

PSALM 150

This final doxology forms a fitting conclusion to the Psalter. In common with the four preceding Psalms (146-149), it begins and ends with the word Hallelujah. In addition, every verse is an invitation to praise. What is praise? The Hebrew word "hallel" comes from a root meaning to make a noise. In praise we express God's worth in word or song. True biblical praise is made up of four essential ingredients : *Admiration, Adoration, Thanksgiving, Dedication.*

1. Praise is something that has to be worked at.

It is an activity that requires the employment of all our ransomed powers and energies. Praising God is not something we can do in an apathetic passive state.

2. Praise must engage our minds.

The bible knows nothing of empty vacuous praise. "The psalmist is not content that the congregation of God's people should just repeat this great word of praise, Alleluia, as some trite jingle. Still less does he use Alleluia as a mantra to be chanted like Hare Krishna in order to artificially work up some state of spiritual ecstasy. He sets these Alleluias as parentheses enclosing songs which are very rich in theological content".

3 Praise is only possible because of divine revelation.

True praise is always a response to what we know of God, as a result of His revealing Himself to us.

STRUCTURE OF PSALM 150

In this crescendo of praise the psalmist tells us where God is to be praised, why He is to be praised, with what he is to be praised and with whom He is to be praised.

1. Where ? v1 The psalmist calls for the praise of God on earth and in heaven. It is a summons to praise God everywhere.

2. Why? v2 The reasons are to be found in His works and His nature.

3. With what? v3-5 Every available instrument is set before us. Wind, stringed and percussion complete the orchestra. Only half of these were permitted in temple worship. (see 1 Chron 15v16; 16v5,6,42; 25v1,6 2 chron 29v25-30) Psalm 150 uses these instruments figuratively to teach us how to praise.

4. With whom? v6 This is not an exhortation only, but also a prediction; for the day is coming when everything that lives will praise the LORD. It echo's the vision in the Book of Revelation (5v13).