

**Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia**

**Bible Study - November 3, 2022**

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**Title: "Introduction To The Book of Psalms - Part V**

**I. Introduction to Psalms of Praise**

A. Psalms of praise, also called "hymns," are more or less completely devoted to praising the Lord for His greatness and majesty and/or His constant grace and mercy to His people.

B. All of these praiseworthy attributes are manifested in God's actions - past, present, and also future. Therefore, a hymn of praise is usually more general in its content than a song of thanksgiving.

C. It does not refer to some specific situation in the past when God acted on behalf of the psalmist or the people. In most cases, if not in all hymn contexts, God is regarded and praised as the great King who rules over all things, especially as Protector of the everlasting kingdom of His holy ones.

D. There is a special focus upon the Sovereign Lord, the only true object of worship and personal devotion.

E. Key words in praise psalms are "praise," "give thanks," "glory," "bless," "sing (happily)," and "rejoice."

**Comment:** A familiar Hebrew expression that often marks the pure hymn of praise is the joyful command *hallelujah*, meaning "praise Yahweh" (See Psalm 149:1 and 150:1).

**II. The Parts of a Hymn of Praise**

A. A hymn of praise usually contains only three parts, and they are closely related.

1. It always begins with a summons to praise the LORD.
2. The main part of the psalm speaks of the **reasons** why

people should praise Him.

- (a) The most frequently mentioned ones are *God's* acts of creation and the preservation of His people Israel.
- (b) They are often marked by the transitional conjunction "**for**" (**Heb. Kiy**). The reasons are stated either in general terms or with reference to the ancient past, rather than to an act of deliverance in the immediate past, as in a psalm of thanksgiving.

3. It ends with a **concluding call** to thank and praise the LORD, often with increased emphasis, that is, with more enthusiasm and joy than at the beginning.

B. A good example of a praise hymn is Psalm 100 (KJV):

[1] Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.      **PRAISE**

[2] Serve the LORD with gladness;  
come before his presence with singing.

[3] Know ye the LORD he is *God*:      **REASON**  
it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves.  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

[4] Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,      **PRAISE**  
and into his courts with praise:  
be thankful and bless his name.

[5] For the LORD is good;      **REASON**  
His mercy is everlasting;  
and his truth endureth to all generations.

C. Notice the characteristics of this wonderful hymn: the overall tone of joy, frequent mention of the name of *God*, and repeated appeals to praise and give thanks.

D. Also observe its clear two-part structure, in which the second-half (Vv 4-5) essentially reiterates the first three (Vv 1-3).

### III. There Are Many Reasons For Praising God

A. One reason is to acknowledge His wonderful creation and powerful manifestation in nature.

B. Some psalms, the so-called *Creation Psalms*, may be considered a separate category or subgenre; for example, Psalms 8, 19:1-6, 104, and 148 focus on this. (These may also be regarded as "Wisdom Psalms.")

C. In other psalms, many more of the "mighty works" of the LORD are mentioned. These may be divided into subcategories as well, for example, those which speak of Yahweh as a great king dwelling in the holy city of Zion (cf. Psalms of Royalty, e.g., 67, 96, 97, 98, and 99).

### IV. Exercise

A. Try to distinguish individual songs of praise from communal songs of praise among the following psalms:

Psalm 29 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 33 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 67 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 103 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 113 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 134 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 149 \_\_\_\_\_

B. Read Psalm 117 (the shortest psalm in the Psalter) and write

down the words that correspond to the three basic parts of a typical hymn:

1. First, the call to praise God.
2. The reason to praise Him, and
3. The closing call to praise Him

**Note:** Use the rest of this page to record your responses to Psalm 117.

C. What is the LORD praised for in the following psalms:

Psalm 65 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 68 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 93 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 146 \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Also use the remainder of this page to record your responses if you need more space than allotted above. By recording your responses here, it will allow for you to keep all of your notes for this lesson together.

Thank you once again for being a part of this study session. Here are just three Review Questions taken from our previous lessons.

1. Fill in the blank spaces. The numerical sequence of the Five Books or Five Divisions of the Psalter are:

<b>Book</b>	<b>Psalm Numbers</b>
I	_____

- II \_\_\_\_\_
- III \_\_\_\_\_
- IV \_\_\_\_\_
- V \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the purpose of a doxological psalm?

3. List the five principal communicative purposes for which the people of God used psalms.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Thank you again for sharing in this study session.

Jude 3

Pastor Austin