

A PSALM OF PRAISE

Saturday, February 21

Reading: Psalms 145

Psalm 145:1 *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.*

We began this week looking at Psalm 145 and now we will close the week looking at this psalm of praise in more detail. It will help remind us what we are saying when we pray “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth and it is in heaven.”

“Great is the Lord and worthy of praise” (145:3). This psalm declares why God is worthy of our praise and obedience. We can divide these words of worthiness into two sections:

THE GREAT KING (145:3-7). David begins by stating that no one can fathom the greatness of God. It is beyond our comprehension. To the Hebrew mind, God is most clearly seen in what He does. His “mighty acts” and “wonderful works” reveal a God of power and goodness. David’s thoughts would naturally go to his King’s works in creation, but also to His salvation of His people from Egypt and provision of the Promised Land. These stories of God’s love and power were passed down from generation to generation. Now David adds his voice to “speak of the glorious splendor of Your majesty, celebrate Your abundant goodness, and joyfully sing of Your righteousness.” These are not just fleeting words that are soon forgotten. David keeps them in his heart and “will meditate on Your wonderful works.”

We take the love and power of God for granted far too often. When was the last time you sat down and really thought about how great God is? Maybe we read that His greatness is unfathomable and use this as an excuse for not taking time to worship our King as we ought. But even after stating this truth, David wants to know the Lord as much as he possibly can. We need this deep desire to know our King as well.

THE GLORIOUS KINGDOM (145:8-21). What does having a great King mean for those who are part of His kingdom? First it means that we are not dealt with as we deserve. We are all sinners and deserve God’s wrath, but He is “gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love” (145:8-9). It also means that we can trust His promises (145:13) and know that they are right and just (145:17). There are so many wonderful promises in these verses: He lifts up those who fall (145:14). He is near to all who call on Him (145:18). He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him (145:19). He watches over all who love Him (145:20). And since His kingdom and reign will never end, we can take comfort in the abundance and dependence of His goodness and grace (145:13). That’s the King that I will praise forever and ever (145:1-2, 21)! How about you?