

Rhema Christian Center
 Tuesday & Wednesday
 Bible study
 PSALM 145
 September 10 & 11
 Teacher: Eddie Poindexter

A Psalm of Praise, Of David

“Tell of His Might, Sing Of His Grace”

This solo hymn is intended to stimulate the congregation to appreciate and praise God’s ***kingship***. This is the theme explored in this song (hymn).

A ***royal crown*** spells power and exaltation over one’s subjects; it also obligates its wearer to care for their welfare. On these two counts God is praised in altering fashion for His ***greatness*** and ***goodness***.

The Psalm has an exuberant ring, typified by the frequency of the word ***ALL***. Its stress on kingship and the implicit reference to the harvest in (v.15), suggest that it was sung at the autumn festival, The Feast of Tabernacles.

The Feast of Tabernacles is a time of spiritual purification for a man and a woman, to reconcile with God. It’s a season of overwhelming joy. The abundant crops are a reminder of God’s goodness. Israel rejoices in the miraculous protection of God who accompanied them in the desert.

Royal Greatness (vv. 1-6)

Psalms 145:1-6 NIV

[1] I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. [2] Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever. [3] Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. [4] One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. [5] They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty— and I will meditate on your wonderful works. [6] They tell of the power of your awesome works— and I will proclaim your great deeds.

The title **King** broaches the overall theme. The psalmist pledges lifelong commitment to praising God for His self-revelation (**The Lord**).

An initial reason appears in (v.3): the vastness of God's power.

[V.s 3] NIV “Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.”

{V.3} KJV “Great is the LORD, AND greatly to be praised, And his greatness is unsearchable.

(v. 3) MSG “God is magnificent; he can never be praised enough. There are no boundaries to his greatness.

The awe inspired in modern man by the {vast universe} is paralleled here by the reaction to God's magnificent **greatness**.

Romans 11:33, 36 AMPC

[33] Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unfathomable (inscrutable, unsearchable) are His judgments (His decisions)! And how untraceable (mysterious, undiscoverable) are His ways (His methods, His paths)!

[36] For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. [For all things originate with Him and come from Him; all things live through Him, and all things center in and tend to consummate and to end in Him.] To Him be glory forever! Amen (so be it).

The soloist has learned this attribute from the heritage handed down to each fresh generation of his people, the account of his kingly **works** in creation and redemption (Ps. 74:12-17; 95:3-7). To this tradition, every generation was obliged to respond with praise, and the psalmist willingly owns himself as part of this living chain of worship (V.6) “They tell of the power of your awesome works - and I will proclaim your great deeds.

Royal Goodness (VV. 7-9)

Psalms 145:7-9 NIV

[7] They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness. [8] The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. [9] The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

There is a caring side to God's kingship, and this too is part of the heritage, the old God blesses His subjects and is loyal to His royal responsibilities (*righteousness, v.17; 116:5; 143:1*).

The credal statement of (Exodus 34:6 NIV) **“And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love”, is quoted in (V. 8) NIV “The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.**

It was a favorite text of post-exilic Jews. “Steadfast love” (RVS) *is strictly a covenant term*, but it gradually burst into national bonds and was used of God's common grace to **ALL** creatures, as here in the light of (V.9).

The book of Jonah is a commentary of (V.8)

The King of creation is lavish with providential gifts.

Royal Greatness (VV 10-13a)

Psalms 145:10-13 NIV

[10] All your works praise you, Lord; your faithful people extol you. [11] They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, [12] so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. [13] Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.

Accordingly, **all** His creatures are **obliged** to praise, not only His covenant people (Israel).

As **a bearer** of the tradition of God's revelation, Israel is a witness to **neighboring nations** of His power in creation and covenant history.

Their message is that the world is God's realm and that He is implicitly sovereign even **now**.

Daniel 4:3, 17, 34 NIV

[3] How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; his dominion endures from generation to generation.

[17] “‘The decision is announced by messengers, the holy ones declare the verdict, so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of people.’

[34] At the end of that time, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation.

Royal Goodness (VV. 13b-20)

Psalms 145:13b - 21 NIV

[13] Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does. [14] The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. [15] The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. [16] You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. [17] The Lord is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does. [18] The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. [19] He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he 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 in praise of the Lord. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

The divine King is true to His obligation to care especially for the oppressed.

Psalms 72:12-14 NIV

[12] For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help. [13] He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. [14] He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight.

His subjects throughout creation “look” hopefully to Him in dependence, and it is from His generous “**hand**” that all “**food**” comes. It is implied that an acknowledgment of the Provider in praise must complete the cycle of growth and consumption.

From material blessings the psalmist returns to the note of (**V. 14**), specifically mentioning God’s role as a helper in times of danger.

He is ever within earshot of a sincere “**cry**” for help (**Philippians 4:5-6 NIV**)

[5] Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. [6] Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

He fulfills the royal duty to maintain moral order in society, promoting the welfare of the obedient “**who love him**”, and it is implied, who keep His commands

(**Exodus 20:6 NIV**) but showing love to a ***thousand generations*** of those who love me and keep my commandments.

To estimate the number of human generations from the time the Book of Exodus was written to today, we'll need to determine an approximate date for the writing of Exodus and then calculate the number of generations since then.

1. **Date of the Writing of Exodus**:

Scholars generally date the writing of Exodus to around the 13th to 15th century BCE. For the purpose of calculation, let's use 1400 BCE as a midpoint estimate.

2. **Current Year**:

The current year is 2024 CE.

3. **Time Span**:

The time span from 1400 BCE to 2024 CE is approximately 3,424 years.

4. **Average Length of a Generation**:

A human generation is typically considered to be about 25 to 30 years. We'll use 25 years for a more conservative estimate.

5. **Calculating Generations**:

{Number of Generations} = {Total Years} ÷ {Years per Generation} = {3424} ÷ {25}
approx 137 { generations.}

So, there have been approximately **137 human generations** from the time the Book of Exodus was written to the present day.

Therefore, there are approx. 2424 years remaining of God's love being shown to those who love him and keep his commandments.

1 John 5:2 NIV

[2] This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands.

John reverses the approach adopted earlier in which love for one another is evidence that one loves God (4:7-8,20).

One cannot love God and keep his commands without loving the children of God, and one cannot love the children of God without loving God and keeping his commands

1 John 3:23 NIV

[23] And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

There are two parts to the command: believe in Christ and love one another.

The love command is inseparable from the gospel message.

Believing in Jesus involves obedience, including obedience to his command that we love one another.

1 John 3:24 NIV

[24] The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

Believers can be assured that God lives in them and they in him because God has given them the ***Spirit***.

Finally, the psalmist reverts to his opening point (VV1, 2, 6). However his personal “**praise**” is woefully inadequate by itself.

He yearns to stand among a congregation made up of **every creature:**

only God could be worthily honored.

References:

Bibles:

NIV ZONDERVAN STUDY BIBLE

The Full Life Study Bible

KJV Life Study Bible

CHAT GPT