

LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Psalms Series

These questions are for the **September 3, 2023** message, "The climax of praise." Please read the sermon passage (Psalm 149-150) together out loud.

Passage Outline

AS WE BEGIN AND END WITH HALLELUJAH, NOTE . . .

1. The corporate worship our LORD deserves. (149:1-4)
 - a. The LORD instructs that we bring "new songs" worthy of our victorious King.
 - i. These songs are directed to "our Maker," who created all things. (Psalm 40:1-3)
 - ii. These songs are directed to "our King," who rules over all things.
 - b. These songs are sung by God's people, who gather together to praise him. (Ex 15:2)
2. The certain justice our LORD delivers. (149:5-9)
 - a. Those who persist in rebellion will experience "vengeance," and "punishment."
 - b. The cross of Jesus is full of justice (he paid our penalty) and grace (provides life for those who trust him). (Heb 4:12; Rev 19:15)
3. The absolute greatness our LORD possesses. (150:1-2)
 - a. We worship God alone, praising him in his sanctuary.
 - b. Because he alone has done these excellent deeds, revealing his excellent greatness.
4. The comprehensive ways our LORD is honored.
 - a. Tune all the various instruments to play and praise our LORD.
 - b. Play them excellently, vigorously and corporately.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: God is constantly at work, providing new reasons and seasons to raise songs to him, our victorious King! If you were a skilled songwriter, what would be the lyric / tone of your song of salvation? What would be the occasion of a "new song" of God's victorious power that has occurred in your life in the last year or two?
2. Based on #2, above: Those who persist in rebellion will experience vengeance and punishment from the LORD. How does coming judgment fuel your soberness, faithfulness and prayers?
3. Based on #3, above: The LORD is sovereign and high above all creation. His greatness is the highest greatness, for it is "excellent." This means that sickness, affliction, trials, want, waiting and even rebellion is far lower, and we can worship him even while dealing with these things. What lower issues sometimes distract you from his excellent greatness? Discuss this: it is not trying harder which corrects us but experiencing / savoring his excellent greatness.
4. Based on #4, above: The LORD specifically inspired these psalms which prescribe and command vigorous crashing cymbals and dancing, among other things. While we do not aim to be a church which will add dancing to our worship services, nevertheless, God commands it. Why do we resist this command so much? Do you think some of our traditions frustrate obedience? How can Psalm 150 reduce our fear of those who express worship sincerely, but differently?