

LESSON 9

January 26, 2025

Unit II: Our God Reigns

Doesn't Anything Last Anymore?

DEVOTIONAL READING: Hebrews 12:18-29

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Psalm 145

PRINT PASSAGE: Psalm 145:1, 10-21

KEY VERSE

Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations. (Psalm 145:13, KJV)

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Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does. (Psalm 145:13, NIV)

Lesson Aims

As a result of experiencing this lesson, you should be able to do the following:

- Identify the stressors of today's changing times and circumstances.
- Claim security in God's everlasting care and compassion regardless of circumstances.
- Give honor and praise to God for His unchanging concern for His world.

*Key Terms

Everlasting (verse 13)—Hebrew: *olam* (o-lawm'): long duration, antiquity, futurist.

For ever (verse 1)—Hebrew: *olam* (o-lawm'): forever; forevermore; long duration; antiquity; indefinite futurity; perpetually.

Glorious (verse 12)—Hebrew: *kabowd* (kaw-bode'): possessing beauty; worthy of praise; honorable.

Majesty (verse 12)—Hebrew: *badar* (haw-dawr'): an ornament; honor; splendor; dignity.

Upholds (verse 14)—Hebrew: *samak* (saw-mak'): leans; lays; rests; supports; maintains; braces; "upholdeth" (KJV).

Ways (verse 17)—Hebrew: *derek* (deh'-rek): moral administrations; roads; distances; journeys; manners.

Works (verse 10)—Hebrew: *maaseh* (mah-as-eh'): deeds; labors; accomplishments; activities.

*(Word Study Supplement—Refer to page 2)



The Biblical Context

The book of Psalms is the source of multiple themes helpful to believers as they experience life's uncertainties and inevitable transitions. The various authors of this book present a vast array of practical theology embedded in day-to-day reality, expressing the full spectrum of human emotions, experiences, and relationships with God. Their ultimate purpose is to point believers to God's unfailing faithfulness, unalterable sovereignty, and authority and promote the significance of worship. Each of the five sections or books of Psalms contains its unique thematic focus and purpose. Psalm 145 is in the fifth and final book (see Psalms 107–150), which includes praise hymns, thanksgiving, and psalms focusing on God's Word and the importance of genuine worship. Within the broader context, Psalm 145 is a beautiful hymn of praise in line with the overarching themes of worship, praise, and God's exaltation present throughout the book. In the context of this lesson, Psalm 145 celebrates God's great majesty and compassionate care for His creation. It highlights God's faithfulness even amid the realities of the world's constant turmoil and uncertainty.

Introduction

“Everything must change. Nothing stays the same. . . . ’Cause that’s the way of time. No one and nothing goes unchanged.” These lyrics are from a song by Bernard Ighner and have been performed by various artists over the years. The song’s underlying message is a reminder that nothing and no one remains the same over time; all *will* undergo gradual change and transformation. Embedded in this message is the importance of introspection to better understand the human condition and the futility of resisting or denying this natural process. Some reading this narrative know from practical experience that impermanence, the ravages of time, and aging produce irreversible physical and emotional changes in us. However, Ighner’s lyrics also suggest that one of the best decisions we can make is to embrace and adapt to change as a natural part of the human experience. Doing this is easier said than done, depending on the effects that time and aging have caused in one’s life. There is, however, one Source we can turn to for relief and joy amid this ever-changing world of turmoil and uncertainty—our timeless, unfailing, faithful, and unchanging God. He provides comfort and guidance and promises to help us accept, adapt, and persevere through the inevitable changes that come with time, aging, and the world’s uncertainties. We can depend on

His unchanging nature and timelessness (see Psalm 145:1-3; Hebrews 13:8), the promise of strength in our weaknesses (see Isaiah 40:29), comfort and peace during life’s uncertainties (see Isaiah 41:10), and the promise of His help when we seek His guidance through prayer (see Philippians 4:6-7).

ANALYSIS OF THE BIBLICAL TEXT

An Eternal King and Kingdom (*Psalm 145:1, 10-13*)

KJV

I WILL extol thee, my God, O king; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever.

.....

**10 All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee.
11 They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power;
12 To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom.
13 Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.**

NIV

I WILL exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

.....

**10 All your works praise you, LORD; your faithful people extol you.
11 They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might,
12 so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.**

Psalm 145 opens with a *doxology* (a short hymn or expression of praise and glory to God) declaring his intention to exalt and praise God for all eternity (**verse 1**). In verses 2-9 (part of the background Scripture), the writer provides compelling reasons for his continuous praise of God and encourages others to join him. Recognizing God's universal goodness and compassion toward His entire creation, the psalmist acknowledges that all God's works and those who remain faithful to Him will eagerly and wholeheartedly praise Him (**verse 10**). In **verse 11**, the psalmist affirms that God's people praise Him for His inherent qualities, the glory of His everlasting kingdom, and His unmatched omnipotence. Those who belong to God (**verse 12**) intentionally testify to His sovereignty so that all humanity will come to know and acknowledge His mighty acts and the splendor of His kingdom. Finally, the writer underscores essential truths about God and His kingdom (**verse 13**). First, he emphasizes its eternal and perpetual nature, noting that God has ruled over past generations and will continue to reign over those yet to come. Second, the psalmist highlights God's unwavering faithfulness in keeping His promises. Rhetorically, how does this section of the psalmist's praise hymn relate to God's people's finding reasons for joy, hope, and relief in an ever-changing world? In these verses, he underscores God's timelessness, the enduring nature of His kingdom, and His faithfulness to all generations. Therefore, believers who reflect on, meditate upon, and embrace these spiritual principles by faith will find a sense of security in God's enduring care and boundless compassion, regardless of their circumstances.

? WHAT DO YOU THINK?

How would you explain that knowing God intimately is a primary solution to experiencing a sense of security in our unstable and ever-changing world?

A Benevolent Provider (*Psalms 145:14-21*)

KJV

14 The LORD upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down.
15 The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season.
16 Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.
17 The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.
18 The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.
19 He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.
20 The LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy.
21 My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.

NIV

14 The LORD upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.
15 The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time.
16 You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.
17 The LORD is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does.
18 The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.
19 He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.
20 The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.
21 My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

The psalmist continues to extol the greatness of God, His kingdom, and His faithfulness. In these verses, he acknowledges God's compassionate benevolence and grace toward all His creation. He portrays God as a steadfast pillar of support for the needy and oppressed, the provider for those who trust Him, and the sustainer of all living things (**verses 14-16**). In **verses 17-18**, the psalmist reaffirms God's unwavering righteousness, faithfulness, and responsive presence among those who genuinely seek Him. He continues by proclaiming that God will fulfill the desires, answer the prayers for help, and shield those who reverence and love Him (**verses 19-20a**)—while rejecting the wicked (**verse 20b**). The writer concludes his praise by committing to glorifying God and summoning every living being to join in universal worship (**verse 21**). In summary, due to God's moral perfection and reliability, He consistently demonstrates compassionate care and concern for the needy, responds to pleas for help and deliverance, and metes out righteous judgment against the wicked. Yet, He remains the source of inner peace and relief for those who place their confidence in His faithfulness to His promises. Therefore, despite the challenges of an ever-changing world marred and plagued by turmoil, pain, struggles, and unprecedented evil, believers can rely on God's eternal omnipotence, omnipresence, and omniscience to sustain and protect them.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Psalm 145 begins with praise. Why should praise be our initial response to turmoil and uncertainty?

A Closing Thought

Psalm 145 is a hymn of praise that celebrates God's greatness and goodness, and the enduring nature of His kingdom. In this context, it is also a source of encouragement for the faith community as we experience the fallout of an ever-changing world of chaos and trouble. The psalmist points to God as the ultimate source of hope and deliverance because of His mighty acts, His compassionate care and concern for all He created, His trustworthiness, His attentiveness to the prayers of those who respect and call on Him in faith, and His integrity; the psalmist committed to praising Him perpetually.

Your Life

As you reflect on Psalm 145, you may be inspired to seek a closer relationship with God. To do so, consider these words from James 4:8a (NKJV): "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." Make a list of the spiritual disciplines (e.g., praise, prayer, fasting, etc.) that could enhance and deepen your relationship with Him. Select and start this week. HINT: Begin with wholehearted praise and worship.

Your World!

Although it is not explicitly named, evangelism is an embedded principle in this psalm (verses 11, 12, and 19). Therefore, consider how every aspect of your worship service can become more focused on lifting up the name of the Lord. Nothing in worship should block the message of salvation, soul winning, and helping people to experience God's presence. Every church should evaluate their ministries by whether the worship draws people to a closer, more authentic experience with God.

Closing Prayer

Dear God, we desire to follow the psalmist's example and give You perpetual praise while relying on You for security and relief in times of uncertainty and struggle. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Conclusion

(Preparing for Next Week's Lesson)

Ponder this question as you prepare for next week's lesson: "What did Jesus mean by 'for give us our debts' in the Model Prayer?" Read Matthew 6:5-15.

Home Daily Bible Readings

MONDAY, January 27	"Come, All Who Are Weary"	(Matthew 11:25-30)
TUESDAY, January 28	"God, Answer Me When I Call"	(Psalm 4)
WEDNESDAY, January 29	"Cry Out Continually for Justice"	(Luke 18:1-8)
THURSDAY, January 30	"Pray for One Another"	(James 5:13-20)
FRIDAY, January 31	"God Is My Refuge and Fortress"	(Psalm 91)
SATURDAY, February 1	"God Will Deliver You"	(Psalm 92)
SUNDAY, February 2	"The Prayer that Jesus Taught"	(Matthew 6:5-15)