

# Psalm 146:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD shall reign for ever, even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations. Praise ye the LORD.

## Analysis

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The final verse of Psalm 146 expands scope and declares eternal praise: 'The LORD reigneth for ever, even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations. Praise ye the LORD.' The assertion 'The LORD reigneth for ever' (YHWH malach le'olam) makes the theological claim that God's kingship is eternal and unchanging. 'Even thy God, O Zion' personalizes this universal principle to Israel's identity - Zion (Jerusalem) represents God's chosen people and dwelling place. The phrase 'unto all generations' emphasizes the perpetual nature of God's reign across successive ages of human history. The concluding 'Praise ye the LORD' circles back to the opening (verse 1), creating structural unity. This verse answers the challenge implied in verse 3: though princes fall and human beings return to dust, God's kingdom continues. The theological trajectory of the psalm becomes clear: humans should trust God because God, not human leaders, ultimately determines reality's structure. Praise is therefore not obsequious flattery toward a distant ruler but joyful alignment with ultimate reality.

## Historical Context

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The phrase 'The LORD reigneth' appears prominently in Psalm 93 and in later Jewish liturgical practice, becoming a key theological affirmation. The designation of Zion as God's dwelling place stems from 2 Samuel 5:7 (David's conquest) and is developed throughout the Psalter and prophetic literature. In post-exilic Judaism, when Jerusalem was ruined and under foreign rule, the affirmation that 'The LORD reigneth' in Zion spiritually restored what politics had destroyed. During

Hellenistic and Roman occupations, this verse maintained the theological claim that despite visible political reality, God's reign continued through Zion. The phrase 'unto all generations' connects this psalm to the covenantal theology of Deuteronomy and the Prophets, where God's promise extended beyond individual lifespans. In rabbinic Judaism, the principle that 'The LORD reigneth' became the foundation for the daily recitation of the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4), affirming God's unity and kingship. Early Christians reading this would have understood it in light of Jesus's announcement of the 'kingdom of God' and the future 'kingdom come' (Matthew 6:10).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. What does it mean that 'The LORD reigneth' eternally when we live in a world of temporal powers and shifting circumstances?
2. Why is Zion specifically identified as the locus of God's reign, and how does this relate to contemporary faith?
3. How does the perpetual reign of God 'unto all generations' provide hope in times of social upheaval?
4. In what ways does ending the psalm with praise rather than petition reflect the theological conclusions about God's supremacy?
5. How should the affirmation of God's eternal reign affect our participation in and response to earthly political systems?

## Interlinear Text

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|             |             |          |              |          |             |
|-------------|-------------|----------|--------------|----------|-------------|
| יְמִילֵךְ   | הָיָה       | לְעוֹלָם | אֱלֹהֵיךְ    | צָדִיקָה | יְמִילֵךְ   |
| shall reign | The LORD    | for ever | even thy God | O Zion   | generations |
| H4427       | H3068       | H5769    | H430         | H6726    | H1755       |
| בָּרוּךְ    | תְּהִלָּה   |          |              |          |             |
| Praise      | ye the LORD |          |              |          |             |
| H1984       | H3050       |          |              |          |             |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 10:16** (Kingdom): The LORD is King for ever and ever: the heathen are perished out of his land.

**Exodus 15:18** (Kingdom): The LORD shall reign for ever and ever.

**Revelation 11:15** (Kingdom): And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

**Daniel 6:26** (Kingdom): I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.

**Daniel 7:14** (Kingdom): And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

**Isaiah 12:6** (Parallel theme): Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.

**Isaiah 9:7** (Kingdom): Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

**Joel 3:17** (References God): So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.

**Daniel 2:44** (Kingdom): And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

**Isaiah 40:9** (References God): O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

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