

# Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs: The Master Musician's Melodies

Bereans Adult Bible Fellowship  
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## Psalm 145 — David's Final Words

### 1.0 Introducing Psalm 145

- A Jewish rabbi once declared that reciting this psalm three times each day guarantees a person entry into the world to come based upon the promise of God's grace in verse 16.
  - ✓ Therefore, Psalm 145 occurs three times in the Jewish daily liturgy.
- Psalm 145 represents the final psalm attributed to David and the last of the alphabetic (acrostic) psalms in which each verse begins with consecutive letters of the Hebrew alphabet.
  - ✓ The 14th letter (*nun*) is missing. Some ancient versions include a verse for it.
  - ✓ Several English versions insert that verse from the ancient versions as the second half of verse 13 (NIV, ESV, RSV, NRSV, HCSB).
  - ✓ "The psalm offers praise from A to Z to God described from A to Z."—John Goldingay, *Psalms: Volume 3, Psalms 90–150*, Baker Commentary on the Old Testament Wisdom and Psalms (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008), 695.
- The Lord's Prayer echoes a number of Psalm 145's themes.
- Most commentators consider Psalm 145 the introduction to the *Final Hallel* (Pss 146–150).
  - ✓ "Praise" occurs only here in a psalm heading. This could be the reason why the Jews refer to the Psalter as "Praises" (*T<sup>e</sup>hillim*).
  - ✓ In Judaism commentators refer to Psalms 145–150 as "The Everyday Hallel."— Amos Hakham, *Psalms*, 3 vols., Koschitzky Edition (Jerusalem: Mosad Harav Kook, 2003), 3:450.

## 2.0 Reading Psalm 145 (NAU)

145:1 A Psalm of **Praise**, of David.

- ⌘ I will extol You, my God, O King,  
And I will bless Your name forever and ever.
- ⌘ 145:2 Every day I will bless You,  
And I will **praise** Your name forever and ever.
- ⌘ 145:3 **Great is the LORD**, and highly to be **praised**,  
And His greatness is unsearchable.
- ⌘ 145:4 One generation shall praise Your works to another,  
And shall declare Your mighty acts.
- ⌘ 145:5 On the glorious splendor of Your majesty  
And on Your wonderful works, I will meditate.
- ⌘ 145:6 Men shall speak of the power of Your awesome acts,  
And I will tell of Your greatness.
- ⌘ 145:7 They shall eagerly utter the memory of Your abundant goodness  
And will shout joyfully of Your righteousness.
- ⌘ 145:8 **The LORD is gracious and merciful;**  
Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.
- ⌘ 145:9 **The LORD is good** to all,  
And His mercies are over all His works.
- ⌘ 145:10 All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD,  
And Your godly ones shall bless You.
- ⌘ 145:11 They shall speak of the glory of Your **kingdom**  
And talk of Your power;
- ⌘ 145:12 To make known to the sons of men Your mighty acts  
And the glory of the majesty of Your **kingdom**.
- ⌘ 145:13 Your **kingdom** is an everlasting **kingdom**,  
And Your **dominion** endures throughout all generations.
- ⌘ 145:14 The LORD sustains (all) who fall  
And raises up (all) who are bowed down.
- ⌘ 145:15 The eyes of (all) look to You,  
And You give them their food in due time.
- ⌘ 145:16 You open Your hand  
And satisfy the desire of (every) living thing.
- ⌘ 145:17 The LORD is righteous in (all) His ways  
And kind in (all) His deeds.
- ⌘ 145:18 The LORD is near to (all) who call upon Him,  
To (all) who call upon Him in truth.
- ⌘ 145:19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him;  
He will also hear their cry and will save them.
- ⌘ 145:20 The LORD keeps (all) who love Him,  
But (all) the wicked He will destroy.

145:21 My mouth will speak the **praise** of the LORD,  
And **(all)** flesh will bless His holy name forever and ever.

### 3.0 Understanding Psalm 145

#### 3.1 Outline

- I. The Psalmist Devotes Himself to Praise (vv. 1–3)
- II. The People Devote Themselves to Praise (vv. 4–9)
- III. The Creation Devotes Itself to Praise (vv. 10–20)
- IV. The Psalmist Devotes Himself to Praise (v. 21)



#### 3.2 Notes

- v. 1 “O King”
  - The LORD’s sovereignty provides the initial reason for offering Him our praise.
  - *Why does God’s kingship form a basis for our praise and worship?*
- v. 2 “Every day . . . forever and ever”
  - Daily praise throughout all time marks biblical worship.
  - Compare 1 Thessalonians 5:17–18.
- v. 3 “Great . . . greatness”
  - The magnitude of God’s person and of His works determines the magnitude of His greatness.
  - *What divine deeds define God’s greatness?*
- v. 4 “One generation . . . to another”
  - Passing praise from one generation to another presents our only opportunity to perpetuate daily and continuous praise to God.
  - *What can we do to pass praise on to future generations?*
- v. 5 “I will meditate”
  - The Hebrew verb refers to either loud, enthusiastic, and emotionally laden speech or to quiet contemplation or meditation. This context favors the former.
  - This phrase and “I will tell” (v. 6) reveal David’s role in passing praise to the next generation.
- v. 7 “eagerly utter”
  - The verb depicts gushing speech, like water pouring forth from a spring. Their praise is spontaneous, abundant, and continuous.
- v. 8 Compare Exodus 34:6.
  - Old Testament psalmists and prophets quote this text from the Law over and over again. It describes the character and works of the LORD.
  - The frequency of its citation demonstrates its significance to the Old Testament believer’s faith as well as witnessing to Israel’s acceptance

of the authority of the Book of Exodus long before the final establishment of the canon of Old Testament Scripture.

- **v. 10** “And Your godly ones shall bless You”
  - Verse 10 serves as a focal point of Psalm 145. It echoes the phraseology of verses 1 and 21, that bracket the psalm.
  - Note the progression:
    - “I will bless your name forever and ever” (v. 1)
    - “**Your godly ones** shall bless You” (v. 10)
    - “**all flesh** will bless His holy name forever and ever” (v. 21)
  
- **v. 11** “Your kingdom”
  - The psalm opened with a reference to God as “the King” (v. 1). Verses 11–13 repeatedly refer to His kingdom or dominion.
  - The LORD’s kingdom, in these verses, refers to His universal and continuous reign over all creation. He never loses control over His creation.
  
- **vv. 14–20** God the Provider
  - A series of actions characteristic of the LORD reveals how He exercises His supreme rulership in merciful and gracious deeds:
    1. God helps the inadequate (v. 14).
    2. God gives food to all His creatures (vv. 15–16).
    3. God answers those who pray (vv. 18–19).
    4. God protects those who are His people (v. 20).

— Derek Kidner, *Psalms 73–150* (Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1975), 482.
  
- **v. 14** “all”
  - From here through the remainder of the psalm, “all” appears over and over again. Stress falls on the all-inclusive nature of the worship (praise) of God: all His deeds, all His attributes, through all time, and throughout all creation.
  - David commits himself to continuous praise and informs his readers that they, too, must make the same commitment.
  
- **v. 17** “The LORD is righteous . . . And kind”
  - The NAU translates the same Hebrew word here as “kind” that it translates “godly” in verse 10.
  - The term refers to God’s steadfast covenant loyalty—His faithfulness. He is never disloyal
  
- **vv. 18–20** Who are God’s people?
  - “all who call upon Him”—those who pray (v. 18).
  - “those who fear Him” (v. 19).
  - “all who love Him” (v. 20).



- **vv. 18–20** What does God do for His people?
  - “He is near”—ready to answer prayer (v. 18).
  - He will fulfill their desire (v. 19a).
  - He will hear and save them (v. 19b).
  - He preserves them (v. 20).
- **v. 21** Closing Commitment to Praise
  - David returns to his own personal commitment (cp. vv. 1–2, 5, 6).
  - David returns to the same word for “praise” as in the psalm heading.
  - David closes with a global and timeless declaration (see comment on v. 10).
  - Compare Psalm 150:6.

#### 4.0 Singing Psalm 145

##### “God, My King, Thy Might Confessing”

(Tune: “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”)



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|---|---|
| <p><b>1</b> God, my King, Thy might confessing,<br/>Ever will I bless Thy Name;<br/>Day by day Thy throne addressing,<br/>Still will I Thy praise proclaim.</p> <p><b>3</b> They shall talk of all Thy glory,<br/>On Thy might and greatness dwell,<br/>Speak of Thy dread acts the story,<br/>And Thy deeds of wonder tell.</p> <p><b>5</b> Full of kindness and compassion,<br/>Slow to anger, vast in love,<br/>God is good to all creation;<br/>All His works His goodness prove.</p> | <p><b>2</b> Honor great our God befitteth;<br/>Who His majesty can reach?<br/>Age to age His works transmitteth,<br/>Age to age His power shall teach.</p> <p><b>4</b> Nor shall fail from memory’s treasure<br/>Works by love and mercy wrought;<br/>Works of love surpassing measure,<br/>Works of mercy passing thought.</p> <p><b>6</b> All Thy works, O Lord, shall bless Thee;<br/>Thee shall all Thy saints adore:<br/>King supreme shall they confess Thee,<br/>And proclaim Thy sovereign power.</p> |
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— Words: Richard Mant,  
*Metric Version of the Psalter* (1824)

##### “We Will Exalt You, Our God the King”

(Tune: “Thy Loving Kindness”)

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|---|---|
| <p><b>1</b> We will exalt you, our God the King;<br/>Forever we will bless your name.<br/>Your praises we will forever sing,<br/>Each day we will extol your fame.</p> <p><b>3</b> The saints will speak of your majesty,<br/>And I will ponder your awesome works.<br/>They will rejoice in your charity,<br/>And joyfully sing of your righteousness.</p> | <p><b>2</b> The Lord is great and most worthy of praise;<br/>His greatness no one can fully know.<br/>Each age will tell of His wondrous ways<br/>And to their children His glories show.</p> <p><b>4</b> The Lord is gracious and slow to wrath,<br/>So full of mercy and rich in grace.<br/>The Lord is good to all He has made,<br/>And shows compassion in every place.</p> |
|---|---|

**5** All your creation will praise you, Lord;  
Your saints will sing and declare your  
worth;  
From joyful lips will your might be heard,  
And kingdom glories throughout the earth.

**6** All your creation depends on you,  
You feed them at their appointed time,  
You, Lord, are righteous in all you do,  
Let every creature exalt your Name.  
— Words: Mitch Cervinka (1998)

**5.0 Praying Psalm 145**

- Lord, teach me to give you praise as my King. [v. 1]
- Lead me to find ways to praise you every day. [v. 2]
- Help me model praise for my children and grand-children. [v. 4]
- Father, thank You for being gracious and merciful, slow to anger and steadfastly loyal. [v. 8]
- O God, preserve me, for I love You. [v. 20]



**6.0 Applying Psalm 145**

- We measure God’s greatness by who He is and what He has done.
- We become aware of God’s goodness when we experience His mercy.
- We serve God best by modeling praise for Him every day.

<b>The Lord’s Prayer (Matt 6:9–14)</b>	<b>Psalm 145</b>
<b>9</b> Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.	<b>1</b> . . . my God, O King, And I will bless Your name . . .
<b>10</b> Your kingdom come.  Your will be done,  On earth as it is in heaven.	<b>11</b> They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom  <b>13</b> And Your dominion <i>endures</i> throughout all generations.
<b>11</b> Give us this day our daily bread.	<b>21</b> All flesh will bless His holy name forever and ever.
<b>12</b> And forgive us our debts,  as we also have forgiven our debtors.	<b>16</b> You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing.
<b>13</b> And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.	<b>8</b> The LORD is gracious and merciful; Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.
<b>14</b> For Yours is the kingdom and the power  and the glory forever. Amen!	<b>20</b> The LORD keeps all who love Him, But all the wicked He will destroy.  <b>13</b> Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  <b>11</b> They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom And talk of Your power.