

# Psalms 150:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.

## Analysis

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The final verse of the Psalter, and the final verse of Scripture's book of praise, completes the great doxology: 'Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD. FINAL VERSE OF PSALTER.' The universality of this call is absolute: 'every thing that hath breath' (kol-neshama) encompasses all living creatures. The command 'praise the LORD' is not limited to humans, conscious believers, or the righteous - all living beings are called to participate in universal praise. The doubling of 'Praise ye the LORD' at the verse's end emphasizes this ultimate call. The theological claim is staggering: the purpose of all existence, summarized in the final verse of Scripture's wisdom and prayer literature, is to praise God. This is not peripheral to creation's meaning but central. Every creature that breathes participates in or is called to participate in praising God. This vision encompasses all creation: beasts of the field, birds of the air, creatures of the water, humanity - all have breath and all are called to praise. The verse represents the ultimate summation of biblical theology: creation exists to glorify God, and praise is the fitting human and cosmic response to this reality.

## Historical Context

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Psalm 150 functions as the grand conclusion not just to individual psalms but to the entire Psalter. The division into five books (Psalms 1-41, 42-72, 73-89, 90-106, 107-150) suggests intentional editorial compilation. Psalm 150 appears to be the final psalm added to provide a triumphant, universal conclusion. The vision of universal praise draws together themes from throughout the Final Hallel: heavenly

praise (Psalm 148), God's covenant with His people (Psalms 147, 149), and now universal praise of all creatures. This represents an eschatological vision: in the end times, all creation will recognize God's glory and offer praise. The Mishnah (Tamid 5:1) records that this psalm was sung in the Second Temple as the final hymn, making it the literal conclusion to daily temple worship. In Jewish liturgy, it remains the final blessing psalm in morning prayer. For Christians, this verse points toward the ultimate vision in Revelation 5:13, where 'every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them,' praise God. The positioning of this verse as the final biblical voice before the New Testament represents a theology of universal worship.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. What does it mean that 'every thing that hath breath' is called to praise the LORD?
2. How can creatures without conscious will (animals, inanimate creation) participate in praising God?
3. Why does the Psalter conclude with a call to universal praise rather than with specific petitions or lamentations?
4. In what ways does this final verse provide theological summary of all that precedes it?
5. How should the vision of universal praise of God affect our understanding of creation's purpose and our participation in that purpose?

## Interlinear Text

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לְכָל

בְּשָׁמָה

פָּלֹא

לְהָ

פָּלֹא

לְהָ

H3605

Let every thing that hath breath

H5397

Praise

the LORD

H1984

Praise

the LORD

H1984

H3050

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 145:21** (Resurrection): My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.

**Psalms 103:22** (References Lord): Bless the LORD, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the LORD, O my soul.

**Revelation 5:13** (Parallel theme): And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

**Psalms 145:10** (Resurrection): All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee.

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