

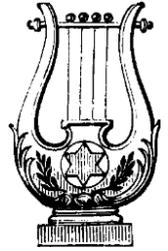


Meeting God in the Psalms

Summer 2017

Psalm 146 Praising the Protector

(sermons: Aug 27)



Psalm 146:1-2 Non-Stop Praise

v.1 *Praise the Lord – ‘Hallelu Yah!’ in Hebrew; ‘Yah’ is God’s special Name, ‘Yahweh’, meaning something like ‘I am who I am’ or ‘I will be what I will be’, as revealed to Moses in Exodus 3:13-14.*

1. What does it mean to ‘praise’ God? Is it easier to do so together than on our own? How much is praise something that we can choose to do, rather than something that happens spontaneously?
2. Do we feel we can praise God on every occasion in our lives? When might it be difficult to praise him? Is praise different from thanksgiving in such circumstances? (see *1 Thessalonians 5:18, Romans 8:28*)

Psalm 146:3-4 Misplaced Confidence

3. Why does the psalmist advise us against putting our trust in human authorities? What are the limits of their power to help us? Where might we misplace our confidence today?

Psalm 146:5-10 Our God the Protector

v.5 *the God of Jacob – Jacob or Israel, whose sons gave their names to the 12 tribes of Israel, so this title calls to mind all God’s actions in the people’s history. Jacob himself was a schemer whose character God transformed.*

v.9 *the alien – the foreigner, or stranger, who is not a Jew, but God still cares for them*

v.9 *the fatherless and the widow – even more vulnerable in Old Testament times than today*

v.10 *Zion – the rock in Jerusalem on which the temple was built; it came to symbolize the nation, especially the nation at prayer*

4. What does the psalmist say about who God is, and what he has done, that means we should put our trust in him? What more do we know from the New Testament?
5. For whom does God have a particular concern?
How does Jesus echo these priorities? (*Luke 4:14-21 quoting Isaiah 61:1-2; Luke 7:21-23*)
6. Can we truly praise God with our words, without following his priorities in our actions?
Which groups in need in our society, even around Taunton, are the same as those mentioned in vv7-9?
What other groups of people are also vulnerable, or may have no-one to stand up for them?
What can we do to show God’s loving care of them, as individuals, as a growth group, as a church, or through involvement in other organizations?
Where might a concern for justice and ‘*frustrating the way of the wicked*’ (v.9) come into this?
7. How should the truths in *verse 10* affect our praise and our lives?

*I'll praise my Maker while I've breath; and when my voice is lost in death,
praise shall employ my nobler powers.
My days of praise shall ne'er be past, while life, and thought, and being last,
or immortality endures.*
Isaac Watts (1674-1748)