

Greetings, dear reader, in the **Hallelujah Housed** Name of **JESUS!**

Hallelujah!!

It's the one word which is the same in every language, meaning "Praise the Lord!".

In the Hebrew, the Hallelujah psalms (146 to 150) all begin and end with the word "Hallelujah". Similarly we should start and end each day with thoughts and words of praise towards Our Creator.

I cannot resist a personal story here. In my teens, I had plastic and metal "Meccano" sets, with a collection of motors and batteries, and made some interesting devices; by far the most useful device I ever made however, was ...well, I never gave a name to it, but I will call it my "Hallelujah Alarm Clock", or HAC.

I had an old alarm clock which would vibrate strongly on ringing to wake me up in the morning. So I rigged a setup whereby when it rang, it would fall off a smooth metal ledge; in so doing it would pull a string, which would release the energy of a rubber band, which would pull another string which was coiled around the on/off button of an old record player, and turn it on. Handel's Messiah record would be in the player, and the needle of the record player would be set at the Hallelujah Chorus! Hence, during my final year at secondary school, I would wake up every morning to the sound of the Hallelujah Chorus. I like to think this partly explains why that year was one of the happiest of my life - I can testify that it is hard to have a bad day when you wake up to the sound of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus!! Maybe I should have patented the HAC!

Seriously, though, it is good to start and finish a day praising the Lord, as David Himself observed in Psalm 92:

1: It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High:

2: To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.

(Psalm 92:1-2)

Back to the Hallelujah Psalms; we will look at the first one, Psalm 146:

*1: Praise ye the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul.
 2: While I live will I praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.
 3: Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help.
 4: His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.
 5: Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God:
 6: Which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: which keepeth truth for ever:
 7: Which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. The LORD looseth the prisoners:
 8: The LORD openeth the eyes of the blind: the LORD raiseth them that are bowed down: the LORD loveth the righteous:
 9: The LORD preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down.
 10: The LORD shall reign for ever, even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations. Praise ye the LORD
 (Psalm 146)*

10 verses, and 10 reasons to say Hallelujah!

1. **He made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is. (v6).**
2. **He keepeth truth for ever! (v6)**
3. **He executeth judgement for the oppressed! (v7)**
4. **He giveth food to the hungry (v7).**
5. **He looseth the prisoners (v7).**
6. **He opens the eyes of the blind (v8).**
7. **He raiseth up them that be bowed down (v8).**
8. **He loveth the righteous (v8)**
9. **He preserveth the strangers (v9)**
10. **He relieveth the fatherless and the widow, but eh way of the wicked He turneth upside down! (v9)**

Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent Reigneth!

Re:19:6: And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

We look at the next Hallelujah Psalm, Psalm 147:

- 1: Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely.*
- 2: The LORD doth build up Jerusalem: he gathereth together the outcasts of Israel.*
- 3: He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.*
- 4: He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names.*
- 5: Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.*
- 6: The LORD lifteth up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground.*
- 7: Sing unto the LORD with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the harp unto our God:*
- 8: Who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains.*
- 9: He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry.*
- 10: He delighteth not in the strength of the horse: he taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man.*
- 11: The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.*
- 12: Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise thy God, O Zion.*
- 13: For he hath strengthened the bars of thy gates; he hath blessed thy children within thee.*
- 14: He maketh peace in thy borders, and filleth thee with the finest of the wheat.*
- 15: He sendeth forth his commandment upon earth: his word runneth very swiftly.*
- 16: He giveth snow like wool: he scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes.*
- 17: He casteth forth his ice like morsels: who can stand before his cold?*
- 18: He sendeth out his word, and melteth them: he causeth his wind to blow, and the waters flow.*
- 19: He sheweth his word unto Jacob, his statutes and his judgments unto Israel.*
- 20: He hath not dealt so with any nation: and as for his judgments, they have not known them. Praise ye the LORD.*

20 verses, and ...you guessed it!...at least 20 reasons to praise the Lord:

1. It is good to sing praises unto Our God! (v1)

- 2. It is pleasant and comely! (v1)**
- 3. He builds up Jerusalem (ie. us - His people), gathering together the outcasts! (v2)**
- 4. He healeth the broken-hearted and bindeth up their wounds! (v3)**
- 5. He tells the number of the stars; He calls them by all their names! (v4)**

Pause there a moment! Do you know that not only are there billions of stars in the sky, but that they are literally uncountable by humans? Scientists believe that even with perfect telescopes, we would be literally unable to see them all! Yet God not only knows their number, He has a name for each of them! Indeed, He knows the very number of hairs on your head also, which you can't count either!

Continuing with the reasons to praise the Lord from Psalm 147:

- 6. He is Great, and of great power! (v5)**
- 7. His understanding is infinite! (v5)**
- 8. He lifteth up the meek! (v6)**
- 9. He casteth the wicked down to the ground!(v6)**
- 10. He covereth the heaven with clouds, prepares (from them) rain to fall upon the earth, and (hence) causes grass to grow upon the mountains! (v8)**
- 11. He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry! (v9)**
- 12. He delighteth not in the strength of the horse, and He taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man, but He taketh pleasure in them that fear Him, in those that hope in His mercy! (v10,11)**
- 13. Homeowners: He hath strengthened the bars of thy gates! (v13)**
- 14. Parents: He hath blessed thy children within thee! (v13)**
- 15. He maketh peace in our borders! (v14)**
- 16. He fills us with the finest of the wheat! (v14)**

Here in my country Barbados, we can praise God for the relative stability in our democratically elected Government, and for our relatively high standard of living.

**17. He sendeth forth his commandment upon earth: his word
runneth very swiftly. (v15)**

Verses 16 & 17 are more for those in colder countries! (...He giveth snow like wool: he scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes. He casteth forth his ice like morsels: who can stand before his cold?) To continue:

18. None can stand before His power! (v17)

19. Nature obeys His Word! (v18)

The verse actually says that He sendeth out his word, and melteth the snow and the ice, He causeth his wind to blow, and the waters flow. His Word is powerful! Notice that:

20. He has revealed His Word to His people! (v19).

This powerful Word of God, that spoke the stars into being, is resident in its power by His Spirit within us, so that we too by the words we speak, by faith can call things into being things that are not. There is no better way to utilise this gift of faith He has given us, this gift of speaking things into being by our faith, than by praising Our Mighty Creator God with Our lips!
Hallelujah!

The next Hallelujah Psalm in the series is Psalm 148:

1: Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise him in the heights.

2: Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts.

3: Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.

4: Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens.

5: Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created.

6: He hath also stablished them for ever and ever: he hath made a decree which shall not pass.

7: Praise the LORD from the earth, ye dragons, and all deeps:

8: Fire, and hail; snow, and vapour; stormy wind fulfilling his word:

9: Mountains, and all hills; fruitful trees, and all cedars:

10: Beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl:

11: Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth:

*12: Both young men, and maidens; old men, and children:
13: Let them praise the name of the LORD: for his name alone is
excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven.
14: He also exalteth the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints;
even of the children of Israel, a people near unto him. Praise ye the
LORD.
(Psalm 148)*

**14 verses....and ah...you guessed wrong this time!
Not 14 reasons to praise the Lord...
But 14 classes of created entities who/which are to praise the Lord:**

- 1. His angels (v2)**
- 2. All the hosts of heaven in the heights (v1, 2) (NIV: *heavenly hosts*)**
- 3. Sun, moon and all the created bodies in the heavenlies (v3,4)**

*Psalm 148:5: Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded,
and they were created.*

- 4. All creatures in the sea (v7) (the NIV translates this verse: "*you great sea creatures and all ocean depths*").**
- 5. The elements of Nature. (v8) (fire, hail, snow, gases, wind...)**
- 6. The terrain of the earth (v9)**
- 7. All vegetation and plants (v9)**
- 8. Creatures on land (v10)**
- 9. Insects (v10)**
- 10. Birds (v10)**
- 11. Those in authority (v11) (NIV: *kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth*).**
- 12. The youth (v12)**
- 13. The elderly (v12)**
- 14. Children (v12)**

*Psalms:148:13: Let them praise the name of the LORD: for his name
alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven!*

We have reached Psalm 149 in the Hallelujah Psalms (146-150):

***1: Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in
the congregation of saints.***

2: Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.
3: Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp.
4: For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.
5: Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds.
6: Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand;
7: To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people;
8: To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron;
9: To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD.
(Psalm 149)

Nine verses, and...yes, 9 reasons to praise the Lord from this wonderful psalm:

- 1. He made us! (v2)**
- 2. He is Our King! (v2)**
- 3. He takes pleasure in His people! (v4)**

Pause a moment to let # 3 sink in. As we rejoice in God, reciprocally He takes pleasure in us! This thought is echoed wonderfully in Zephaniah also:

Zeph 3:14: Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Zeph 3:15: The LORD hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy: the king of Israel, even the LORD, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more.

Zeph 3:16: In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not: and to Zion, Let not thine hands be slack.

Zeph3:17: The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

As we rejoice in God, and what He has done for us, so too He will rejoice over us! To continue with reasons to praise Him from Psalm 149:

4. He will beautify the meek with salvation! (v4)
5. There is associated joy! (v5)

Pause again, and be reminded of Isaiah 61: 1-3, which was quoted by Our Lord Jesus as being fulfilled in Him:

Isa 61:1: The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

Isa 61:2: To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

*Isa 61:3: To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, **the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness**; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.*

The Lord Jesus wishes to replace a spirit of heaviness with His garment of praise, and thereby to give us a spirit of joy also!

There are innumerable all-powerful reasons for praising Jesus. There will, however, be times when one does not feel like praising the Lord. On such occasions, first, lift your spirit towards praise and worship by beholding Him: **Jesus**. God has only one medicine bottle: **Jesus**. As you meditate on Jesus and forget about your problems, as your vision becomes more filled with Him and less with other things, so your heart will naturally respond to Him. Encourage the well of the Spirit within to release living springs of water. Declare: "**Spring up, O well!**". One can sing a hymn, or a chorus, or compose one's own song. If you trust God for words and melody, pretty soon you will be singing a brand new chorus. God loves to hear us "sing unto the Lord a new song" (Psalm 98:1, 149:1). As one sings a song, old or new, one begins to encourage the indwelling Holy Spirit to knit with our spirit, and the well of water within begins to spring up and pretty soon overflows. If you so do, within minutes, no matter how depressed you may have been, you will begin to experience afresh that "joy unspeakable and full of glory", which is our heritage. Of course, we have a choice, a free will. We may choose to remain depressed, and wallow in self-pity if things are going wrong, but if we thereby ignore the water in the well and go thirsty, that is our fault!

Remember, we are told in I Thessalonians to:

1Thess 5:16: Rejoice evermore.

1Thess 5:17: Pray without ceasing.

1Thess 5:18: In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

In Isaiah 61:1-2 (Cf Luke 4:16-21) Jesus declares that *“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord”*. In quoting this passage (Luke 4) notice Jesus stopped there - He had not yet come to proclaim the day of vengeance of our God - this He will do at His second coming (II Thess 1:7-10). Continuing the reading in Isaiah, notice that Jesus has also been anointed (v3) *to comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.*

The promise that Jesus will give us the garment of praise in exchange for the spirit of heaviness is beautiful! It often happens that one walks into a church service with problems on one's mind, draped with a spirit of heaviness. But as we take our minds off our problems and onto Jesus, as we consider Him, as we begin to thank Him for our salvation, as we begin to bless Him for His goodness, as we begin to lavish our love upon Him, to worship Him, to adore Him, to affirm His Kingship, to exalt His Name which is higher than any other, to declare that He is indeed King of Kings and Lord of Lords, to proclaim His victory, to sing of His glory, to meditate on His love towards us, to rejoice in His presence, to give Him all the honour, glory, blessing, and praise due to His matchless person, to even shout with a voice of triumph... unnoticed, that spirit of heaviness will slide away, nay it will run from off our backs, and in its place will be the garment of praise, and the oil of joy of the Holy Spirit will have replaced mourning. We will have been given beauty for ashes, and comforted. And in all this we shall grow a little taller as trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to the ultimate end that He be glorified.

Don't forget to continually wear that garment of praise!

We continue again with Psalm 149:

*5: Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds.
6: Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand...
(Psalm 149:5-6)*

Notice Psalm 149:6 refers to "high praises" in our mouth, and a two-edged sword in our hand. We know from the New Testament that the true two edged-sword we are to wield is the Word of God:

Ephesians 6:17: And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Hebrews 4:12: For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Coming back to the "high praises" in Psalm 149:6, I believe the Psalm here is referring to warfare praise - i.e. praise that literally drives back the forces of the enemy, ultimately referring to the principalities and powers in heavenly places. I see 4 more reasons to praise the Lord, based on this theme:

- 6. To execute His vengeance upon the heathen and punishments upon the people !(v7)**
- 7. To bind kings with chains, and nobles with iron! (v8)**
- 8. To execute on the enemy the judgement written! (v9)**
- 9. It is an honour we all have! (v9)**

To back up this point, I will include a passage from the book "He came to set the Captives free" by Rebecca Brown. MD, (1992, Whitaker House, pp187-188):

"When you are experiencing pain, depression and exhaustion from being on the battlefield, (or at any other time), don't forget one of our key weapons - praise. I will never forget the night Father taught me that lesson. I had just gone to bed and was tossing and turning, unable to sleep. I was deeply depressed. I was exhausted, in much pain, and everything

seemed so impossible. Actually, what I was doing was having a pity party for me.

Suddenly, Father allowed me to see through the eyes of my spiritual body and I saw that I was on the battlefield, (that is, my spirit body) but I was not fighting. I was down on the ground, surrounded by many demons who were all jeering and throwing stones at me. I did not care. I was so tired that I hoped those demons would kill me, I did not want to live. There was nowhere to run, no way out of the situation except to stand up and fight, but at that point I was too tired and depressed to know what to do.

I do not know how much Elaine knew of what was happening, but I do know that it was in response to a command from Father that she came into the bedroom at that point and put on one of our tapes of Christian music. I was in no mood to listen to music, especially not the tape of all praise hymns that she chose. Elaine did not say anything to me. She simply sat and listened to the music. Gently and persistently the Holy Spirit showed me how wrong my indulgence in self-pity was. Once again, I marveled at how loving and gracious the Lord is when we fail and fall. I could not help but respond to so great love. So, as I started singing along with the tape in my physical body, in the spirit world I struggled to my feet and told the demons I did not care what they did, that I was going to praise my Lord for his incredible love. I lifted my head and hands and arms toward heaven and sang my heart-felt love and worship and praise (in both my physical and spiritual bodies). As I did so, suddenly, in the spirit world, a brilliant white light shone around me. I saw all of the demons fall flat on the ground and then one by one they slunk away into the darkness. Satan and his demons cannot stand in the presence of praise to the Lord. I am sure that is why Paul wrote that much debated scripture in I Thessalonians 5:18:

"In everything give thanks..."

Please note the word is "In" not "For". The worse our circumstances are, the more sure we can be that Satan and his demons are all around us. As we give praise to the Lord, the source of our problems, Satan, will rapidly lose strength and we will gain much blessing.

As you fight in the spiritual realm remember that every weapon and tactic of warfare mentioned in the Bible is available to us. The Psalms are

especially helpful. Don't forget to ask Father to put your feet on "The Rock" which is Jesus, and your back to "The Rock"...."

5: Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds.

6: Let the high praises of God be in their mouth...!

(Psalm 149:5-6)

Have a day filled with high praises as you sing aloud to the Lord even on your bed!

We come to the last Hallelujah Psalm, Psalm 150:

1: Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

2: Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.

3: Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.

4: Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

5: Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.

*6: Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.
(Psalm 150)*

In this wonderful closing Psalm, the last of the Hallelujah psalms, and the last of all the psalms, we are exhorted over and over again to praise the Lord. These praises are to reach Him in His holy sanctuary, the firmament of His power (v1). We are to praise Him for His mighty acts and His excellent greatness (v2). We are to praise Him with all kinds of musical instruments: trumpet, psaltery, harp, timbrel, stringed instruments, organs, cymbals and high sounding cymbals(v3,4,5). We are to give Him praise in dancing (v4). Lastly, if you thought when studying Psalm 148 and the classes of created entities who are to praise the Lord that you were somehow left out, we are told that **everything** that hath breath is to praise Him (v6)! As long as you are breathing (ie. all the time!) you are to praise the Lord! Let's give Him praise! **Hallelujah!**

*Rev 19:1: And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, **Alleluia**; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God...*

*Rev 19:3: And again they said, **Alleluia**...*

*Rev 19:4: And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; **Alleluia**.*

*Rev 19:5: And a voice came out of the throne, saying, **Praise our God**, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.*

*Rev 19:6: And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, **Alleluia**: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.*

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