

Psalm 150 Question: Do you and I, praise The LORD?

Observation by C.S. Lewis: He said he noticed that ‘the humblest, and at the same time most balanced and capacious minds, **praised most**, while the cranks, misfits and malcontents **praised least**’ (*Reflections*, pp. 80-81).

Command: Praise the LORD.

Psalm 150:1 Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament! 2 Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

3 Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!

4 Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!

5 Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

6 Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

1. ‘Praise the LORD’. It is a life-giving command. It is wise advice. It is a helpful directive. It is genuine guidance. It is what humanity is created for, and indeed what all creation is designed to do. At creation, angels shouted for joy (Job 38:7)

If, as Martin Luther said, ***sin is being narrowly fixated and curled into oneself***, then it follows that ***freedom of life***, through forgiving grace, is being wide open and outward in ***Praise to the LORD***. The LORD is called ‘the God of all grace’. It is this God, as Father that we meet in the face of Jesus Christ the crucified, risen and exalted King. The Holy Spirit shows us this great Jesus, who is both the suffering and triumphant servant of all.

It is great to see musicians enjoying their craft. It is great to employ all that God has given to us to ‘praise the Lord. Adoration is a rich response to God’s revelation. It was C.H. Spurgeon who said that God should be the one object of our adoration.

“To give the least particle of his honour to another is shameful treason; to refuse to render it to him is heartless robbery” (C.H. Spurgeon).

2. ‘Praise him for his mighty deeds’. The reason for praise is mostly stirred up from seeing, and adoring God at work in his mighty deeds. God’s amazing work of **creation**, & his timely deeds of **salvation** (in Jesus) evoke our praise.

3. ‘Praise him with the trumpet sound’. ‘With the loudest, clearest note call the people together’ (C.H. Spurgeon). Jazz musician, James Morrison plays the trumpet. He says: *“Heaven’s got to include a lot of trumpets,”* he laughs. *“In the Bible it keeps saying ‘and the trumpet shall sound.’ It never says ‘and the guitar shall sound’ or ‘the piano shall sound,’ so I figure there’s got to be lots of trumpets.”*

FINAL POINT: Modern day scholar of the Psalms, *James Hely Hutchinson* makes the following important point about reading Psalm 150.¹

¹ P. S. Johnston and D. G. Firth (Eds.), *Interpreting the Psalms*, p. 97

1. It has a **Teleological thrust**, like LIFE itself, and God's plan. It has an eschatological thrust. Do you have a TELEOLOGICAL thrust? GOAL. Paul says: Philippians 3:14 I **press on** toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Is that you?

I think this is **the trump card** to reach our society: God's great plan!

The Resurrection of Jesus POINTS us the humanity/creations future.

Romans 8 – hope like nowhere else in life or literature.

I consider the sufferings of this present time, not worth comparing to the glory about to be revealed to us. *Corona, sch-mona virus.*

2. *Psalter – Book of Praises* – earliest manuscript.
3. I will sketch the build up... from the **personal choices** in Psalm 1,
4. To a Psalm 2 description of the nations angry with God: 'Why do the nations rage, and the people's plot in vain. The kings of the earth set themselves and the rulers take counsel together, against eh LORD hand his anointed, saying let us burst their bonds asunder. – lets be free of God.
5. Psalms 3, 4 5 ask the Lord for help, and include laments for failure, but always PRAISE emerges. Always praise emerges even when the word praise is not used.
6. Psalm 8: O Lord our Lord how majestic is your name in all the earth. Through to
7. Psalm 40 asks, Why are you cast down O my soul and why so disturbed – hope in God, for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.
8. Psalm 89 – I will sing of your steadfast love forever.
9. Psalm 105 Give thanks to the Lord, make known his deed among the peoples. His Covenant Faithfulness.
10. Psalm 117 – Praise the LORD all you nations
11. Psalm 147 – 148 Praise the LORD all of CREATION.
12. Psalm 150 – all the instruments strike up, and it is like the goal of creation reached! "Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

OBSERVE:

- **As the book of Psalms shifts** often in the midst of a Psalm... having listed the problems first... then the people **turn to God** in WORSHIP: with expectation, with prayer, the WORD, with hope, and a goal.
 - We all need a renewed, Teleological understanding of LIFE.
 - **WW1 1917 the MOVIE: The Wayfarer's Song:**
 - **about to go into an attack – most beautiful picture**
 -
- POINT: We too need to make the shift from LAMENT, to PRAISE!!

From the MOVIE 1917.

Wayfarer's Song:

- I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger
Travelling through this world below
There is no sickness, no toil, nor danger
In that bright land to which I go
I'm going there to see my Father
And all my loved ones who've gone on
I'm just going over Jordan
I'm just going over home
- I know dark clouds will gather 'round me
I know my way is hard and steep
But beautiful fields arise before me
Where God's redeemed, their vigils keep
I'm going there to see my Mother
She said she'd meet me when I come
So, I'm just going over Jordan
I'm just going over home
I'm just going over Jordan
I'm just going over home

Who sings 'Wayfaring Stranger' – and who wrote the music?

Although the exact origins of 'Wayfaring Stranger' are unknown, many people believe the song finds its roots in American folk and gospel music, and is 3339 in the **Roud Folk Index**. It has been covered by several artists including Burl Ives, Emmylou Harris and Johnny Cash.

In the film, the song is performed by actor and singer Jos Slovic, who has previously appeared in **West End** shows such as *Brief Encounter*, *Spring Awakening* and *Once the Musical*, and who played Bossuet in the 2012 film adaptation of *Les Misérables*.

Slovic's heartwarming rendition of the song has been noted by fans, who started a **petition** expressing their wish for a studio version and have been sharing their support on Twitter:

<https://www.classicfm.com/music-news/videos/1917-who-wrote-enchanting-wayfaring-stranger-song/>