Psalm 150

"Concluding Commands to All Everywhere to Praise Yahweh!"

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- A1 OPENING COMMAND TO PRAISE YAHWEH: {1} Praise the LORD! 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
 - **B5** With Percussion 150:5
 - C1 Loud Cymbals: {5} Praise Him with loud cymbals;
 - C2 Resounding Cymbals: Praise Him with resounding cymbals.

¹ 150:1 - Praise the LORD!: Heb. *Hallelu Yahh! Hallelu*, Praise!, is an emphatic (<u>Piel</u>) <u>Imperative</u> in twelve of the thirteen occurrences of the verb. The only exception is the first part of verse 6, where the verb is a <u>Piel</u> <u>Imperfect</u>, 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.

- **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 (<u>Piel</u>) <u>Imperative</u> 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!