

My God, the King

Lesson Scripture: Psalm 145

Focus Scripture: Psalm 145:1, 10-21

Key Verse: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. Psalm 145:13

PSALM 145:1, 10-21 (NRSV UE)

PSALM 145:1

1 I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

10-21

10 All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you.

11 They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power,

12 to make known to all people your mighty deeds and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The Lord is faithful in all his words and gracious in all his deeds.

14 The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

15 The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.

16 You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

17 The Lord is just in all his ways and kind in all his doings.

18 The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

19 He fulfills the desire of all who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them.

20 The Lord watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

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

PSALM 145:1, 10-21 (KJV)

Psalm 145:1

1 I will extol thee, my God, O king; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever.

10-21

10 All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee.

11 They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power;

12 To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom.

13 Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.

14 The Lord upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down.

15 The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season.

16 Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.

17 The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.

18 The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

19 He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.

20 The Lord preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy.

21 My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.

KEY TERMS

- **Exuberance** – A blend of energy and excitement.
- **Sovereignty** – Supreme power and authority, especially of a ruler.
- **Atheist** – A person who denies the existence of God.
- **Skeptic** – A person with doubts about God's existence and claims relating to God.
- **Proffer** – To offer or claim something for acceptance (subject to validation).

INTRODUCTION

All of us, Christians, atheists, skeptics, like to share our life experiences. We share our bad experiences to get sympathy and to prove our ability to survive adversities. Our positive encounters we share eagerly to publicize our blessings and invite others to taste what we tasted.

People who recognize our innate eagerness to share pleasing events and outcomes, expect Christians to delight in

sharing their positive experiences of God's greatness. In the text, we see David's exuberance to share his knowledge and experiences of God. Further, he called everyone to do the same. The text gives insight into what fueled David's eagerness to praise God. As you ponder what the psalmist shared about his mighty

What can we do, individually or collectively, to get where David was in praising God? David was so excited about the greatness of God; he was eager to praise Yahweh routinely wherever he was. A stirring lesson to believers today!

God, consider if the Christians you meet are excited about their relationship with God. The conclusion we get from reading Psalm 145 is that no one could have stopped David from singing God's praises. The world had to know David loved God and wanted the world to love the Lord the same way. This impression challenges us to inquire why so many believers are only lukewarm about praising the great God they serve. What can we do, individually

or collectively, to get where David was in praising God? David was so excited about the greatness of God; he was eager to praise Yahweh routinely wherever he was. A stirring lesson to believers today!

TELLING THE BIBLE STORY

The psalm is easy to analyze as King David laid its foundational plank at the start (verse 1). David is a king, so he knows the power and authority of sovereignty. Therefore, when David acknowledged God as his sovereign, he exalted God light years above all earthly thrones. King David's pledge to serve God forever is a vow to humble himself to the sovereign will of God all his life.

The remainder of Psalm 145 is David's explanation of why he rejoiced in God's sovereignty. Note how God's goodness and faithfulness are recurring themes. It is natural to place unlimited trust and give lavish praise to such a great and faithful God (verses 3-7).

Unlike other psalms that point to specific events, Psalm 145 does not focus on specific historical actions by God. Rather, this psalm speaks of general actions that naturally and consistently flow out of God's character. These are the things God will always do because they are a natural outworking of who God is (145:8-9, 14-20).

Bible students may find it challenging to

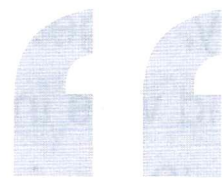
grasp the significance of verses 14-16. To put those verses in their true context, we must look at life in King David's day. At that time, most Israelites were subsistence farmers/herders. Therefore, they had natural concerns about having enough food for themselves and their herds. So, to know a God who would ensure an adequate food supply was an enormous reason for rejoicing and praising. The fact that we have more reliable food supply chains today should

not blind us to the fact that it is the Lord who supplies our needs.

Verses 145:18-19 are pivotal in the psalm. Certain people claim that they do not experience the presence and favor of God. These verses help us to understand why. Contrary to social media's twisted pop theology, God is not

devotionally close to everyone. Look at the traits/qualifications of people who experience closeness with God. As if to bring this principle into the New Covenant age, James 4:8-10 echoes it. God attaches a great premium to humility and honesty.

It is tempting to end our review of this psalm in verse 19. Doing so would be in line



God attaches a great premium to humility and honesty.

with the approach prosperity preachers take today. They emphasize only the “positives of God’s love.” As appealing as that approach is, it is not wholesome. Scriptures like verse 20 tell us God has two hands: a right hand of love and a left hand of judgment. As harsh as it may sound, we cannot ignore, disrespect, or disobey God without dire consequences. God does destroy the wicked. We must always keep this balanced view of God before us.

SANKOFA

In David’s era, a great king was a ruler who cared for his people. In Psalm 145 that is the image David painted of King God. It is an image that believers in general have attested to over the ages. The husband and wife team of Walter and Civilla Martin gave a similar profile of God in the lyrics of the hymn

“God Will Take Care of You.” The story behind this hymn is inspiring.

Walter had a preaching assignment but thought about giving it up because he was concerned about leaving his wife who was sick. Hearing his parents’ concern, their nine-year-old son offered striking advice.

He challenged his father to believe in the majesty and goodness of God. The son’s faith came in a simple question: “Father, don’t you think that if God wants you to preach today, he will take care of mother while you are away?” This settled the matter in Walter’s mind, and he went to the preaching engagement leaving the fate of his sick wife in the hands of God.

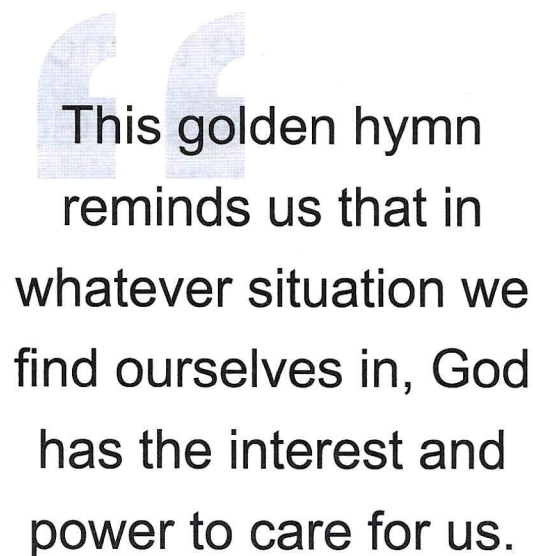
When Walter returned home, not only was his wife in better health, but her son’s

faith had motivated her to write the lyrics to the well-known hymn. The power in the lyrics prompted Walter to put music to them quickly. “God Will Take Care of You” was born. It was published in 1905. Today, mainline Christians still regard this hymn as one of the 20th century’s best-loved hymns of faith and assurance. Its

message echoes the message of Psalm 145. This golden hymn reminds us that in whatever situation we find ourselves in, God has the interest and power to care for us.

CASE STUDY

If you are keen, you will hear between



This golden hymn reminds us that in whatever situation we find ourselves in, God has the interest and power to care for us.

verses 10 and 12 a call for Christians to testify of God's goodness in the ears of people outside the church walls. In verse 10 we see that only people who belong to God will bless him. This makes good sense as people who do not recognize God's majesty cannot see the goodness of God in everyday life. Therefore, we should not look to the skeptics to hear praises to God. It is the believers who must shout the blessings of God. Verse 11 tells us what the testimony of believers will focus on: the glory and power of God and his kingdom.

Verse 12 explains the power and effect of our testimony. This is how people in general, everyone (the sons and daughters of men), hears about the mighty works and glorious majesty of God and his kingdom. Hopefully, the testimonies of the faithful believers will awaken in people the desire to be associated with this great God.

King David's, and later apostle Paul's, ministry efforts came out of this overpowering desire to make the goodness of God known to all people, especially those outside the body of believers. We see this driving desire

throughout the Psalms: 57:9, 62:5, 96:10, 100:4, 119:27. For Paul, we see the same drive in Romans 1:14-16, 1 Cor. 9:19-23, Acts 20:24, and Colossians 1:28-29.

This information shouts a loud message to believers today. We cannot expect the world at large to know of the goodness of God if testimonies about God's goodness are like patent products served in polished packages within the walls of closed-door churches.

We cannot expect the world at large to know of the goodness of God if testimonies about God's goodness are like patent products served in polished packages within the walls of closed-door churches.

Today, we see the push to evangelize through public media promotions. However, available data shows that of the people who come to faith in Christ, the vast majority responded to personal testimonies and invitations from friends and families. Yes, we know that social media

postings, Zoom meetings, and website content can sensitize people to the gospel message. Still, these media do not get people across the line to a personal commitment to Christ. Believers who engage people on a personal level, and share the mighty works of God, are still the greatest way to get people to know about the majesty of God. Without a doubt, personal evangelism (direct person-to-

person witness) is still the most effective way to raise the echoes of praise to our great God. Please underline that!

LIFE APPLICATION

In verse 1 David declares a profound commitment. It is both a daily and lifetime commitment to praise God. Consider what experiences would move a person to such a commitment. Then use that reflection to assess your own resolve to give God praise. Think about how often you actually praise God, and what would have to happen for you to give God meaningful praise throughout your day.

It is obvious from the set text, and related text, that David had a routine for praising God, even when he dealt with affairs of the state. Let this thought inspire you to assess your routine for raising praises to God daily. Our daily praise should not be a diversion (a sideshow) from our daily routine. Rather, giving daily praises to God must be an integral part of our daily activities. Consider what you must do to make this a reality in your life.

Psalm 145 cites core attributes of God.

Make a list of these: “great” (verses 3, 6); “good” (verses 7, 9); and “merciful,” “compassionate” (verses 8, 9). We should not gloss over these or reduce them to one general term. To cement these attributes in your heart, choose one for each day of the coming week and meditate on it. During the meditation, try to find the distinguishing features of each attribute, and why these features are important to the profile of God. The best way to do this assessment is to consider what God would be like without these attributes.

Our daily praise should not be a diversion (a sideshow) from our daily routine. Rather, giving daily praises to God must be an integral part of our daily activities.

Verse 14 challenges the theology of persons who believe that once they are in Christ, life must be rosy, and no trouble can come their way. This verse suggests that even for the godly times of struggle (falling and “bowing down”) will

come. But God is still faithful in those valley experiences. Consider how this sits with your basic theology of God’s protection for the Christian. Do you see that weapons may form against us, but because of God’s protection, those weapons shall not destroy us? Your outlook on this issue will frame your reactions to challenges in your life.

Verse 16 (and Psalm 136:25) proffers that God's provisions "satisfy the desires of every living thing." When you consider the level of hunger and homelessness in your country, and worldwide, how do you make sense of this assertion? Pretend you are a defense lawyer for David, and you must justify that statement. What explanation can you give to yourself and skeptics?

QUESTIONS

1. What is your main motivation for praising God?
2. What is a practical way God helps the faithful in their daily struggles?

3. Why would personal testimony from family and friends be the most effective way to evangelize the world?

CLOSING DEVOTIONS

Closing Hymn: "Be Not Dismayed (God Will Take Care of You)," *AMEC Hymnal* #437

Closing Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, help me to remember that you are indeed King of all kings, President of all presidents, Pastor of all pastors, and Provider of all suppliers. Lord, help me to keep my eyes on you and your boundless goodness in my life. All praises to you, in Jesus' name. Amen!

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

January 27–February 2

Monday	Matthew 11:25-30 (Come, All Who Are Weary)
Tuesday	Psalm 4 (God, Answer Me When I Call)
Wednesday	Luke 18:1-8 (Cry Out Continually for Justice)
Thursday	James 5:13-20 (Pray for One Another)
Friday	Psalm 91 (God Is My Refuge and Fortress)
Saturday	Psalm 92 (God Will Deliver You)
Sunday	Matthew 6:5-15 (The Prayer That Jesus Taught)