

\* We won't meet in July or August. We'll resume 9/12, after Labor Day. Hope to see you then!

## LifeLines 6/27/22

### Today's Scripture: 6 Verses!

#### Psalm 150

**Praise the Lord! 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 & harp.  
Praise Him with tambourine & dance; Praise Him with strings & pipe!  
Praise Him with clanging symbols; Praise Him with loud clashing  
symbols. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord!**

#### WHY WE'RE HERE

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**, All scripture is inspired by God & is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, & for training in righteousness, so that every-one who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. (This verse was in our HomeWord devotion, 6/23!)

#### CONTEXT

This psalm is a hymn of praise in which all of creation is called to glorify God. In many psalms, the emphasis is on the *reasons* for praise in God's marvelous works. Here, the emphasis is on *the call to praise & the universality of that praise in all the earth, by every creature, & with every instrument that can make music!* The psalmist urges the congregation to praise God with music & dancing, naming 9 instruments! For this reason, it's also called "the musicians psalm." It's a climactic conclusion to five praise Psalms (146-150) where everything & everyone is called to praise God. The Psalm should be considered *a rousing conclusion to a life that has encountered God!* Look at the last 4 Psalms, & you'll see they each end with these words: "Praise the Lord!"

In our 6 verses, there's no real teaching, argument or explanation. It's a cry to *all of creation* to give God all the praise due Him. It also proclaims the end for years of individual's lives & for the world. This Psalm addresses the *where* of praise, the *why* of praise, the *how* of praise, & the *who* of praise. It's a tutorial on making praise to God part of our daily existence. *We were created to praise God.*

(Robert Morris, pastor of Gateway Church, Dallas, has some truly intriguing things to say about this very thing. We'll watch a portion of his video. In it, we'll be given insight to the opportunity we've been given to praise the Lord! At the end of his video, all will come together! This will whet your whistle - many theologians believe Satan (Lucifer) was possibly the highest of all the angels, & the most beautiful. Pride overtook him, & he wasn't content in his position. He was so impressed with his own beauty, intelligence, power & position that he wanted what God had. He didn't want to be second best. He wanted to take over the rule of the universe & *be* God. God cast him out of heaven. Many *do not agree* with this next thought - some believe, & Morris contends, that Satan was *previously* the worship leader in heaven. Some say Lucifer was created as a living musical instrument & that *tabrets* or *timbels* & *pipes* were *in him*. We'll see this in the Related Scriptures below & follow that train of thought when we watch the video.)

## DIFFERENT VERSIONS

**CEV** (Even though this one is good, I left it out.)

### MSG

Hallelujah! Praise God in His holy house of worship, praise Him under the open skies; praise Him for His acts of power, praise Him for His magnificent greatness; Praise with a blast on the trumpet, praise by strumming soft strings Praise Him with castanets & dance, praise Him with banjo & flute; praise Him with cymbals & a big bass drum, praise Him with fiddles & mandolin. Let every living, breathing creature praise God! Hallelujah!

### SELAH

## BREAKING DOWN THE VERSE

***Praise the Lord!...*** This is pure praise! In the spiritual realm, sacrifice & praise are intertwined.

***Praise God in His sanctuary...*** His sanctuary! Where is that? A holy place – the place where He dwells! A temple? Church? Outside in nature? In heaven? On earth? In your own heart, soul or spirit? In the heavens? His sanctuary isn't confined to any one place. We, too, are His sanctuary!

***Praise Him in His mighty firmament...*** The firmament is the heavens, stretched out by His great power from horizon to horizon. Even in storms & all kinds of weather we see the majesty of God, worthy of praise. Because His glory fills the skies & the entire universe, so should our praise for Him.

***Praise Him for His mighty deeds...*** Praise Him for *all His acts*! Think of all He did from Creation itself, to raising Jesus from the dead, allowing His death to atone for all our sins. His deeds include heroic acts of delivering His people as well as the redemption of the world.

***Praise Him according to His surpassing greatness...*** Praise God for who He is & the excellence of His greatness, which surpasses all else in the entire universe.

***Praise Him with trumpet sound...*** This orchestra begins with the loud clear note of the trumpet. The trumpet, or *shophar/shofar*, was usually blown by the priests & is associated with the greatest & also the most solemn events. It called the people, summoning them together to receive the law, celebrate jubilee/coronation, or prepare to wage war. The trumpet is considered noble, cheerful & majestic.

***Praise Him with lute & harp...*** The lute is a hollow, stringed instrument, maybe like a guitar. The harp is another stringed instrument played with the hands or fingers. Harps were usually played by the Levites.

***Praise Him with tambourine & dance...*** similar to a drum or tom-tom. Tambourines were often struck by women as they danced. This would have reminded the Hebrews of their deliverance at the Red Sea.

***Praise Him with strings & pipe...*** Strings, meaning an orderly construction of strings, probably in triangular order, with strings getting shorter & shorter. The pipe would have been like a mouth organ or Pan's pipe.

***Praise Him with clanging symbols...*** metal plates producing sharp, clanging, noisy sounds.

***Praise Him with loud clashing symbols...*** probably larger & louder than the above & struck overhead. The point is for everything we have to be used to praise God.

***Let everything that breathes praise the Lord...*** What a fitting conclusion to this psalm & the entire Book of Psalms! Every living thing receives its breath from Almighty God. Without Him, nothing breathes! What are ways other inhabitants of nature & God's Creation praise Him? Every single breath is a gift from God, & praise is *the only worthy response* to be made to His gift! *When we praise God, our very breath, the breath He placed in us, returns to Him in thanksgiving!*

***Praise the Lord!...*** Hallelujah!

## **SELAH**

**RELATED VERSES** (\* = verses related to Satan & the Morris video.)

\*Genesis 3:1, Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord had made.

\*Job 38:7, (Where were you) when the *morning stars* sang together & all the heavenly beings (Hebrew for *sons of God*) shouted for joy? (Italics added.)

Psalm 22:3, Yet You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.  
(Sometimes interpreted as, “God inhabits the praises of His people.)

Psalm 33:2-3, Praise the Lord with the lyre; make melody to Him with the harp of 10 strings. Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

Psalm 34:1, I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Psalm 69:30, I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify Him with thanksgiving.

Psalm 100:1, Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth,

\*Isaiah 14:12-15 & 19a, How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, “I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit on the mount of assembly on the heights of Zaphon; I will ascend to the tops of the clouds, I will make myself like the Most High.” But you are brought down to Sheol, to the depths of the Pit...you are cast out...

\*Ezekiel 28:12-18 (selections), You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering (as a priest would wear on his breastplate)...& worked in gold were your settings & your engravings. On the day you were created they were prepared (13b). With an anointed cherub as guardian I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God...you were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, until iniquity was found in you. In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence, & you sinned. So I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God (16a), & the guardian cherub drove you out from among the stones of fire. Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor...By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade, you profaned your sanctuaries. So I brought out fire from within you; it consumed you,

\*Ezekiel 28:13 (the underlined portion above), NKJV, The workmanship of your timbrels (similar to a tambourine) & pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created.

\*Ezekiel 28:16 (the second underlined portion above), NKJV, By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, & you sinned; therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God.

Malachi 3:16-17, Then those who revered the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord took note & listened, & a book of remembrance was written before Him of those who revered the Lord & thought on His name. They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, My special possession on the day when I act, & I will spare them as parents spare their children who serve them. (A *really* neat verse!)

\*Luke 10:18, He said to them, “I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. (The angels were created before the earth.)

1 Corinthians 3:16, Do you not know that you are God’s temple, & that God’s Spirit dwells in you?

2 Corinthians 6:16a, What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God;

Hebrews 13:15, Through Him (Jesus), then, let us *continually* offer a *sacrifice of praise* to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess His name. (Here’s a little something extra: There are times when our praise is truly joyful. In those times, praise doesn’t seem at all like a sacrifice. Then, there are times when the doctor’s report didn’t come back the way we hoped; there’s a problem with the mortgage company; the grandchild’s team didn’t win. Life brings a whole spectrum of disappointments. Maybe God seems far away, & praise does NOT bubble up from our hearts. These are times when our praise may feel like a sacrifice because we don’t *feel like* praising; we don’t want to praise. This is when praise becomes an act of our will in spite of storms we face. The sacrifice of praise comes from a humble heart.)

Revelation 5:13, Then I heard every creature in heaven & on earth & under the earth & in the sea, & all that is in them, singing, “To the one seated on the throne & to the Lamb be blessing & honor & glory & might forever & ever!”

Revelation 21:22, I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God Almighty & the Lamb.

*Let's Participate In a Rousing Round of Praise!  
Use Any Instruments at Your Disposal!*

A. Praise the Lord!

**B. Praise God in His sanctuary;**

A. Praise Him in His mighty firmament!

**B. Praise Him for His mighty deeds;**

A. Praise Him according to His surpassing greatness!

**B. Praise Him with trumpet sound;**

A. Praise Him with lute & harp!

**B. Praise Him with tambourine & dance;**

A. Praise Him with strings & pipe!

**B. Praise Him with clanging symbols;**

A. Praise Him with loud clashing symbols!

**B. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!**

**ALL.** Praise the Lord!

*Watch the Video*

## **SUMMARY**

God wants every class & group of people to praise Him. Instruments (tangible ones or those inside you) should be played with strength & the joy of celebration, *with nothing held back* - just as God holds nothing back in His love for us! There is to be pure exuberance so sounds fill every room. Music & worship participate in a creative process. Have you ever worshiped in this way? Have you ever exalted in this kind of praise for our God? If you don't consider yourself an expressive person who can praise this way during worship, think back to last time you cheered your favorite

team to victory! Did you ever jump to your feet? Did you ever yell at the top of your lungs? Did you wave your hands above your head?

Consider this seriously - if you are a believer who has known God, walked with Him & felt His Presence...at the end of *your* life, what else could you say, but *Praise the Lord!*

## CONCLUSION

God's physical Presence will be in heaven! We will literally behold His glory! On earth, all worship & praise should be God-centered, "just as it is in heaven." Praise is part of our communion with God. What a privilege - to praise the One who not only gave us life, but also gave His own life that we may spend ours with Him throughout eternity!

Now is the time, the right time to begin practicing that kind of praise!

*Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!  
That means us!*

***Let these verses be a LifeLine for you!  
Let's Learn More, Beginning 9/12/22!***

**THE WORD IS OUR –**

***LifeLine!***

References: biblegateway; today.bju.edu; enduringword.com; christianity.com; crosswalk.com; family-times.net; biblehub; gotquestions.org; av1611.com (AV stands for Authorized Version, & 1611 is the year this Authorized Version of the King James Bible was published. It's a Bible translation primarily used by some Baptists.



Closing, from the June 20, 2022 HomeWord Devotion:

Remember - praise is music to God's ears. God loves to hear His children offer Him praise. How can we make God happy? Praise Him! Why should God be praised? He is our Creator, our Redeemer, & our Comforter. Praise releases the power of God. Praise is our expression of love. Praise is our expression of gratitude for His mighty acts of power & His surpassing greatness. Praise releases *our lives* into the hands of God. Praise releases *the Holy Spirit* within us to call upon His almighty authority. Praise releases *our spirit* to sing of His awesome greatness! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

Followed by...Prayer, with excerpts from Psalm 92 & 150:

Dear Father God,

We give You our praise! It is good to give thanks to You; to sing praises to Your name, O Most High – to declare Your steadfast love in the morning, & Your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute & the harp, to the melody of the lyre. For You, O Lord, have made us glad by Your work. At the work of Your hands we sing for joy. How great are You & Your works, O Lord! Your thoughts are very deep! Let us & everything else that has breath praise the Lord! In the name of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.