

## **Introduction**

### **Read Psalm 150:1-6**

Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD

### **Pray**

[Walt and Linda; Wedding Feast in Heaven; Reflected on that often]

That's a beautiful picture, isn't it?

A world no longer stained by sin and sorrow.

A world no longer terrified by trials and tribulations.

A world filled with joy and jubilation.

The older I get, the anticipation of birthdays and Christmas wanes a bit. Instead, now it's heaven that I anticipate with an impatient longing.

As I reflect on teaching my children patience in the face of Christmas, I wonder how I can teach myself patience in the face of glory that feels far off?

How do we learn to wait well?

What we find in Psalm 150 is a comforting & instructive exhortation.

Big Picture: Imperfect worship is how we wait for heavenly perfection.

You'll see what we mean by that as we move along.

First, some context:

Psalm 150 is the final Psalm in the psalter.

The entire book of Psalms is divided into five separate sections, or books.

Each section ends in a doxology of sorts - only a verse or two.

Psalm 150 itself is a doxology - concluding not just the final section, but the entire psalter.

We don't have time this morning, but the actual Hebrew grammar builds Psalm 150 into a climax - escalating the excitement with each progressive verse.

[Wedding song *shout* by the Isley brothers]

Why the escalation? What is being emphasized?

Psalm 150 reads like an instruction manual for how to praise God.

It gives step-by-step instructions, and those instructions rise to a crescendo.

We'll begin in vs. 1, which tell us where to praise God:

Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens.

Sanctuary here suggests to the earthly dwelling of God's people. Praise God on the earth, among one another.

Mighty heavens is literally "the firmament", or the vault of the heavens.

In other words, we're being told to praise God no matter where we are, whether on earth or in heaven.

God's praise should resound from the earth to heaven, & everywhere in between.

[Surround Sound - Independence Day; Days of Thunder]

V. 1 tells us where to praise God, and is comprehensive - everywhere.

V. 2 tells us why we should praise God, and it is similarly comprehensive:

“Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!”

God’s mighty deeds refer to His saving acts - how He has worked across redemptive history to orchestrate salvation.

God’s excellent greatness = praise God for being God - for His character.

Last week we saw that God is glorious, gracious, good, and great.

We’re being told in v. 2 to praise God for what He’s done, but also merely for who He is - a glorious and gracious and good and great God.

[Walk in the door - Aletheia wants something; Judah wants a hug]

V. 1 tells us where to praise God and v. 2 tells us why, and they were comprehensive - everywhere and for every reason

Vv. 3-5 tells us how to praise God, and again are comprehensive:

“Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with a tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!”

If we had the time to do an in-depth study of each musical instrument named, we’d see they cover the gamut of moods: Solemn and jubilant; percussive and melodic; gentle and abrupt.

Again, we’re being told every element - every instrument, every means, every style - is capable of praising God.

There is a way to praise God that is jubilant and raucous - and there is a way to praise God that is solemn and somber.

[Daniel 6: Daniel worshipped openly despite threat of death; surely somber]

By now, having seen where, why, & how to praise God, you can guess what comes next: Who should praise God. Again, no surprise - it is comprehensive:

V6: “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!”

Everything and everybody.

Jesus says in Luke 19:40 if we remain silent, even the stones will cry out.

Everything that has breath must praise the Lord; if not, even those without breath will praise the Lord.

[Whale Sounds; Star Sounds - stars oscillate and rotate and emit RF signals]

Indeed, everything and everybody - those with breath and those without - should praise the Lord.

In sum, then, we’re told everybody should praise God everywhere in every way for every reason.

But that doesn’t quite live up to our daily experience, does it?

Do you praise God everywhere in every way for every reason?

I sure don't.

Tim Keller said: "If we could praise God perfectly, we would love Him completely and then our joy would be full."

**If.**

The reality is, we can't praise God perfectly - not yet.

Isaiah 64:6 says, "We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment."

And we won't love God completely - not yet.

And our joy won't be full - not yet.

Not yet. But one day:

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might  
and honor and glory and blessing!"

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

- Revelation 5:11-14

One day in glory that will all be true.

Perfection is promised us then, *not expected of us now*.

Our worship here & now is intended as a shadow - a glimpse of real worship.

Our worship here is a facsimile, a poor reproduction.

But worship here is a crutch, an aid until we reach heaven in health.

What did we sing last week? Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine; Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine?

Jonathan Edwards said it this way:

"God is the highest good of the reasonable creature. The enjoyment of him is our proper; and is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here. Better than fathers and mothers, husbands, wives, or children, or the company of any, or all earthly friends. These are but shadows; but the enjoyment of God is the substance. These are but scattered beams; but God is the sun. These are but streams; but God is the fountain. These are but drops, but God is the ocean."

So we worship...knowing full well we do so poorly.

We're told to worship everywhere in every way for every reason.

In reality, we worship in some places for some things in some ways.

In our failure to worship - a failure to trust or a failure of faith or a failure of commitment - do not grow disenfranchised, depressed, distressed, or dejected.

Rejoice that we have a mediator who intercedes for us, worships perfectly *for* us, and will one day be worshipped perfectly *by* us.

Our imperfect worship is knowingly and intentionally designed to leave us hungry for true worship.

Do not grow frustrated with imperfect worship. Let the frustration drive you with more desperation to Jesus.

Depend more fully on Jesus for His perfection, knowing that one day in glory we'll surround Him in a heavenly choir of perfect joy, perfect peace, & perfect truth.

Rejoice. We're not home yet. But we will be one day.

Until then, look with increasing intensity to Jesus and trust He will sustain us.

We worship while we wait.