

# **Psalm 149**

**(New International Version)**

**<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD.**

*Sing to the LORD a new song,  
his praise in the assembly of his faithful people.*

*2 Let Israel rejoice in their Maker;  
let the people of Zion be glad in their King.*

*3 Let them praise his name with dancing  
and make music to him with timbrel and harp.*

*4 For the LORD takes delight in his people;  
he crowns the humble with victory.*

*5 Let his faithful people rejoice in this honor  
and sing for joy on their beds.*

*6 May the praise of God be in their mouths  
and a double-edged sword in their hands,*

*7 to inflict vengeance on the nations  
and punishment on the peoples,*

*8 to bind their kings with fetters,  
their nobles with shackles of iron,*

*9 to carry out the sentence written against them ♦  
this is the glory of all his faithful people.*

***Praise the LORD.***

## **The Story Behind the Psalms ♦ 149 & 150**

These form a new group of Psalms called the "Hallelujah Psalms." Hallelujah means "Praise ye Jah," or "Praise ye Jehovah." An interesting thing about the word "hallelujah" is that it is the same in every language. It is the one word in all languages that becomes the common denominator. We cannot all speak the same language about most subjects, but when it comes to praising the Lord, we all speak the same language.

These Psalms are divided into three groups - group one ends with hallelujah. In this group are Psalms 104 and 105. Group two begins with hallelujah. This includes Psalms 111 and 112. Group three both begins and ends with hallelujah. Included are Psalms 106, 113, 135, and 146 through 150.

It is interesting that with the passing of the years David's praise becomes greater. The term, "Praise ye the Lord," is included more and more in the Psalms written

near the end of David's life. He once said, "I will praise Him more and more," and so he did. As these Psalms are read, the reader should picture an aged David lifting his hands and voice Heavenward thanking God for His grace, for His mercy, for His lovingkindness and for His faithfulness.

### **The Way They Were Used by God's People**

The Jews would use these as doxology Psalms when they wanted to praise the Lord. They were used at any time. They were much like our songs, "Praise Him, Praise Him, Jesus Our Blessed Redeemer," "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," etc. In other words, they were general songs of praise used at any occasion the heart leaped with joy.

**Theme: A victory celebration. We have the assurance that God truly enjoys his people.**

**Author: Anonymous**

PSALM 149:3-5

Although the Bible invites us to praise God, we often aren't sure how to go about it. Here, several ways are suggested: by singing, dancing, or playing musical instruments. God enjoys his people, and we should enjoy praising him.

PSALM 149:6, 7

The sharp sword symbolizes the completeness of judgment that will be executed by the Messiah when he returns to punish all evildoers (Revelation 1:16).

## ***Psalm 150***

***(New International Version)***

***<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD.***

***Praise God in his sanctuary;  
praise him in his mighty heavens.***

***<sup>2</sup> Praise him for his acts of power;  
praise him for his surpassing greatness.***

***<sup>3</sup> Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,  
praise him with the harp and lyre,***

***<sup>4</sup> praise him with timbrel and dancing,  
praise him with the strings and pipe,***

***<sup>5</sup> praise him with the clash of cymbals,  
praise him with resounding cymbals.***

***<sup>6</sup> Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.***

***Praise the LORD.***

**Theme: A closing hymn of praise. God's creation praises him everywhere in every way. We should join this rejoicing song of praise.**

**Author: Anonymous**

**PSALM 150:3-5**

Music and song were an integral part of Old Testament worship. David introduced music into the Tabernacle and Temple services (1 Chronicles 16:4-7). The music must have been loud and joyous as evidenced by the list of instruments and the presence of choirs and song leaders. Music was also important in New Testament worship (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16).

**PSALM 150:6**

How could the message be more clear? The writer was telling the individual listeners to praise God. What a fitting way to end this book of praise - with a direct encouragement for *you* to praise God, too. Remember to praise him every day!

**PSALM 150:6**

In a way, the book of Psalms parallels our spiritual journey through life. It begins by presenting us with two roads: the way to life and the way to death. If we choose God's way to life, we still face both blessings and troubles, joy and grief, successes and obstacles. Throughout it all, God is at our side, guiding, encouraging, comforting, and caring. As the wise and faithful person's life draws to an end, it becomes clear that God's road is the right road. Knowing this will cause us to praise God for leading us in the right direction and for assuring us of a place in the perfect world he has in store for those who have faithfully followed him.