

Psalm 145:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

This opening verse of Psalm 145 declares the fundamental human duty: 'I will extol thee, my God, O king; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever.' The word 'extol' (Hebrew 'romem') means to lift up, magnify, and celebrate. The parallel action 'bless thy name' emphasizes speaking well of God, recognizing His character and works. The double assertion 'for ever and ever' expresses an eternal intention beyond mortal limitation. This introductory verse establishes the psalm's central theme: perpetual praise directed toward God's kingship and nature. By designating God as 'my God' and 'my King,' the psalmist establishes a personal covenantal relationship while acknowledging divine sovereignty. This is both intimate ('my God') and majestic ('my King'). The commitment to praise 'for ever and ever' transcends temporal limitations, reflecting the theological reality that God's worthiness for praise is not contingent on circumstances.

Historical Context

Psalm 145 is an acrostic psalm (each verse beginning with successive Hebrew letters, though verse 14 is missing in the acrostic), indicating careful literary construction for liturgical memorization and recitation. This alphabetical structure was common in wisdom and instructional literature. The psalm is attributed to David ('A Psalm of David') and appears to have served as a template for praise across Israel's worship history. The personal intimacy combined with universal scope suggests a post-exilic composition or compilation, when dispersed Israel could affirm their relationship with God despite political dispersion. Ancient Jewish

sources (Talmud Brachot 4b) consider this psalm particularly significant, noting that 'whoever says the Hallel [praise psalms] three times daily is assured of a place in the world to come.' The designation as a 'Psalm of David' connects it to Israel's ideal king, whose reign is remembered as a model of righteousness despite his failures.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to 'extol' God, and how does this differ from mere belief or intellectual assent?
2. How can the human intention to praise God 'for ever and ever' be reconciled with the brevity of mortal life?
3. What is the significance of addressing God as both 'my God' (personal relationship) and 'my King' (universal sovereignty)?
4. Why does the psalm open with declaration of praise rather than petition or lamentation?
5. In what ways does personal commitment to praise ('I will extol thee') shape our understanding of worship as intentional action rather than mere emotion?

Interlinear Text

לְעֹלָה מֵשׁ מִבְּרָכָה הַבָּרָךְ הָנָה לְנָה אֶלְלוּתִי אֶרְוֹמָמָךְ
I will extol thee my God O king and I will bless thy name for ever
H7311 H430 H4428 H1288 H8034 H5769

וְלֹא
and ever
H5703

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 45:6 (Kingdom): Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.

Psalms 30:12 (References God): To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever.

Psalms 34:1 (Blessing): I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Psalms 45:1 (Kingdom): My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.

Psalms 30:1 (Parallel theme): I will extol thee, O LORD; for thou hast lifted me up, and hast not made my foes to rejoice over me.

Psalms 44:4 (Kingdom): Thou art my King, O God: command deliverances for Jacob.

Matthew 25:34 (Kingdom): Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Revelation 19:16 (Kingdom): And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Isaiah 33:22 (Kingdom): For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us.

Psalms 100:1 (Parallel theme): Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.