

# Praise to God & Trust in God

## *Psalm 146:1-10*

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Introduction: We come tonight to the first of 5 psalms that complete this Book. They are called the “Hallelujah Psalms” because they each begin & end with the phrase “*Praise ye the LORD*” or “*Hallelujah*” in Hebrew. None of them has a title in the Hebrew & therefore no indication of authorship. The LXX did ascribe 3 of these psalms to Haggai & Zechariah. Some suggest that these psalms are “so full of joy, overflowing with joy, so trustful & hopeful, so restful & confident, is like moving into a new world” (Scroggie). Could these 5 psalms suggest the 5 “books” of the Psalter, or perhaps the 5 books of Moses (the Pentateuch)? That remains undecided. What we can say is that this 146<sup>th</sup> Psalm is an exhortation to praise God & to trust in God. Wiersbe divides the psalm into 4 parts: “Life means praising God (:1-2); Life means trusting God (:3-6); Life means loving God (:7-9); & Life means reigning with God (:10).” I see 3 divisions here: The psalmist’s resolve to praise & trust God (:1-5); his reasons to praise & trust God (:6-9), & his reaffirmation to praise & trust God (:10).

### I. The psalmist’s **resolve** to praise & trust God (:1-5)

#### A. Praise to the Lord (:1-2) >

1. “*Hallelujah*” is a compound word: “*hallel*” means to praise (cf. Psalms 113-118) + *Jah*” or “*Yah*” – the shortened form of Jehovah or Yahweh. Literally translated “Let us praise Yah.”
2. What he asks others to do he does so himself – “He practiced what he preached.” He will do so throughout his life & into & through eternity.

#### B. Trust in the Lord (:3-5) >

- 1, Whom not to trust – “*princes*” or “nobles; men of renown” nor “*the son of man*” or merely other humans. (The word “*man*” is “*adam*” which comes from the word meaning “earth.”) Illustration: “Poor perishing potentates & peasants! All are alike mere men, weak men, helpless men, mortal men, corruptible men, perishing men. Power, prestige, possessions, & pleasures can save no one from perishing” (Scroggie). Application: “To trust men instead of trusting God is dishonoring to God, degrading to him who does so, & always disappointing” (Scroggie).
2. Whom to trust – “*the God of Jacob*” (compare & contrast with “the God of Abraham”) & “*the LORD his God*” (not just the God of Jacob but the psalmist’s God). Application: “If we would have the presence & power of God on our side, we must *hope* in Him, & in no other” (Plumer).

### II. The psalmist’s **reasons** to praise & trust God (:6-9)

#### A. For God’s attributes (:6) >

1. His creative power, “*Which made heaven, & the earth, & all that therein is...*”
2. His continued faithfulness, “*...which keepeth truth for ever.*”

Summary: “The Lord has the attributes, which qualify Him to give succor (aid), & then He has the *faithfulness* (“*truth*”) which makes Him keep covenant & perform all He has engaged. Did He lack either, He would be unworthy of trust” (Plumer).

B. For God's actions (:7-9) >

1. "*Which executed judgment...*" – He renders justice to the oppressed seen by:
  - a. Hunger relieved. (:7b).
  - b. Hostages released (:7c).
  - c. Healings restored (:8a).
  - d. Helpless revived (:8b).

Note: Are these prophetic prophecies to be fulfilled by Christ?

Summary: "What a catalogue of distress is here: *oppressed, hungry, prisoners, blind, bowed down, strangers, fatherless, & widows*, an octave of misery! And what a revelation of blessings to meet this mass of need: *justice, nourishment, liberation, illumination, upraising, keeping, & upholding!* (Scroggie).

2. "*The wicked He turneth upside down.*"
  - a. God must deal with evil & the evil-doers.
  - b. "Everything goes wrong with him who goes wrong. What a comfort it is to know that God overthrows the plans & defeats the schemes of the wicked" (Scroggie).

III. The psalmist's **reaffirmation** of praise to God & trust in God (:10)

A. His explanation > "*The LORD shall reign for ever, even thy God...*"

B. His exhortation > "*Praise ye the LORD*" – Hallelujah!

Conclusion: In the Thoughts for Personal/Family Worship (Reformation Study Bible), commenting on Psalm 146 we read: "Only believers know true happiness. The world thinks our religion is gloomy & miserable, but they could not be more mistaken. We are the happiest people. God is our God. He is the all-powerful Lord of all His creation. He is faithful to all His promises. He acts with justice & compassion for the oppressed. He loves those who walk in faith & obedience. His kingdom will never end. In every way, the Lord is the hope & joy of believers. For all His qualities belong to them & serve their good if they are joined to Jesus Christ by a living faith. As a result, their happiness is far deeper, more stable, & more satisfying than that of those who trust in man."

The psalm ends where it began: Praise to the Lord. We can be just as assured as the psalmist that the Lord reigns & that He reigns eternally. He is still in control, let us not forget! Plumer concludes: "The world has always been governed, is now governed, & shall to the end of time be governed by Him who makes no mistakes, & has no vicegerents, & no successful rivals." Compare Exodus 15:18, "*The LORD shall reign for ever & ever.*" See also the phrase "*The LORD reigneth*" in Psalm 93:1; 96:10; 97:1; & 99:1. "Think of it: the sovereign Lord of the universe is our loving heavenly Father! We can 'reign in life' through Jesus Christ as we yield to Him & walk in the Spirit (Rom. 5:17). We can have a life of praising God, trusting God, & loving God, a life that will glorify God" (Wiersbe). Is that your testimony tonight? Is your life one of praising, trusting, & loving God that you are bringing glory to God?