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Psalm 150

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Bible
at Home

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Psalm 150.

Topics.

- Praise God in His sanctuary; in the heavens for His excellent greatness.
- Praise with understanding.
- Praise and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Praise and the silent chatter of the mind.
- Praise and musical instruments.
- Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
- Insights into David's heart, life and faith.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION

Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

1

BOOK FIVE (PSALM 107-150)

PSALM 150:1-6

Praise God in the Heavens for His Excellent Greatness.

- **Psalm 150:1-6:** Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! ²Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! ³Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! ⁴Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! ⁵Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! ⁶Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

The great climax to the Psalms is for everything that has breath to praise, praise, praise and praise the LORD, to praise Him in the church not only with quiet and loud musical instruments, but also with dance. Every living man, woman and child is called to praise God as the God of creation, the God of nature, the God of providence and as the God who allows those who dwell on the earth to run their affairs as they please until the appointed time of judgment.

Following are two types of praise:

1. Praise prompted from a sense of duty and tradition led by a trained choir and professional musicians standing in front of the congregation which is formal in its nature of praise and once the worshippers have left the building the praise is ended.

2. Praise that flows continually up from the heart and mind in thanksgiving and heartfelt gratitude toward God. This type of praise is also often led by a trained choir and professional musicians standing in front of the congregation, but it has one major difference in that the praise flows up from the heart and when the worshippers leave the building the thanksgiving and praise continues on in the heart and mind throughout the worshippers daily life.

The praise the Psalmist is calling those dwelling on the earth to praise God with is the praise that flows upward from an honest heart of gratitude and thankfulness toward the Creator of all the earth. It is only praise that originates in the heart that rises up before God's throne like sweet smelling incense.

Praise with understanding: means when we praise God we should pray with the understanding and clearly know why we are praising God. Without an understanding of God and why we are praising Him our worship is lacking. Unless we have the Kingdom of God established in our minds and the spirit of praise toward the Lord reigns in our hearts by faith our praise is left shallow and empty.

Praise and the Lord Jesus Christ: without understanding the message of the bloodstained cross of Calvary; Jesus death and resurrection; the Gospel and God's grace praise toward our heavenly Father and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ will be nothing but the empty praise of duty and tradition motivated not from a heartfelt spirit of love toward God and our Saviour and redeemer the Lord Jesus Christ, but motivated by a choir professionally trained for such a purpose.

Praise and the silent chatter of the mind: praise toward God is not dependent upon musicians or a choir, praise toward the Lord is something that is continual since it is in the heart and the mind and therefore it matters not where we are we can always be praising God in the chatter of our minds.

Praise and musical instruments: since music can be used to manipulate the mind and the emotions some feel it is wrong to use musical instruments in church. It is certainly true that music can be used to manipulate people and change their moods, their thinking and their decisions, but that does not make music wrong. Some ministers of God use the Bible and the Gospel message for their own selfish gain and distort and twist Scriptures to manipulate their congregations into giving, but that does not make the Bible wrong.

Everything can be used for good or for bad, it's not the object itself that is good or bad, it is whoever is in control of that object that makes it good or bad, right or wrong. The object itself is not what is sinful; it is what is in the mind of the person using the object that determines if a thing is right or wrong. A simple example of this is money one person can use money to build weapons of mass destruction and use them to kill innocent people, while another person can use the same money to build orphanages and feed the poor, the object (money) is not good or evil, it is how the person with it uses it that makes it good or evil.

Even the Bible does not say that money is evil, but it does very clearly say that the love of it is evil. This is because those who love money will use deceit, lies, and oppression and store it up for themselves rather than use it for good,

Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God: Paul in the following verses lays out the Christian principal for things that are not sinful and not against the law of God and not harming or hurting anyone in any way:

- Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved (1 Corinthians 10:31-33).

These verses could be expressed in the following way, "If something is not hurting or offending another person then do that thing to the glory of God. Remember not one verse in the entire Bible condemns God's people for worshipping Him with musical instruments when their heart is honest and true before Him and no verse in the Old or New Testament says, "Thou shalt not use musical instruments in church." Added to the entire book of Psalms ends here by calling everyone in God's sanctuary (i.e., the church) not only to praise God with trumpets, flutes, harps and loud clashing cymbals, tambourines, pipes and stringed instruments, but also to dance before Him.

For further information concerning this, see the title:

- Music (Should Churches have Musical Instruments).
- In, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

INSIGHTS INTO DAVID'S HEART, LIFE AND FAITH

The world's view of the character of a man is often of one that is macho and strong and not only does he not cry or show weakness of any sort, but also dominates and takes control of all things around him. Though there may be some truth in this view it is left greatly lacking when compared to the life of David who God said, was a man after His own heart (1 Sam. 13:14) (Acts 13:22-23). Following are some pearls and insight into David's life and heart attitude before God that are revealed in his Psalms and that will give a far more balanced view of what God considers the character of a man should be. David was a mighty man of war, a warrior champion who would go into battle and twenty-thousand would be slaughtered, maimed and killed in one day, yet in these Psalms we see a tender man who is humble before God and who not only experiences great moments of joy, victory and celebration, but also experiences deep depression and despair and moments of worry, stress, fear and heartfelt sorrow and tears.

Following are re-occurring expressions of David:

- Be gracious to me O LORD and listen to my prayer. David does not assume that God is listening, but as an act of courtesy asks God to hear his prayer.
- Have mercy upon me, O LORD in thee I put my trust.
- Thou art my refuge, my rock, my fortress, blessed is the one who considers the poor.
- Why are you cast down, O my soul (when in despair or depression David talks to his soul to find out why, meaning he looks inside himself to see if he can find what it is that is causing him feel so low).
- Be merciful to me, O God, for in you my soul takes refuge and teach me your ways.
- Hide not your face from me (meaning do not withhold your favour from me) and take not your steadfast love from me.

David does not take for granted that he is worthy of any of God's blessing, he begins most of his prayers by asking God to be gracious, merciful and forgiving toward him. He never assumes the LORD is going to be listening, but asks God to listen to him. Obviously, the LORD does hear everything whether we ask Him to listen or not, but in this way, David is showing the LORD courtesy and respect.

THREE STAGES OF DAVID'S PRAYERS

The pattern of David's prayers generally fit into the following five stages:

1. He declares God's name and asks God to listen to him.
2. He tells God his problem, or confesses his fault.
3. He pleads his case and mentions the good things he does.
4. He declares his love and faithfulness to the LORD.
5. He praises and exalts the LORD and proclaims His goodness, His blessings, His greatness and His steadfast love.

When David was not being attacked by enemies or in some outward crisis, but his heart was feeling low, faint or overwhelmed for no apparent reason he did not pray for his circumstances or his life to change. Instead he prayed to be close to God, to be in His presence and in His love. He prayed for God's steadfast love and faithfulness to watch over him and for a long healthy life. Whether David was in fear, sorrow, joy, stress, worry or crying on his bed, he was always praising God for His steadfast love and His faithfulness. He did not connect God's love and faithfulness to his circumstances or his emotions. David's faith was such that he believed God was always faithful to him and always loving him even though it may appear in his emotions or outward circumstance to be contrary.

FOUR KEYS TO DAVID'S FAITH

Following are the four keys to David's faith:

1. Was his trust in God for salvation, as much as David wanted his mortal life to flow smoothly, he held his salvation in God as the highest value and greatest blessing he possessed. He knew if all else failed God in His steadfast love would raise him up to eternal life and everlasting happiness in glory. It is very much like a billionaire approaching a poor person and telling them in ten years' time you will inherit one billion dollars. Obviously the poor person would still like to have money to spend over the next ten years, but if they don't they are not going to be too disappointed because they know and have confidence that regardless of what happens financially over the next ten years they are going to be a multi-millionaire and live their life out in absolute wonder and beauty. This was David's attitude toward eternal life and the value he put on it.
2. To David God's steadfast love was better than life itself, it satisfied his heart and his mind. His ever-present attitude was one of thirst; he was constantly seeking after the LORD, not for material blessing but to know God's love. David would lie on his bed, and meditate on the LORD in the late hours of the night. He would remember and reflect on the help God had been to him and the love God had for him. David's testimony was that he would cling to the steadfast love of the LORD, and in His presence praise and sing with joy. Many people say Christians are weak and need a crutch to support them in life and yet here we have a man who was probably one of the greatest warriors of the Old Testament (even at a very young age he took on the Philistine Giant with only a few stones), yet as we read his Psalms we see a man with a tender heart devoted to knowing God and seeking and hungering after His love.
3. David's love for God was never dependant on his outward circumstances or his inward condition (whether they were good or bad). His faith always soared above his wealth or lack of it, his sickness, his sin, his defeats by his enemies, his despair and his depression etc. It did not matter what emotional or physical condition he was in it did not affect his faith and his love for God or God's love for him. True faith is not dependent on success, good feelings or emotions it soars above

all circumstances, trials and troubles. David could be lying on his bed in deep depression with his friends plotting to kill him and his armies defeated, yet his love for God did not fail, neither did he ever think God did not love him.

4. Next to God's steadfast love David's greatest desire was to see God's glory cover the earth.

- Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth! (Psalm 57:5) (Psalm 57:11) (Psalm 108:5)

The primary theme throughout the Psalms is faith, love, peace and contentment in the heart and mind as opposed to being troubled and restless and God's salvation.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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