

Psalms 150:1, "Praise ye the LORD, Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power."

When reading through the Psalms, we find many ups and downs in the lives of the writer. I find many times when the writer would be in the valley of despair, longing and thirsting for fellowship with God (Ps 42:3), and often we find the writer on the mountain top of joy and happiness (Ps 32:1-2). But I find it such a joy that the Lord, in His infinite wisdom and inspiration, ends this precious book of comfort with praise and worship. When reading this, it reminds me of the promises of God concerning His little children. The Lord said in John 14:1, "Let not your heart be troubled:...". The Lord, in His care for His sheep, gives us precious information of the end so we can be comforted in the here and now.

In the verse previously cited, Psalms 150:1, it is David who, even though he had suffered many ups and downs in his experience in this world, ends this precious book of comfort with joy, happiness and praise. David directs our minds to:

(1) The focus of praise, the Lord of heaven and earth ( vs 1, "Praise ye the LORD"). David says the Lord who made us and saved us from our sins is worthy of praise. It is He who was his shepherd when he needed a guide (Ps 22:1), who was his light in times of darkness (Ps 27:1), who lifted him above the wrath of his enemies (Ps 30:1), who cleansed him from the filth of his life's errors (Ps 32:1), who brought him up from despair of the pit and gave him hope (Ps 40:2-3), who was his refuge in times of need (Ps 46:1), and who was his defense in times of trouble (Ps 59:9). When David would consider all the Lord had done for him, his heart was pricked to offer his praise to HIM.

(2) The places where the Lord is praised (vs 1, "in the sanctuary", and "in the firmament"). In this verse of scripture, David teaches us of specific places the Lord is praised. I have spoken to those who contend that they can praise the Lord in any place and do not feel the need to be at Church every Sunday. Even though I will agree that we should live every moment of our lives to His praise, the Lord has given His people specific places to gather and worship Him. We should worship and praise Him every day and present our bodies to His praise in His Sanctuary (the Church). According to Hebrews 10:25, those who separate themselves from the worship at God's House have "forsaken the assembling of themselves together".

(3) The reasons why we should praise the Lord (vs 2, "His mighty acts" and "excellent greatness"). When David would think about the Lord who saved him from the penalty of his sins, and all the Lord had done for him all his days, he was constrained to praise the Lord. David thought it to be his responsibility and duty to praise the Lord who was his Apostle, Priest and King.

(4) The ways the Lord is praised (vs 3-5). In these verses of scripture we read about those that gathered in the Old Testament times and used the instruments of David to make a loud noise unto the Lord. In the New Testament times, we are clearly taught that the order of worship has been changed. We no longer offer bulls and goats on an altar, neither do we offer the works of our hands on musical instruments (Acts 17:25), but we present our bodies a living sacrifice (Rom 12:1); sing with grace in our hearts (Eph 5:19, Col 3:16); pray with a trusting spirit of faith (James 5:16); and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ (2 Tim 4:1).

(5) Who should praise the Lord (vs 6, "every thing that hath breath"). Dear child of God, one question that is important for us all to ask ourselves every morning is, 'What would I be without the Lord?' When we ask that question, the answer should be simple. We would be nothing without Him. So since our life (eternal and temporal) is in Him, doesn't it make sense that we praise Him with all our

hearts! Amen!

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