

Charles H. Spurgeon described this psalm as "praise pitched in a high key" and declared it to be David's "crown jewel of praise."⁴ This is the last psalm attributed to David and the last acrostic psalm. It is set apart like a jewel between the psalms of ascent, which is the series of psalms the Jews sang on their journeys to the religious feasts in Jerusalem, and the Halal Psalms, the last five psalms, all of which begin and end with Hallelujah. While many of the psalms are songs of praise to God, this one is perhaps the most filled with gratitude. At the same time, it also exhorts us to do something about the gratitude we should have in our hearts.

¹ *I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.* ² *Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.* ³ *Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.* Psalm 145:1-3 The psalmist begins by telling us what His intentions are for this psalm. It is to extol His God and King. The psalms frequently use a double name for God like the psalmist uses God and King here. This double declaration of a personal God has been described as laying hold of God with both hands. Sometimes it is in the form of "my Lord and my God" (Psalm 35:23; 42:11; 43:5). "O LORD my God" is used nineteen times in the Old Testament. Other times it is as in our psalm, "My King and my God" (Psalm 68:24; 84:3; 5:2), or "My Father, my God" (Psalm 89:26), or as in Exodus 15:2, "he has become my salvation; this is my God" (Psalm 27:1, 9), which interestingly for us can be translated, "God has become my Jesus, this is my God." When we pray, we often use "Father, God."

How do you refer to God? I like to use "Lord and Savior." Do you recognize how desperately we need Him and lay hold of Him with both hands, calling on Him as your God and King? Next week, as we continue in Hebrews we will see the emphasis on Him being our Father and our God. Meditating on the names of God is to dwell on our proper relationship to Him. Think about what you are saying when you refer to God. He is eternal. He is our creator. Though we are made in His image, we cannot compare ourselves to Him. When we do, we distort the essence of who He is. The Scriptures tell us clearly that none can compare to Him (Psalm 40:5).

When I hear people tell me they are evolving into a god, I want to ask them when was the last time they made the blind see, walked on water, or told the dead to come to life (Exodus 15:11). In fact, when has any human other than Jesus showed such amazing power? Did any of the so called "ascended masters" claim to have done such things, not to mention the ultimate wonder, physically rising from death (Acts 4:10)?

The psalmist praises the name of God, which is to praise the sum of His attributes. David is not praising God for anything God did, but rather for who God is. That is much higher praise. A person may do a kind deed to you and later betray you. **God is who He is forever and forever holy in all He does.** All good we see in the world is from Him. Every day we should be thanking Him! The last line in verse three says it all, **"His greatness is unsearchable."** We wonder how we could praise Him forever in heaven. It's because we will never come to the end of the greatness being revealed to us. That's

Commented [PW1]: Spurgeon, C.H. *Treasury of David*, Psalm 145

Commented [PW2]: Psalm 35:23 (ESV)
²³ Awake and rouse yourself for my vindication, for my cause, my God and my Lord!

Commented [PW3]: Psalm 42:11 (ESV)
¹¹ Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

Commented [PW4]: Psalm 43:5 (ESV)
⁵ Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

Commented [PW5]: Psalm 68:24 (ESV)
²⁴ Your procession is seen, O God, the procession of my God, my King, into the sanctuary—

Commented [PW6]: Psalm 84:3 (ESV)
³ Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

Commented [PW7]: Psalm 5:2 (ESV)
² Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you do I pray.

Commented [PW8]: Psalm 89:26 (ESV)
²⁶ He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation.'

Commented [PW9]: Psalm 27:1 (ESV)
¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Commented [PW10]: Psalm 27:9 (ESV)
⁹ Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger. O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!

Commented [PW11]: Psalm 40:5 (ESV)
⁵ You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.

Commented [PW12]: Exodus 15:11 (ESV)
¹¹ "Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?"

Commented [PW13]: Acts 4:10 (ESV)
¹⁰ let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.

why the Seraphim are still singing with every glance toward Him through the wings covering their faces, "Holy, holy, holy!" Like the heavenly cloud of witnesses, they can see the whole earth is filled with His glory (Isaiah 6:3). What do you see? The more we mature spiritually, the more we see God at work in the world around us, in nature, in human hearts, in nations, and in the church. In our old nature we see things from a fallen perspective. All we can see is what is wrong with others, with the world, with family, and with the church. In next week's sermon we'll see how spiritually immature that is. God is at work all around us. He's at work in you and me. He's at work in our church. He's at work in our nation and in the world. When your focus is on God, you have a different response to difficulties and the struggles of this life. We can see God working through it all for our good. The psalmist sums it up by saying, "His greatness is unsearchable!" What are you praising your Lord and Savior for today?

⁴ One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. ⁵ On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. ⁶ They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. ⁷ They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. Psalm 145:4-7 All the verbs in these verses imply an ongoing action. Passing on Biblical knowledge and faith in God is a great responsibility of each generation. We must convey what He has done in Scripture and in our own testimonies. Your children may be grown, but that doesn't mean you can't share with them the goodness of God in your life. Some of you have taken the challenge to influence your grandchildren's lives. It is a mandate in Scripture (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)! Influence the generations with the stories in Scripture and how God has blessed your own life. Challenge them to take time with the Lord and praise Him each day, but be sure you are setting the example. As long as we live, we are to continue to tell the next generations of His mighty acts and the glorious splendor of His majesty. This season is a great time to do that! Go around the Thanksgiving table and share how God has blessed you. At Christmas read the account in Luke and talk about the wonder of it and what it means to us today.

Meditate on who God is and what He has done, as that encourages our faith and teaches us of His heart. "Meditate" in this case can also be translated "to speak". The more you meditate on something the more likely you are to speak about it. Let your morning devotions be your meditation throughout the day. Then you know you took what you read to heart. What was your devotional passage this morning? If you can't remember and don't expect it to speak to you through the day, you may have just gone through a routine. Take the thought with you and let it speak to you. Then it is easier to share it.

These who sing of God's righteousness in verse seven must be the generations we share with who will follow our example and speak of God's abundant goodness. We should not be silent about the goodness and righteousness of God (Psalm 71:15). Don't let the culture intimidate you. "Pour forth" is used of a bubbling spring. When we meditate on God's goodness, we can't help but speak of it. And it is contagious! If we

Commented [PW14]: Isaiah 6:3 (ESV)

³ And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

Commented [PW15]: Deuteronomy 6:6-9 (ESV)

⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Commented [PW16]: Psalm 71:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge.

are constantly seeing and sharing the wondrous works of God, the next generation with whom we share will do the same. We've got to pass on our faith!

⁸ The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ⁹ The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. ¹⁰ All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you! Psalm 145:8-10
The LORD (YHWH) is gracious and merciful! Praise the LORD for that! Where would we be if it were not so? Without that mercy and grace we would all be consumed. Thank Him for His wonderful nature. Because He is so gracious and merciful, we should be too. Thank God He is slow to anger. Praise God for His abundant loving kindness (*hesed*)! In our Wednesday night Bible study we are learning that this Hebrew word translated "loving kindness" in the ESV is one of the most common descriptions of the nature of God. That might come as a surprise to some who think the God of the Old Testament is harsh and judgmental. He is the same God throughout eternity, *abounding* in loving kindness. It is how God describes Himself (Exodus 34:6).

That attribute of steadfast love is why He is good to all people and mercy is seen in all creation. This Hebrew word for mercy is used elsewhere of a mother's compassion for her baby. That is humbling to consider that He acts toward us in that manner, but it is also very comforting! All God's works give Him thanks for His goodness and His saints, and that includes all who are in Jesus, bless Him. If you are not giving praise to God, you might check to be sure you have given your heart to Him. His saints bless Him, whether it is Thanksgiving or any other day.

¹¹ They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, ¹² to make known to the children of man 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 kind in all his works.] Psalm 145:11-13
They, the saints of verse 10, the godly ones, not only speak of His goodness, but they tell of the glory of His kingdom and His power. Nothing can stop Him from reigning over His creation forever and ever. Hallelujah! What has His power done in your life? Most of us can declare that sin had enslaved us (John 8:34). We either were so under its spell that we were happily destroying our own lives, or we realized we were slaves and felt powerless to break free (Romans 7:19). But Jesus did what we couldn't do. The power of the cross delivered us from the bondage we were under. Now we can say "NO!" to sin and walk away. That is the mighty deed He did in our lives. He took sinners and made them saints. We stumble at times, but sin no longer has dominion over our lives (Romans 6:14).

I want to interject here, that I included that thought because it was my morning devotion. I'm sharing with you what the Lord spoke to me through His word the morning I worked on this message, because that is what I was meditating on. I'm doing what the psalm is telling us to do, and you can too. Most of the time your morning devotion will come up in your day because God is into details. Isn't He wonderful! And today I read of how He fulfills our godly longings, but we are often to satisfied with the world. May God stir our hearts to desire more of God and to praise Him daily!

Commented [PW17]: Exodus 34:6 (ESV)

⁶ The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,

Commented [PW18]: John 8:34 (ESV)

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.

Commented [PW19]: Romans 7:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

Commented [PW20]: Romans 6:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

These verses (11-13) are the Old Testament Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). It exhorts us to tell of His power. His power conquered death and hell. Atonement, resurrection, and the salvation of souls are His mighty deeds. Speak of the glory of His kingdom. His kingdom is where love reigns, and that is indeed a kingdom of splendor. With all the turmoil about the election, we can tell people that if they want a better leader right now they can move right now into another kingdom. They can enter a kingdom where the Ruler never lies, where the King's love is showered on all His subjects. We know where they can find it. They don't even have to move to Canada (Luke 17:21). They can enter it right where they are. How's is that for good news?

The two lines at the end of verse 13 are found in one Hebrew manuscript and in the Septuagint. It starts with the Hebrew letter *nun*. Without it, one letter would be missing from this acrostic psalm. While it is not in most manuscripts, it is certainly a true statement. The Lord is faithful in all His words. You can count on the declarations in the Word, or as the hymn says, you can stand on His promises. He is kind in all His works. Even the judgment of the wicked is a kindness to the redeemed.

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; you satisfy the desire of every living thing. ¹⁷ The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works. Psalm 145:14-17 The kindness and provision of God are emphasized in these verses. Not only does encouragement and emotional strength come from God, but every living thing is provided its needed sustenance from God's hand. Everything He does is righteous and kind, which can also be translated as holy, gracious, and loving. What a wonderful God we serve!

Do you feel like you are falling or bowed down? If you don't now, you will at some time in your life (Job 5:7). God allows those times to teach us humility and the importance of looking to God for our strength (2 Corinthians 12:9). It may last for a while, but in due season, that is, at the right time, He will give you what you need. His open hand means He is generous. The hand of the Lord possesses all we need, and He promises to give it to you and to every living thing. From other passages we know this is not speaking of any desire, but of the things we truly need and those things that are good for us. He will withhold that which would be harmful because He loves us (James 4:3).

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 those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them. ²⁰ The LORD preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. Psalm 145:18-20 God promises to be close to those who call to Him with an honest heart (Psalm 34:18). What a comforting promise! Those who fear the Lord, who have reverence for His holiness and the honor He deserves, will have their desires met by God. That is because they desire what is good for them spiritually, what is according to God's good will. He delights to give us godly pleasure. When we are young in the Lord we might think that serving God will be so miserable a life that we hesitate to surrender ourselves to God. It does cost us everything (Luke 14:33), but the reward of joy in our soul and the pleasures He does give, not to mention the best thing of all, fellowship with Him, which

Commented [PW21]: Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV)

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Commented [PW22]: Luke 17:21 (ESV)

²¹ nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you."

Commented [PW23]: Job 5:7 (ESV)

⁷ but man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward.

Commented [PW24]: 2 Corinthians 12:9 (ESV)

⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Commented [PW25]: James 4:3 (ESV)

³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

Commented [PW26]: Psalm 34:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

Commented [PW27]: Luke 14:33 (ESV)

³³ So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

is more precious than anything we could ever desire from the world. In fact, as I shared recently, the desires we have for pleasure in the good things of life, are just to whet our appetites for what God has in store for those who love Him.

Like a Father saving His child from danger, the Lord will hear our cry and save us. He may save us miraculously or save us through death (Hebrews 11:39-40). Either way, we are safe. My wife and I watched the amazing true story of Hacksaw Ridge. One medic refused to touch a gun. His conviction was to save lives and not to destroy them. The incredible way in which God protected and blessed Him was simply amazing. It's not a movie for the faint of heart. In an age when religious convictions are ridiculed, this true story encourages us to live our convictions and trust God to be faithful.

God's nature demands that He preserve, which is to watch over and protect, those who love Him. But it is also His nature to judge wickedness. We either love Him, or we hate Him. Loving Him means we will trust in Him to make us righteous in His sight through Jesus' death and resurrection. That will result in our lives being transformed. But if we insist on being our own lord and master, we will hate His insistence on His rightful place as Lord over our lives. It will also mean we hate what He stands for: goodness, righteousness, and truth. In that case, justice demands our punishment.

²¹ My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever. Psalm 145:21 We should commit our lives to speaking the praise of the LORD. He ends the psalm requesting that every person bless God's name (who He is) forever and ever! This psalm started with his example to us saying, *¹ I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. ² Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.* Psalm 145:1-2 That is a way of life, extolling God as your God and King, daily blessing His name forever. Will you commit to do this as the psalmist did? Will you commit to recognizing God at work in the world around you? You won't always see it, but you can always trust that it is true, for He never changes (Hebrews 13:8). We can walk by faith in who He is and praise Him in every situation (Psalm 34:1). The Apostle Paul exhorted us, *¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* 1 Thessalonians 5:18 By faith, will you declare those first two verses with me? Take a moment to decide in your heart if you are in earnest, and if you are, declare it with me.

Questions

- 1 What is the psalmist attempting to do with this psalm?
- 2 Why can't we compare man to God?
- 3 Why should we be thanking God every day?
- 4 What should we focus on in this world?
- 5 What is our great responsibility to the next generation?
- 6 What happens when we meditate on God's Word?
- 7 What is the most commonly noted attribute of God?
- 8 What do saints do every day?
- 9 What are the promises in verses 18-20
- 10 Will you commit to do verses 1 & 2?

Commented [PW28]: Hebrews 11:39-40 (ESV)

³⁹ And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised,
⁴⁰ since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Commented [PW29]: Hebrews 13:8 (ESV)

⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Commented [PW30]: Psalm 34:1 (ESV)

¹ I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.