

Psalm 150

"Concluding Commands to All Everywhere to Praise Yahweh!"

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- A1 OPENING COMMAND TO PRAISE YAHWEH: {1} Praise the LORD! ¹ 150:1a**
- A2 PLACES TO PRAISE ELOHIM 150:1b**
- B1 In His Sanctuary on Earth:** Praise God in His sanctuary;
- B2 In His Sky in the Heavens:** Praise Him in His mighty expanse.
- A3 REASONS TO PRAISE YAHWEH 150:2**
- B1 His Mighty Deeds: {2} Praise Him for His mighty deeds; 150:2a**
- B2 His Excellent Greatness:** Praise Him according to His excellent greatness.
150:2b
- A4 WAYS TO PRAISE YAHWEH 150:3-5**
- B1 With Brass:² {3} Praise Him with trumpet sound; 150:3a**
- B2 With Plucked Strings:** Praise Him with harp and lyre. **150:3b**
- B3 With Tambourine and Dance: {4} Praise Him with timbrel and dancing;
150:4a**
- B4 With Strings and Woodwind:** Praise Him with stringed instruments and pipe.
150:4b

¹ 150:1 - Praise the LORD!: Heb. *Hallelu Yahh!* *Hallelu*, Praise!, is an emphatic (Piel) imperative in twelve of the thirteen occurrences of the verb. The only exception is the first part of verse 6, where the verb is a Piel Imperfect, but the sense is virtually the same. The readers / hearers are **commanded** over and over to praise Yahweh!

² 150:3 subtitle - brass: The shophar (ram's horn) was not really brass-plated, but Yahweh did command Moses to make two trumpets of silver (Num. 10:1-2). I am using modern-day music terms for ancient instruments.

B5 With Percussion 150:5

C1 Loud Cymbals: {5} Praise Him with loud cymbals;

C2 Resounding Cymbals: Praise Him with resounding cymbals.

A5 WHO IS TO PRAISE YAHWEH: {6} Let everything that has breath ³ praise the LORD. 150:6a

A6 CONCLUDING COMMAND TO PRAISE YAHWEH: Praise the LORD! ⁴ 150:6b

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 150

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³ 150:6 - everything that has breath: If you are alive, you are responsible to praise Yahweh! One day that command will be obeyed completely!

⁴ 150:6 - Praise the LORD!: Heb. *Hallelu Yahh!* *Hallelu*, Praise!, is an emphatic (Piel) imperative in twelve of the thirteen occurrences of the verb in this psalm. The readers / hearers are **commanded** over and over to praise Yahweh, and this is the concluding command of this psalm and of the entire psalter. What a resounding and fitting climax!