

Psalm 150

This is one of the psalms paired with the final Torah reading of **Deuteronomy 34**. This is the final psalm in the five books of the Psalms.

Some say this psalm was sung by the Israelites, when they came with their first fruits into the sanctuary, with the basket on their shoulders.

The word "praise" is used 13 times, on account of the thirteen properties or perfections in God, according to the rabbis.

Rabbi Obadiah Gaon observes this psalm belongs to the times of the Messiah.

Psalm 150:1 - "Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power."

"in the house of his sanctuary" as the Targum; others consider his sanctuary to mean heaven; the eastern versions render it, "in his Holy Ones" i.e. among the assembly of His saints.

This last psalm is stretching, straining to find metaphors that will give the glory of God it's due.

"firmament" = *raqiya`* - "an expanse." In the ancient Jewish cosmology it was the vault of heaven, the visible arch of the sky, supporting "waters" above

"in the firmament of his power" - or the expansion of His power, as displayed in the heavens, the sun, moon and stars as the seemingly endless expanse that envelopes the earth.

Psalm 150:2 - "Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness."

For the creation of all things out of nothing; the sustaining of all beings; the government of the world; the redemption of man by Christ, and the wonderful works done by him on earth; the work of grace upon the hearts of his people.

"according to his excellent greatness" - in proportion, or in a fitting way that corresponds to His greatness.

Psalm 150:3 - "Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp."

"trumpet" = *shophar* - the ram's horn blown on feast days, at the year of Jubilee, to bring down the walls of Jericho, sounded by God's angels at the giving of the Law, and will be blown at the last day.

- **Revelation 14:2** - "And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps"

Psalm 150:4 - "Praise him with the tambourine and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs."

"organs" = *`uwgab* - probably the double pipe, or a collection of reeds or pipes, like pans pipes.

Again, like Miriam on the shore of the Red Sea:

- **Exodus 15:20** - "And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances."

And like David - the type of Messiah and skillful on the harp - who "danced with all his might before the LORD" (**2 Samuel 6:14**).

Psalm 150:5 - "Praise him on the loud cymbals: praise him on the high sounding cymbals."

The mention of "cymbals" is reserved to the last, as being the instrument of music most expressive of joy and jubilation.

Psalm 150:6 - "Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD."

All creatures, every reasoning human being, anything in nature that has breath or a "spirit" is called on to praise the Father of spirits. But the setting is His gathered people in the New Jerusalem, participating in the only genuine response we can have when standing before Him, falling down before Him in worship, his people throughout history and in eternity linked together by this final, grateful hymn to a loving Father.

Hallelujah!

- **Isaiah 35:10** - "The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs, and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness; and sorrow and sighing shall flee away"