

Weekly Scripture and Sermon Study: History & Context Guide  
Psalm 150

History, Culture, & Context

Psalm 150 is the closing hymn/psalm in the Book of Psalms and is a psalm of praise to God.

Praise God in his sanctuary;  
praise him in his mighty firmament!  
Praise him for his mighty deeds;  
praise him according to his surpassing  
greatness!  
Praise him with trumpet sound;  
praise him with lute and harp!  
Praise him with tambourine and dance;  
praise him with strings and pipe!  
Praise him with clanging cymbals;  
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!  
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord!



The Shepherd's Notes: Psalms 101-150 points out the following: "In these six verses the psalmist answered four questions: where, why, how, and by whom God is to be praised."

Let's take a look at these questions...

- *Where do we praise God (150:1)?* "In His sanctuary" or the Temple in Jerusalem.
- *Why do we praise God (150:2)?* He is due honor "...for His mighty works."
- *How do we praise God (150:3-5)?* These verses list several instruments that were used in the times of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible. These included: a ram's horn (used like a trumpet), lyre and harp, tambourine and dancing, strings and flutes, the clash of cymbals.
- *By whom is God to be praised (150: 6)?* This psalm reaches its climax here with "Let everything that breathes sing praises to the Lord. Praise the Lord!"

The psalmist is telling us to not only praise God, but to do so with ecstatic and joyous praise!

Questions to Consider

1. Why do we praise God? Why do you feel the need to praise God?
2. How can you incorporate praise for God in your everyday life?
3. How does the Psalter close the Book of Psalms? What is the climax?