in glory;

let them sing for joy on their beds.

<sup>6</sup> Let the high praises of God be in their throats

and two-edged swords in their hands,

<sup>7</sup> to execute vengeance on the nations

and punishments on the peoples,

<sup>8</sup> to bind their kings with chains

and their nobles with fetters of iron,

<sup>9</sup> to execute on them the judgment written!

This is honor for all his godly ones.  
Praise the Lord!

## Prayer

O Lord our King, in whose honour and salvation all Your saints rejoice, give Your holy Gospel a free passage in all the world, that Kings and Nobles may be bound with obedience, discipline, and subordination to all Your Word. Grant to us, Your servants, that Your Word may be so fixed in our hearts, and Your praises in our mouths, and righteousness in all our actions, that we may be written among the righteous, and have our portion with the Saints, who rejoice in their beds of eternal rest, and are joyful in the glories of Your Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Psalm 150

Wednesday



The 150<sup>th</sup> Psalm is a psalm of thanks written for the people of Israel to praise God with. For them His sanctuary, the firmament of His might, that is, His dwelling place, heaven, and castle were in Jerusalem. Here also He showed His might with miracles and received the string music and the songs of the Jews, with which their praise and worship was accompanied. But, for the Christian, preaching and the Gospel are our music and songs.

Note that all psalms of thanks are nothing but promises for the poor troubles conscience, saying as much as: God is gracious and gladly forgives all sins and will give all comfort, so that one may find all blessings and comfort in Him. Therefore, this is openly a psalm of thanks and at the same time secretly a psalm of comfort – yes, even a psalm of instruction and a prophecy. All in one, it proclaims God's grace and traches us to trust and believe in Him.

To this, may the same merciful God help us – our King and Lord, Jesus Christ, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit is praised forever. Amen.

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord!

Praise God in his sanctuary;  
praise him in his mighty heavens!

<sup>2</sup> Praise him for his mighty deeds;  
praise him according to his excellent greatness!

<sup>3</sup> Praise him with trumpet sound;  
praise him with lute and harp!

<sup>4</sup> Praise him with tambourine and dance;  
praise him with strings and pipe!

<sup>5</sup> Praise him with sounding cymbals;  
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

<sup>6</sup> Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord!

# Prayer

O Eternal God, Your holiness and power and excellent greatness are far above all the praises of men and angels, and yet You are pleased in the harmony and consent of thankful hearts and tongues. Touch our hearts with admirable apprehensions of Your Divine perfections, that our songs of Your honor may be devout and illuminate to the height of heaven, for nothing is proportionable to Your glories but what is infinitely beyond our comprehension. Make us to sing to You and Your Name while we have breath; and when we are breathless, let our hearts fill up the harmony, and think Your praises so cordially, till our souls being separated from the harsh sound of our bodily organs, we may praise You when we are all spirit in the state of separation, and in the reunion when our bodies shall be made spiritual, singing to You exalted praises forever and ever. To You, O blessed and glorious God, be praises and honor and glory now and on into eternity. Amen. Amen. Amen.