

Psalm 146, Bible Study Outline

By James Moriello, Firm Foundation Christian Church, Woonsocket RI, 2020

1. Authorship: Unknown; traditionally David, others believe it was written later, even during the exile
2. Theme and Occasion: Timeless; nothing in it binds it to a particular time, 146:10, this truth is “forever, to all generations”, Thompsons entitles it “The Happiness of Those Whose Help Is the LORD”,
3. “PRAISE the LORD”, the first of 5 (Psalms 146-150) comprising the “Hallelujah Psalms”, marked by praise, there is always an occasion to sing praises to God, especially so today!
 - a. Note also that all of these Psalms begin and end with the Hallelujah, let us apply, so too does this mark our days from the beginning (Psalm 139:14), throughout life, even to the end of our brief sojourn on this earth (Psalm 116:9-15)
4. 146:1, “O my soul”, the leader of the choir, or of any spiritual exercise (e.g. preaching) must have a humble heart of worship
5. 146:2, “While I live, while I have my being” (Ecclesiastes 9:10; John 9:4), the most excellent service a life of praise, even through sanctification of the whole man (Romans 12:1-2)
6. 146:3-4
 - a. False trusts, in human physicians only (2 Chronicles 16:12), in human power or wisdom unto spiritual drought (Jeremiah 17:5-6), in the goodness of humanity—for men deal treacherously (Jeremiah 17:9; Obadiah 1:7); John 2:24-25
 - b. The rationale, “His spirit departs”, mortality of men, “his plans perish”, the political and economic hopes of men who trust in them are dashed when the leaders are removed from power or pass on to the grave
7. 146:5-6, the contrast, divine hope in the eternal Creator God, and not in one who is created, go back to Jeremiah 17:7-8
8. 146:6-10, Eleven things that the Lord does
 - a. “keeps truth forever” (Psalm 119:89)
 - b. “executes justice for the oppressed” (Deuteronomy 32:4; Revelation 15:3)
 - c. “gives food to the hungry” (Jeremiah 3:15; John 6:35,51)

- d. “gives freedom to the prisoners” (Luke 4:18-19)
 - e. “opens the eyes of the blind” (Luke 4:18-19)
 - f. “raises those who are bowed down” (Luke 13:10-17)
 - g. “loves the righteous” (Job 36:7; Isaiah 3:10)
 - h. “watches over the strangers” (Leviticus 19:34)
 - i. “relieves the fatherless and widow” (Jeremiah 22:16)
 - j. “way of the wicked He turns upside down” (Genesis 3:15; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28)
 - k. “reign forever” (Revelation 11:17, 19:6)
9. 146:10, we end where we began, with a Hallelujah, “Praise the LORD!”