

Psalm 146

"Praise to Yahweh Elohim for His Support of the Afflicted and the Down-Trodden"

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A1 THE OPENING CALL TO PRAISE YAHWEH 146:1-2

B1 The Psalmist's Call to Praise Yahweh 146:1

C1 His Call to Corporate Praise: *{1}* Praise the LORD! ¹

C2 His Call to Personal Praise: Praise the LORD, O my soul!

B2 The Psalmist's Life-Long Vow to Praise Yahweh 146:2

C1 To Praise Yahweh: *{2}* I will praise the LORD while I live;

C2 To Sing Praises to His Elohim: I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

A2 THE VALUE OF RELYING NOT UPON MAN, BUT UPON YAHWEH ELOHIM 146:3-9

B1 The Futility of Relying upon Man 146:3-4

C1 The Warning Not to Rely upon Nobility: *{3}* Do not trust in princes,

C2 The Warning Not to Rely upon Impotent, Mortal Man

D1 His mortality: In mortal man,

D2 His impotence: in whom there is no salvation.

¹ 146:1 - Praise the LORD: Heb. *Hallelu-Yahh!* *Hallelu* (praise) is an intensive (Piel) masculine plural imperative. The psalm opens with a corporate call to praise *Yahh*, and it will conclude with the same corporate call. *Yahh* is the abbreviated designation for *Yahweh*.

C3 The Description of Man's Mortality 146:4

D1 His departing spirit: {4} His spirit departs, he returns to the earth;²

D2 His stilled intellect: In that very day his thoughts perish.³

B2 The Blessings of Relying upon Yahweh Elohim 146:5-9

C1 The Statement of Blessing 146:5

D1 From the help of Elohim of Jacob: {5} How blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

D2 From hope in Yahweh His Elohim: Whose hope is in the LORD his God,

C2 The Greatness and Faithfulness of God 146:6

D1 Creator of all 146:6a

E1 Heaven and earth: {6} Who made heaven and earth,

E2 The sea and its contents: The sea and all that is in them;

D2 Eternally faithful: Who keeps faith forever; 146:b

C3 The Compassion of Yahweh for the Afflicted and Downtrodden 146:7-9

D1 Justice for the oppressed: {7} Who executes justice for the oppressed; 146:7

D2 Food for the hungry: Who gives food to the hungry.

D3 Freedom for the prisoners: The LORD sets the prisoners free.

² 146:4 - earth: The term refers not to the planet earth (*'erets*, 776, Gen. 1:1) but to the dust of the ground or soil (*'adamah*, 127) from which man (*'adam*, 120) was made (Gen. 2:7).

³ 146:4 - thoughts perish: The normal Hebrew perspective is that death is the end of things. From the grave one can do nothing, he ceases to exist. "The dead experience no remembrance (Pss. 6:5; 88:12), no thought (Eccl. 9:10), no speech (Pss. 31:17; 94:17), especially no words of praise (Pss. 6:5; 30:9), and no work (Eccl. 9:10)" (Chris Church, "Sheol," *Holman Bible Dictionary*). There are, however, substantial glimmers of the resurrection in the Old Testament: Job 19:25-27; Psalms 16:10-11 (cf. Acts 2:27-28, 31; 13:34-37); 17:15; 49:15; 73:24; Isa. 26:19; Ezek. 37:1-14; Dan. 12:2; Hos. 6:1-2.

- D4 Sight for the blind: {8} The LORD opens *the eyes of* the blind;
146:8
- D5 Elevation for those bowed down: The LORD raises up those who
are bowed down;
- D6 Love for the righteous: The LORD loves the righteous;
- D7 Protection for the aliens: {9} The LORD protects the strangers;
146:9
- D8 Support for the bereaved; He supports the fatherless and the
widow,
- D9 Obstacles for the wicked: But He thwarts the way of the wicked.

A3 THE CLOSING CALL TO PRAISE YAHWEH 146:10

B1 The Grounds for Praise: Yahweh's Eternal Reign

- C1 The Eternal Reign of Yahweh: {10} The LORD will reign forever,
- C2 The Unending Influence of Zion's Elohim: Your God, O Zion,⁴ to all
generations.

B2 The Call to Corporate Praise: Praise the LORD! ⁵

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 146

Prepared by James T. Bartsch
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WordExplain.com
P. O. Box 527
Cottonwood Falls, Kansas 66845
Email Contact: jbartsch@wordexplain.com

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⁴ 146:10 - Zion: It is impossible to worship Yahweh Elohim fully without observing and supporting His connection with Zion.

⁵ 146:10 - Praise the LORD! Heb. *Hallelu-Yahh!* *Hallelu* is an intensive (Piel) masculine plural imperative. The psalm opened with a corporate call to praise Yahh, and it concludes with the same corporate call.