

1 Psalm 145 - A Hymn of Praise

When we look to the source of our pattern of worship we go to the song book of the Bible.

Today we look at a Psalm written by David. It is a song that is about praise. The word praise is used a couple of times within these verses, yet the words have different meanings. We will also look at the word truth used here, and its influence on the life of the Psalmist and the lives of all who call on the name of the Lord. Within this poem we have words that fulfill the acrostic pattern. In these 21 verses the sequence of the verses follows the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet, as each verse commences.

2

Vs 1 - 3

David declares his devotion to the One who is his authority. This statement is a commitment that will last forever, he wants to bless His God and King.

He is determined to praise the name of God. Here David uses the Hebrew word 'hallal' - a word that is used 165 throughout the Scripture.

As a word it is regularly associated with music, it helped the army win battles when the choir went in front of them.

3 2 Chronicles 20:19

Vs 3 - 7

David explains why the Lord is so great. His explanation tells us of the works of God. He states they are works that are commended between generations. In cultures where the passing on of history is through the spoken word or the words of songs these wonderful declarations of God's relationship with His creation are passed on.

4

The progress of the works increase. The word used in verse 4, is used 235 times throughout the Old Testament.

Now in verse 5 - it becomes wondrous works, yet it improves to be more in verse 6 as awesome deeds.

Deuteronomy 3: 24

This progression has the handiwork of God moving to a situation where it becomes incidents in which the happenings become surpassing in their ramifications. Now when they go to the next level they are events that promote a reverential fear.

Can we comprehend the extent of God's work?

We need to be able to reflect on His actions, just as David did in the composing of this Psalm. There is a hint that we are to meditate on these works and then we are to proclaim His awesome deeds.

Let us think of some of the deeds that David reflected on to give this Psalm its validity. He could think about the way God had protected him as he cared for the sheep so that the bears and lions met their match.

In his history within the nation of Israel he knew of the faithfulness of God when he stood against that giant Goliath who defied the armies of Israel. God used the experiences that David had in the paddocks with the sheep to accomplish a victory over this Philistine giant.

Also we know that David had been blessed by the wonderful provision of protection many numerous times when the fury of King Saul was incited through his jealousy of this young warrior.

5

Did David also reflect on historical events in Israel's journey? There was the collapse of Jericho, after the people had crossed a flooded Jordan River. How was it that the Egyptian army had drowned at the Red Sea, while the people of Israel walked to the other side on dry land between two walls of water? In our worship today we can similarly reflect on the work that God has done for us each. Our history in our walk with Him is a constant progress of His intervention.

7 Vs 8 - 13 - Works => Compassion

However, this psalm now changes - the focus moves from works to compassion. It transforms from looking at the creations made by the hands of God to the emotions that come from the heart of God.

David gained strength from the blessings given to him through his emotions, sensing the wonderful directing of God's emotions.

We as worshippers of God do gain encouragement from the support we get in responding to the gifts given to us through God's love.

Our emotions are motivated by this compassion of God it engenders us to give Him thanks, as His saints we bless Him. It is our response to Him to tell of His glory, to shout out about His kingdom and speak of His might.

So as we look at these verses, what is David saying should be our response to God's compassion and love?

There is a need for us to make known to men His mighty acts, because we are His ambassadors who are to share the splendour of His kingdom.

The reason we do this is to honour our faithful God whose words are true and whose actions are kind.

Vs 14 -16 - God the provider and protector

God is a wonderful provider and protector. The specifics as noted by David is that our Lord upholds all who fall, He lifts up all who are bowed down.

The promise conveyed here states that those whose eyes are on Him will be given their food in season.

8 Psalm 22:26

These verses bless us with the provisions and the sustaining supply of our godly desires. Our designer becomes the One who sees us being satisfied. It is a promised provision given to every living thing.

Vs 17 - 21

David confirms to us the facts of why we are to worship Him. We have a list of His characteristics that make Him worthy of being honoured.

9 Psalm 40:10

Let us reflect on this list - He is righteous, He is kind, He is always near. He always listens and He constantly hears us. Now as we come to the conclusion of this song of praise we look at the word truth. It is an important word within the Scriptures and within our lives. It is a foundational concept that links us to our Lord. David tells us that God is near to all and that closeness is made intimate for those who call on Him in truth. It is a seeking

that will be honoured by the Lord. We are the recipients of His salvation as we cry out and He hears our desire and our reverence of Him.

God has said that He will fulfil and preserve those who love Him. The true words of David confirm that it will be more than humans who praise Him.

All creatures know how faithful God is to them. They have been blessed by Him throughout time - whether it be time past, time present or in the future.

Let it be that our testimony will be these final words of David within this praise psalm.

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

10 Psalm 136:25