

## *Devotional Thoughts on Psalm 146 (“Hallelujah! Praise Jehovah!”)*

The Book of Psalms ends with a climactic outburst of praise.

The last five psalms (146-150) all begin and end with the phrase “Praise the LORD!”

The phrase is “Hallelujah” in Hebrew. “Jah” is short for God’s personal name, Jehovah.

This teaches us the importance of praising the Lord in His identity as Jehovah (LORD in all capitals).

The phrase “Jehovah” means “I am who I am,” and speaks of God’s transcendent self-existence.

Exodus 34:6-7 reveals some of the attributes of God associated with His name, “Jehovah.”

Compassion

Grace

Lovingkindness

Truth

Forgiveness

Punishment of unrepentant sinners

In stanza 1 of our setting, we call on our souls to praise Jehovah.

The psalms often remind us the importance of the soul being engaged in worship.

(Psalms 35:9, 86:4, 103:1 and 2, 104:1 and 35, 146:1)

God desires not only to hear our voices--He wants to connect with our souls.

In stanzas 1-2 we praise Jehovah because He is our help.

Stanza 1, we do not look to “princes” (political leaders) for help.

Stanza 2, we look to the God of Jacob for our help.

The “God of Jacob” is One who is gracious even to sinful people such as Jacob.

Since He made the earth, heaven, and seas (St. 2, l. 3), He can surely solve our problems.

In stanza 3 we praise God for the many ways that He helps people:

He feeds the hungry.

He gives sight to the blind (physically blind and spiritually blind).

He frees prisoners (even if they are guilty of crimes, they may seek His grace).

He especially loves the righteous.

He helps strangers (travelers or even refugees).

He helps those in great need (fatherless and widows).

He will not ultimately allow unrepentant sinners to prosper.

In stanza 4 we praise Jehovah because He will reign forever.

He is God, but He is also *our God*, personally.

Saints are pictured as part of Zion.

Zion is the hill on which Jerusalem sits, the seat of the former and future kingdom in Israel.

We will live forever, and our souls will praise God as King forever.

Our praise will long outlive the trials and sorrows of this life.

*Hallelujah! Praise Jehovah!*