

Psalm 145...Resolving to Rejoice in God

- ***Psalm 145 is the last psalm attributed to David in the collection of psalms...and it is the last of the nine psalms using some kind of acrostic pattern (9, 10, 25, 34, 37, 111, 112, 119, and 145). Five of these acrostic psalms are attributed to David.***

David Guzik

- ***Psalm 145 is indeed a monumental praise psalm, a fit summary of all David had learned about God during a long lifetime of following hard after the Almighty.***

James Montgomery Boice

- ***Recurrent themes...David retraces a life of learning about God, leaning on God and growing in his love for God (see Appendix)***
- ***In this psalm, David's praise is of God. He points us to great thoughts of God at the very beginning. He thinks about how the greatness of God compels us to praise Him generationally. He meditates upon the compassion of God and thinks about how that shows that we ought to praise Him. He reflects on the reign or the kingdom or the dominion of God and that moves him to praise. He reflects on how God takes care of those in need and who are weak and this moves him to praise. And finally he ends this psalm and all of his psalms with a resolution to praise God.***

Ligon Duncan

- ***A Psalm of Recitations about God and Responses to knowing Him***

Recitations about God...verses 3,8,9,13,14,16,17,18,19,20

Responses to knowing Him...verses 1,2,4,5,6,7,10,11,12,15,21

- ***A Panoply of Praise***

Psalm 145...A Psalm of Praise, of David

I will extol You, my God, O King,
And ***I will*** bless Your name forever and ever.

The king of Israel acknowledges God to be his King (cf

2 Every day ***I will*** bless You,
And ***I will*** praise Your name forever and ever.

**A Resolve to Rejoice in God...note the 4 I will's in verses 1 & 2
(continuing in verses 5,6 and ultimately in verse 21)**

Name...all that God reveals Himself to be and do

Note that David refers to "my God, O King" in verse 1 and thereafter as LORD (Jehovah)...the personal, intimate name God chose to use when He revealed Himself to Israel as their Deliverer, a name rooted in "I Am" (eternal, self-existent, immutable, covenant-making and keeping)...see Exodus 3:15

3 Great is the Lord, and **highly (greatly)** to be praised,
And His **greatness** is unsearchable.

A Key verse...Great thoughts of God fuel great love for God and great praise for Him

“Notice the logic — great is the Lord and greatly to be praised. That means that our praise is tied to our view of who God is. If we believe that God is great, it moves us to great praise, but if our hearts have low views of Him, if we lack appreciation of His greatness, it will lead to a lack of praise and worship. Low views of God lead to low views of sin, weak motivation to service, and empty worship. William Plumer says this..’Nothing has a more pernicious effect on character than low thoughts of God. Unless we have great thoughts of God, our thoughts of sin will be low, our sense of obligation feeble, and our praises dull.’ And that's borne out by what David says here in verse 3. “Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised.” You will not greatly praise the Lord if you don't think He's great.”

Ligon Duncan

“Man never attains to a true self-knowledge until he have previously contemplated the face of God, and come down after such contemplation to look into himself. For (such is our innate pride) we always seem to ourselves just, and upright, and wise, and holy, until we are convinced, by clear evidence, of our injustice, vileness, folly, and impurity.”

“When we see those who previously stood firm and secure so quaking with terror, that the fear of death takes hold of them, nay, they are, in a manner, swallowed up and annihilated, the inference to be drawn is that men are never duly touched and impressed with a conviction of their insignificance, until they have contrasted themselves with the majesty of God.”

John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion

4 One generation shall praise Your works to another,
And shall declare Your mighty acts.

“But there's a second thing. David moves from this opening call to worship and this opening ascription of praise to God to a call on the generations to continue to praise God. Look at verses 4 to 7... And so the greatness of God compels His praise to be passed on generationally, David says, and even internationally because frankly, we need some help. God's so great that we can't give Him the praises that He deserves. We need all the help we can get. And so we need to go to the ends of the earth with the Gospel because we need help to join in with this great song of praise. And so David shows us in verses 4 to 7 how the greatness of God compels His praise to be passed on to the next generation and to be taken up by the next generation.”

Ligon Duncan

See Psalm 78:1-8

5 On the glorious splendor of Your majesty
And on Your wonderful works, ***I will*** meditate.

Meditating...used several times in Psalm 77:6,12 and Psalm 119 (verses 15,23,27,48,78 and 148)

“How can we turn our knowledge about God into knowledge of God? The rule for doing this is simple but demanding. It is that we turn each Truth that we learn about God into matter for meditation before God, leading to prayer and praise to God.”

J.I. Packer, Knowing God

“Meditation is the activity of calling to mind, and thinking over, and dwelling on, and applying to oneself, the various things that one knows about the works and ways and purposes and promises of God. It is an activity of holy thought, consciously performed in the presence of God, under the eye of God, by the help of God, as a means of communion with God.”

J.I. Packer, Knowing God

6 Men shall speak of the power of Your awesome acts,
And ***I will*** tell of Your greatness.

“The Lord's redeemed people having been filled with his great goodness, shall retain the happy recollection of it, and shall be moved often and often to utter those recollections. Not content with a scanty mention of such amazing love, they shall go on to an abundant utterance of such abundant favour.

It shall be their delight to speak with one another of God's dealings with them, and to compare notes of their experiences. All his goodness is great goodness, all worthy to be remembered, all suggestive of holy discourse. Upon this subject there is no scarcity of matter, and when the heart is right there is no need to stop from want of facts to tell. Oh, that there were more of these memories and utterances, for it is not meet that the goodness of the living God should be buried in the cemetery of silence, in the grave of ingratitude.”

Charles Spurgeon, Treasury of David

7 They shall **eagerly utter** the memory of Your abundant goodness
And will shout joyfully of Your righteousness.

“Uttering”...what’s in our hearts

“Utter”...used in both a positive and negative sense (10x in Psalm & Proverbs)

Positive...Psalm 19:2 (creation), Psalm 119:171 (uttering praise), Proverbs 18:4 (a fountain of wisdom, a bubbling brook)

Negative...Psalm 59:7 (belching forth), Psalm 94:4 (pouring forth), Proverbs 15:2,28 (spouting and pouring forth of fools)

Ultimately, the fruit of our hearts...Matthew 12:34, Luke 6:45

8 The Lord is **gracious and merciful;**
Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.

“Almost verbatim David is quoting that great scene from Moses. In other words, David is saying here that God's grace and His mercy and His forbearance and His patience and His lovingkindness and His goodness ought to be praised. When Moses asked to see what God was like, the Lord said, ‘This is what I'm like. I'm gracious and merciful and slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.’ “

Ligon Duncan

9 The Lord is **good to all,**
And **His mercies are over all His works.**

10 **All Your works** shall give thanks to You, O Lord,
And Your godly ones shall bless You.

11 **They shall speak** of the glory of Your kingdom
And talk of Your power;

12 To make known to the sons of men Your mighty acts
And the glory of the majesty of Your kingdom.

13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
And Your dominion *endures* throughout all generations.

Those who bless God from their hearts rejoice to see him enthroned, glorified, and magnified in power. No subject is more profitable for humility, obedience, hope, and joy than that of the reigning power of the Lord our God. His works praise him, but they cannot crown him: this remains for holy hands and hearts. It is their high pleasure to tell of the glory of his kingdom in its justice, kindness, eternity, and so forth. Kingdoms of earth are glorious for riches, for extent of territory, for victories, for liberty, for commerce, and other matters; but in all true glories the kingdom of Jehovah excels them...None can overthrow his power, or break away from his rule. Neither this age, nor the age to come, nor ages of ages shall cause his sovereignty to fail. Herein is rest for faith. "The Lord sitteth King for ever." *And thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.* Men come and go like shadows on the wall, but God reigneth eternally.
Charles Spurgeon, Treasury of David

***[The Lord is faithful in all his words
and kind in all his works.]*** ESV

14 The Lord ***sustains all*** who fall
And ***raises up all*** who are bowed down.

15 ***The eyes of all look to You,***
And You give them their food in due time.

16 You open Your hand
And satisfy the desire of every living thing.

17 The Lord is righteous ***in all His ways***
And kind ***in all His deeds.***

18 The Lord is ***near to all*** who call upon Him,
To all who call upon Him in truth.

"There is no peace like the peace of those whose minds are possessed with full assurance that they have known God, and God has known them, and that this relationship guarantees God's favor to them in life, through death and on for ever."

J.I. Packer, Knowing God

19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him;
He will also hear their cry and will save them.

20 The Lord **keeps all** who love Him,
But all the wicked He will destroy.

"God hath in Himself all power to defend you, all wisdom to direct you, all mercy to pardon you, all grace to enrich you, all righteousness to clothe you, all goodness to supply you, and all happiness to crown you."

Thomas Brooks

21 **My mouth will** speak the praise of the Lord,
And **all flesh will bless His holy name forever and ever.**

"And then he concludes with a resolution and you see that resolution in verse 21. "My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD." Yes, he goes on to call "all flesh" to bless His name, but he resolves, "My mouth will speak of the praise of the LORD" because his view of the greatness of God led him to praise because great thoughts of God fuel our praise."

Ligon Duncan

Whatever others may do, I will not be silent in the praise of the Lord: whatever others may speak upon, my topic is fixed once for all: I will speak the praise of Jehovah. I am doing it, and I will do it as long as I breathe...Our hearts revel in the delight of praising him. Our mouth, our mind, our lip, our life shall be our Lord's throughout this mortal existence, and when time shall be no more.

Charles Spurgeon, Treasury of David

"Meditation upon God is vital to spiritual life, for as we comprehend more of God, the knowledge of Him will provide matter for more excellent praise. This psalm offers a lyrical catalog of God's attributes.

(Family Worship project)...In what verses do you find reference to the following attributes: greatness, incomprehensibility, power, majesty, fearsomeness, goodness, righteousness, grace, compassion, patience, faithful love, glory, kingdom, eternity, presence, and holiness?"

Joel Beeke and Michael Barrett

THE GREATNESS OF GOD

Herman Bavinck

On the very first page of the Bible, the absolute transcendence of God above His creatures comes to our attention. Without strain or fatigue He calls the whole world into existence by His word alone. By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth (Ps. 33 :6). He speaks and it is done; He commands and it stands fast (Ps. 33:9). He does according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth. And none can stay His hand, or say unto Him, what doest Thou (Dan. 4:35)? The nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, He taketh up the isles as a very little thing. And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering. All nations before Him are as nothing, and they are counted to Him as less than nothing, and vanity. To whom then will you liken God? or what likeness will you compare unto Him (Isa. 40:15-18). For who in the heaven can be compared unto the Lord? who among the sons of the mighty can be likened unto the Lord (Ps. 89:6)...When God speaks to Job out of the thunder and displays the magnitude of His works before him, Job humbly bows his head, and says: Behold, I am vile, What shall I answer Thee? I will lay my hand upon my mouth (Job 40:4). God is great, and we know Him not (Job 36:26). Such knowledge is too wonderful for us. It is high. We cannot attain unto it (Ps. 139:6).

Nevertheless, this same sublime and exalted God stands in intimate relationship with all His creatures, even the meanest and smallest. What the Scriptures give us is not an abstract concept of God, such as the philosopher gives us, but puts the very living God before us and lets us see Him in the works of His hands. We have but to lift up our eyes and see who has made all things. All things were made by His hand, brought forth by His will and His deed. And they are all sustained by His strength. Hence everything bears the stamp of His excellences and the mark of His goodness, wisdom, and power. And among creatures only man was created in His image and likeness. Only man is called the offspring of God (Acts 17:28).

Because of this intimate relationship, God can be named in the terms of His creatures, and He can be spoken of anthropomorphically (note-using analogies from the human body). The same Scripture which speaks in the most exalted way of God's incomparable greatness and majesty, at the same time speaks of Him in figures and images which sparkle with life. It speaks of His eyes and ears, His hands and feet, His mouth and lips, His heart and bowels.

It ascribes all kinds of attributes to Him - of wisdom and knowledge, will and power, righteousness and mercy, and it ascribes to Him also such emotions as joy and grief, fear and vexation, zeal and envy, remorse and wrath, hatred and anger. It speaks of His observing and thinking, His hearing and seeing, His remembering and forgetting, smelling and tasting, sitting and rising, visiting and forsaking, blessing and chastising, and the like.

It compares Him to a sun and a light, a fountain and a spring, a rock and a shelter, a sword and buckler, a lion and an eagle, a hero and a warrior, an artist and builder, a king and a judge, a husbandman and a shepherd, a man and a father.

In short, all that can be found in the whole world in the way of support and shelter and aid is originally and perfectly to be found in overflowing abundance in God. Of Him the whole family in heaven and earth is named (Eph. 3:15). He is the Sun of being and all creatures are His fleeting rays.

It is important, therefore, in this matter of the knowledge of God, for us to keep a firm hold on both...the absolute transcendence of God above all of His creatures...and the close relationship of God to His creatures.

Precisely because God is the High and Exalted One, and lives in eternity, He also dwells with those who are of a contrite and humble Spirit (Isa. 57:15). We know that God did not reveal Himself in order that we should draw up a philosophical concept of God from His revelation, but in order that we should accept Him, the true, living God, as our God, and should acknowledge and confess Him. These things are hidden from the wise and prudent, but they have been revealed to babes (Matt. 11:25).

Our Reasonable Faith. Herman Bavinck. Baker Book House. 1956. Pages 132-134.

Resolving to love God more and more...Note David's love for God

Psalm 18:1...“I love You, O Lord, my strength.”

Psalm 26:8...O Lord, I love the habitation of Your house
And the place where Your glory dwells.

Psalm 27:4...One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek:
That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
To behold the beauty of the Lord
And to meditate in His temple.

Matthew Barrett, recounting his providential encounter with “a beat-up and abandoned copy of John Calvin’s Institutes of the Christian Religion outside the school cafeteria” in his college years...the year he “fell in love twice”

“I embarked on a mission to *know* God himself like I had never known Him before. I may have read my Bible for years and been a devoted Christian, but now a window...a door really...was swung open wide for me to behold the glory of God like never before.

The more I learned about God, that more I had to admit just how little and insignificant I was next to this big God...Like never before, I resonated with Calvin’s confession:

“Man is never sufficiently touched and affected by the awareness of his lowly state until he has compared himself to God’s majesty.”

Much like Job, the more I fathomed ‘God’s wisdom, power and purity’ the more overwhelmed I became, especially in light of my own ‘stupidity, impotence and corruption’. Once I was sobered by God’s majesty, His infinite glory, supremacy and perfection suddenly beamed bright, like the sun’s warm rays after a merciless, icy winter. The brightness of His divinity had blinded me, yet ironically I could now see His beauty better than before.”

“God is always better than we can imagine”

Iain Wright (“God is always better than we can imagine...31 Meditations on the Greatness of God” Banner of Truth, 2019)

“In a world suffering from terminal consumerism, might not our prayer be to love God more? If you pray for the new car your heart desires so much, I cannot guarantee that you will get it. God may to grant you what you desire. It may not be for your good. And if it is not, He certainly will not give it to you. But if you pray asking to love Him more, He who has told you that you should love Him with all your heart, soul, strength and mind will grant you what you desire.

So let this be my last word to you; ask the God of all grace, who is able to do far more abundantly than all that you ask or think, to enlarge your heart to love Him more.”

Appendix...Examples (not exhaustive) of recurrent themes (in Davidic Psalms)

Psalm 145:1...Psalm 5:2 and 68:24

Psalm 145:8...Psalm 86:15, 103:8, 145:8 (God is gracious, slow to anger, abundant in lovingkindness and truth)

Psalm 145:10a...Psalm 19:1-6 (Creation testifies to God’s glory)

Psalm 145:13...Psalm 103:19 (the LORD has established His throne in heaven and rules over all)

Psalm 145:13/14 (the “missing” Nun in the acrostic)...Psalm 12:6,7

Psalm 145:19...Psalm 37:4,5

Psalm 145:20...Psalm 3 (David flees from Absalom)

Psalm 145:19...Psalm 37:4,5 (God fulfills the desire of those who fear Him)

Psalm 145:20b...Psalm 11:5-7 (God destroys the wicked)

A Family Project...write your own acrostic of praise

David's Psalm Of Praise. It is David's, David's very own, David's favourite. It is David's Praise just as another (Ps 86:1-17) is David's Prayer. It is altogether praise, and praise pitched in a high key. David had blessed God many a time in other psalms, but this he regarded as his peculiar, his crown jewel of praise. Certainly David's praise is the best of praise, for it is that of a man of experience, of sincerity, of calm deliberation, and of intense warmth of the heart. It is not for any one of us to render David's praise, for David only could do that, but we may take David's psalm as a model, and aim at making our own personal adoration as much, like it as possible: we shall be long before we equal our model. Let each Christian reader present his own praise unto the Lord, and call it by his own name.

Charles Spurgeon, Treasury of David

An alliterative acrostic acclamation of Adonai's attributes

We adore you because you are our all-sufficient Adonai
We bless your name because you are beautiful
We call upon you because of your constant care for your children
We declare your praises because of your divine design
We extol your name because of your everlasting excellence

Father, you are faithful
God, you are glorious
Holy One, we hail you
Immanuel, thank you for your incarnate intervention
Just and Justifier, thank you for Jesus

We kneel before you, our King
We lay our lives before your throne, exalted Lamb
We marvel at your majestic might and matchless mercy
We need your strength, our never-failing God
Omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent LORD, we offer our obedience
Perfect, powerful, praiseworthy One, we submit to your perfect plan

Because you are always quick to hear, we quiet our hearts before you
Because you are our Rock and Refuge, we find our rest in you
Because you are our Steadfast Shelter in sea and storm, securely we stand in awe
Because our times are in your hands, we trust you

You are unchanging
You are victorious
You are most worthy of worship
You are exalted on high

May we yearn to please you
May zeal for your glory consume us.