

Psalm 146 is one of the final five Psalms and the final Psalms are Psalms of praise. They are great concluding praise doxologies.

In this Psalm, the Psalmist declares that He will Praise Jehovah (LORD), the self-existing I AM covenant-keeping God for who He is and for what He does. The Psalm then points to praise because one day He will reign on this earth. The point of the Psalm is simple to see:

**GOD IS TO BE PRAISED AND WORSHIPPED AND TRUSTED AS LONG AS WE ARE ON THIS EARTH FOR THE FACT THAT HE IS THE GREAT SOVEREIGN GOD WHO DOES WONDERFUL THINGS FOR US AND WILL ONE DAY REIGN OVER US.**

The Hebrew reads “Hallelu jah” which means Praise Jehovah or Praise the Lord. Those words show up twice in **verse 1**, once in **verse 2**, and once in **verse 10**.

Regardless of what is happening in our lives or world, there are always things for which we can praise the Lord and we have the responsibility to do that.

Now there are four thoughts presented in this Psalm from one who is right with God:

**THOUGHT #1** – One right with God praises God and promises to praise God. **146:1-2**

Now there are some important observations to make from these verses:

**Observation #1** - One right with God praises the LORD from his soul. **146:1**

In order for one to praise God, one must have a soul that is right with God. In order for one to praise God, one must have a soul in a proper relationship with God. When God’s people go to worship and praise God, God looks at the heart, the mind and the soul. This is not just some external analysis, this is internal.

**Observation #2** - One right with God praises the Lord while he lives. **146:2a**

The point here is that the believer will praise the Lord as long as he lives. As long as God grants the believer life, he will continually praise God. Every life, if the Lord carries, will end in death and as long as God gives us life, we need to praise God. Our life is a gift of God and should be used for the glory of God. Part of the responsibility of the believer as long as God grants life, is to offer praise and worship to God.

Now believers will one day be with the Lord and will praise Him forever, but people right with God praise Him now.

**Observation #3** - One right with God sings praises to God while he has his being. **146:2b**

Much of the singing was done in corporate worship. As long as one has his being here on earth, he needs to gather together with God's people and sing praises to God.

**God does not want His people spending their lives in depression, but in exaltation.**

**THOUGHT #2** – One right with God continually trusts in God, not man. **146:3-4**

Do you see what is said in the opening part of **verse 3**? Do not trust in man because man “cannot” deliver. Do not put your trust in even a high-ranked man, like some prince, because he cannot deliver. Our praise and our trust must be in the Lord. Specifically what is brought out here is our trust needs to be in the Lord for salvation. No man can deliver you. No man can save you. You cannot save yourself.

Now the writer brings out four facts about man that are critical to see here:

**Fact #1** - Man is mortal. **146:3a**

If we trust in man, we trust in something that is dust, there is no substance to it. It does not matter how highly a man thinks of himself, he is mortal and destined to die. At best we are all fallen relatives of Adam with the death penalty. Sooner or later it will be our turn.

**Fact #2** - Man cannot achieve or give salvation. **146:3b**

No man can earn or merit salvation. No man can be saved by his works. It is pointless to trust in some religious or political leader for salvation because he is a mortal man and you cannot find salvation in a mortal man. It is pointless to trust in yourself for salvation because you are just a moral human.

**Fact #3** - Man will leave this world. **146:4a**

As **verse 4** says, men are just men and they die and their spirit leaves them and the body returns to the earth. The body goes back to being dust. There will come a moment when your spirit will leave your body and instantly that spirit will be in one of two places. There is no point spending your entire life praising a man, but there is great wisdom in investing time in praising God.

**Fact #4** - Man's concept of things and thoughts end. **146:4b**

Now what does this mean? We know that when a person dies there are still thoughts in existence about the person. The Bible is filled with thoughts of various men in Scripture who died including a rich man who was thinking about his lost family (Luke 16:27-28).

The point of this is that worldly thoughts, worldly ambitions, worldly purposes and intentions all end at the moment of death. The day a man dies, his temporal thoughts perish; he is instantly facing the reality of eternity. If a life were spent without a focus on praising God, the life is pointless.

All worldly dreams and ambitions will end at the moment of death. Therefore, to trust in man or in yourself rather than God, is futile.

**THOUGHT #3** – One right with God is helped by God and his hope is in the LORD. **146:5**

The man who is happy and blessed and the man who will end up happy and blessed is the man who placed his trust in **“the God of Jacob.”** Do not miss this.

Now this is critical to see—you cannot get help by placing your trust and hope in any god, **it must be in the God of the Bible; “the God of Jacob.”**

In other words, there is only one true God who is able to bless people. There is only one God who is able to help people. There is only one God in whom to hope. There is only one God to whom we should praise and offer worship and that God is the God of Israel; the God of Jacob; the God of the Bible.

The person or nation who trusts in the God of the Bible is a blessed person. He will be blessed by God and helped by God and he can keep his hope in God.

God is good to all creation, but He does not automatically help and bless all creation. But He will help and bless those who hope in the God of the Bible.

**THOUGHT #4** – One right with God remembers and praises the works of God. **146:6-10**

Now these works become a basis for hoping in God and getting help from God. These works are praise worthy and they do show the power of God:

**Work #1** - The believer praises God because He is the Creator. **146:6a**

Don't miss what is said here. God created the “heaven,” “the earth,” “the sea” and “all that is in them.” The God who is the Creator is the God of Jacob. This world did not just happen and humans did not just happen. Both were created by the God of the Bible.

**Work #2** - The believer praises God because He is the Keeper. **146:6b**

Do you see what God keeps forever? He keeps and guards faith forever. When one places his faith in Jesus Christ and in the God of the Bible, **that faith is guarded by God forever. In other words, you cannot lose it.**

**Work #3** - The believer praises God because He is the Giver. **146:7-9**

God is a giving God. He is a God who helps and intervenes in many giving ways:

**(Giving Way #1)** - God gives justice for those oppressed. **146:7a**

When God's people who trust in God are wronged, they can talk to God and keep their hope in God because God will deal out justice.

**(Giving Way #2)** - God gives food to those hungry. **146:7b**

John Calvin said sometimes God withdraws some things from faithful people for a time to show them that He is the one who provides for them.

**(Giving Way #3)** - God gives freedom to those who are captive. **146:7c**

God sets people free. He set Israel free from the Egyptians. He set Daniel free in the lion's den. He set Peter free from prison and he will set any sinner free from sin. He is that kind of God with this kind of power.

**(Giving Way #4)** - God gives sight to those who are blind. **146:8a**

There are two kinds of blindness in the Bible: 1) Physical; 2) Spiritual. When Jesus was here on earth, He healed blind people physically and for 2000 years He has been healing them spiritually and opening their eyes so they could understand God's Word.

**(Giving Way #5)** - God gives elevation to those who are low. **146:8b**

It is a shame that most people don't read this or believe this. God is able to lift up those who are bowed down and bent over and discouraged. The problem here is that most people don't turn to God or trust in God, they turn to some mortal human, like some counselor who cannot bring them out of their depression. All they typically do is prescribe some medicine.

**(Giving Way #6)** - God gives His love to those who are righteous. **146:8c**

God does not give His love to people equally. He gives His love and blessings to one who is righteous. He loves people who pursue a righteousness based on His Word.

**(Giving Way #7)** - God gives protection to those who are strangers. **146:9a**

This is an amazing statement. God protects strangers. He protects those who don't even know He is protecting them.

**(Giving Way #8)** - God gives support to those who are defenseless. **146:9b**

God delights in helping and supporting helpless people such as children who don't have parents or widows who don't have their mates. He does special things for these people.

**(Giving Way #9)** - God does not give success to those who are wicked. **146:9c**

The Hebrew words indicate that God twists the path of the wicked so that they end up walking on a torturous path in life and leads to their own destruction and ruin.

**Work #4** - The believer praised God because the LORD will reign. **146:10**

There will come a day when God will reign forever and ever. He will reign from Zion, which is Jerusalem and He will reign over all generations. That will be when Jesus Christ returns.

#### **PARTING THOUGHTS:**

- 1. Every day praise God for something. Some way God has helped you or strengthened you.**
- 2. Always remember our trust must be in Jesus Christ and the God of the Bible and not some mortal man.**
- 3. When we have opportunity, let us speak up for the fact that the God of the Bible is the God who is the Creator, Sustainer, Provider and Savior.**