

**Praise the God of Victory  
Psalm 149  
Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025  
By Ryan Perry**

**Scripture**

**Psalm 149**

***[1] Praise the LORD!***

***Sing to the LORD a new song,***

***his praise in the assembly of the godly!***

***[2] Let Israel be glad in his Maker;***

***let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!***

***[3] Let them praise his name with dancing,***

***making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!***

***[4] For the LORD takes pleasure in his people;***

***he adorns the humble with salvation.***

***[5] Let the godly exult in glory;***

***let them sing for joy on their beds.***

***[6] Let the high praises of God be in their throats***

***and two-edged swords in their hands,***

***[7] to execute vengeance on the nations***

***and punishments on the peoples,***

***[8] to bind their kings with chains***

***and their nobles with fetters of iron,***

***[9] to execute on them the judgment written!***

***This is honor for all his godly ones.***

***Praise the LORD!***

**Let's Pray**

**Introduction**

**Opening Illustration**

Over the past couple of weeks, there have been two events that have happened that have really brought home to me a very real struggle that we all experience in the Christian life.

The first happened on Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, when we had the joy of seeing 5 people baptized in the Lord. And if you were there, you know that it was this beautiful and joy-filled occasion where we got to see the reality of our new life in Christ, displayed through this visible act of being immersed in water (which represents our becoming dead to sin) and coming out of the water (which represents are new and forever life with Jesus).

**And we were all able to rejoice together because of the awesome work of salvation that God had done in each person who was baptized.**

However, if we fast forward to this past Wednesday, we got to experience another event that was anything but joyful. As a mass shooter opened fired on a catholic school and church in Minneapolis, killing an 8-year-old, a 10-year-old, and injuring 18 others who were mostly students.

It's an event that is so heinous and sickening that it leaves many of us with a profound sense of sadness and loss as we try to understand how someone could even do something like that.

When we put these two events together, we get the two extremes of the Christian life. Both the joy and wonder at the gift of new life in Christ, while at the same time being confronted with the sobering reality that we still have to live in a sick and fallen world, where sin and death reign.

**Because of this, we can be tempted to grow weary and joyless in our faith despite the truth that God has given us a new and forever life in Christ.**

**So the question before us this morning is:** How do we combat that? How do we fight against growing weary in the face of evil, and how can we continue to pursue joy in the Lord, in a world where evil, sin, and death are all around us?

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### The Psalm

These are the questions we will be looking to answer in Psalm 149 this morning.

Now, there is not a lot of background information given for this particular psalm, but some commentators believe that it was written in the time of Nehemiah, when God had brought the Israelites out of exile from Babylon and had restored them to their land.

If this is true, then on the one hand, they would be rejoicing in God because of his mighty work of deliverance from slavery. And yet, on the other hand, they would be struggling because they are still ruled by a foreign nation and people who hate them.

**They would have been a mixed bag of emotions as they experienced both the joy of their physical salvation and the fear and weariness associated with living under foreign and godless rulers.**

So the psalmist, whoever it is, writes Psalm 149 as a way to encourage the Israelites in their circumstances by calling them to praise God.

Now, this psalm is considered a victory psalm, where God's people are called to praise him for their present deliverance and for the future victory he will bring to them when all of their enemies are destroyed and peace reigns in their land.

For many of the Israelites, they would understand this **deliverance** to be freedom from physical slavery, and **future victory** as a time when the enemies of God are destroyed through the physical nation of Israel.

**And yet, we know, as New Testament believers, that this psalm has its ultimate fulfilment in Christ.** The one who bought eternal deliverance for us, and who one day will come back to subdue the nations and draw his people to himself forever.

So, as we walk through Psalm 149, my hope is that we will also be encouraged in our faith and our circumstances as we take seriously this **call to praise God in light of our present deliverance and the future victory that he has given to us through Christ.**

To that end, I have 4 points for us to consider from this psalm this morning. The first one gets to the heart of what the psalmist is calling us to do.

## **Praise God together**

### **Psalm 149:1-3**

***[1] Praise the LORD!***

***Sing to the LORD a new song,***

***his praise in the assembly of the godly!***

***[2] Let Israel be glad in his Maker;***

***let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!***

***[3] Let them praise his name with dancing,***

***making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!***

## **Text**

The opening and closing phrase of this psalm is “Praise the Lord!” That’s important because it really brings home the point that this Psalm is about praise, and that it is something we are called to do.

Now, this phrase in Hebrew is actually where we get the word “Hallelujah,” and it points to the idea of boasting in, raving about, or celebrating and worshiping God.

So the people of God are supposed to excitedly celebrate and worship God according to this Psalm. **But this isn’t a command that is isolated to Psalm 149.**

This phrase, “praise the Lord” or its equivalent “Hallelujah,” is used around 250 times between the Old and New Testaments.

So exuberant praise and celebration are meant to be an important part of the worship of God. **But what is that supposed to look like in our lives?**

**First**, at the end of verse 1, we are told that it is to be done in the “assembly of the godly.” Where the Israelites were supposed to gather at the temple to praise and worship God together, we are called to praise God every time we gather and assemble as his church.

## **Mini-Application**

Which means that gathering together for worship wasn't optional for the Israelites, and it isn't optional for us. As the writer of Hebrews says in Hebrews 10:24-25:

***[24] And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, [25] not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.***

Praising God and worshipping together as a church is commanded and is necessary.

### **Text**

**Second**, when we gather as a church, we are called to praise him in song. This involves singing to the Lord a **new song, dancing**, and the use of instruments like the **Tambourine and lyre**.

Those words: new song, dancing, Tambourine, and lyre are important for at least two reasons:

**One, they point us to the importance of music in the lives of God's people.** Now, this is seen in the fact that musicians are a prominent and important part of temple worship in the Old Testament. But this is also unpacked further in the New Testament by Paul in Colossians 3:16 when he says:

***[16] Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.***

Music and singing are used by God, in the church, to teach us and to encourage us in the truths of scripture as they point us to Jesus.

**Two, these words also tell us that the kinds of songs we are supposed to sing are songs of victory.** In scripture, every time you see the phrase "new song," it is primarily connected with the victory of God over his enemies, and the same thing is true when the Israelites praise him with dancing and the tambourine.

We can see this as Miriam leads the women in the praise of God after the Red Sea crossing in Exodus 15:20:

***[20] Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing.***

So it is important for us to gather as a church, to praise God while we teach and encourage one another through song. And we should be singing victory songs about our new life in Christ (Which we will talk about in a moment).

**When we do this, the psalmist says that it will result in us being a people who are glad or happy in our Maker, and who rejoice and find their joy in our King, Jesus.**

## Application

So if you are struggling or are feeling weary or joyless in your faith, my encouragement to you is to continue to make gathering with God's people a priority, and invest yourself in the genuine praise of God through the cross-centered songs we sing here at LEFC. Because it not only honors God and gives him the praise he deserves, but he uses them to encourage us in our faith and to produce gladness and joy in our lives.

Which brings us to our second point, where we begin to unpack the victory that God has given us.

**Praise God because he has delivered us through Christ.**

**Psalm 149:4**

***[4] For the LORD takes pleasure in his people;  
he adorns the humble with salvation.***

**Illustration:**

I don't consider myself someone who very often gets sucked down the rabbit hole of internet videos; however, if the internet algorithms start giving me a steady diet of videos where people are restoring rusty old tools, cars, appliances etc..., I'm hooked.

I remember one particular video where this person was restoring an **old miner's lantern**. This thing was completely rusted inside and out, it was full of dirt, the glass was broken, and on the surface, it seemed impossible to repair and restore.

**But this person saw something different.** So they meticulously took the whole thing apart, they gently and thoroughly cleaned every single piece, they sand blasted all the rust off, they polished every part until it shined, they replaced the glass and broken wires, and they greased and painted every surface, they gave it a new battery and light bulb, and put it back together so that it was once again beautiful and useful as a lantern.

They took something that was broken down and ugly, and instead of throwing it, gave it some TLC and restored it to its original glory.

**Text:**

In a similar fashion, the psalmist is telling the Israelites that God **"adorns"** them or **"makes them beautiful."** But instead of simply uncovering the beauty that lies under the surface of their lives, God is giving them something that makes them beautiful in his sight.

**He grants them salvation or deliverance.** For the Israelites at that time, this would have been their deliverance from slavery in Persia. Because it would have been a confirmation to them that God loved them, that he was still their God, and they were still his people.

This is confirmed in the book of Ezra as the people praised God after they came out of exile and once again laid the foundation of the temple. As it says in Ezra 3:11:

***[11] And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD,***

***“For he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel.”***

So instead of living with the identity of a slave or captive, they have now been adorned with the beauty of deliverance, which is a confirmation that they belong to God, they are his people, and he sees them as beautiful in his sight. **Therefore, God now delights in them as his people.**

**Christ:**

Similarly, we were spiritually dead and held captive by the power of sin in our lives. And according to Ephesians 2, we were all on a path of disobedience that was leading us straight to death and eternal wrath, and we could do nothing about it.

There was nothing beautiful, lovely, or praiseworthy within us because all that existed was slavery, sin, and death. However, that all changes in verse 4 of Ephesians 2, where we now get to the beautifying and adorning work of deliverance and salvation that God does for us. Here's what it says:

**Ephesians 2:4–6**

***[4] But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, [5] even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—[6] and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,***

God could have left us in the ugliness of our sin, slavery, and spiritual deadness. But because he is rich in mercy, he chose to love us by sending his son Jesus Christ to die in our place so that we could be freed from the power and penalty of sin.

So we are no longer slaves destined for wrath, but we are now God's children, in whom he delights, because we are his new creations who are filled with the beauty of new life in Christ.

**Application**

The reason that this psalm tells us to praise God for our salvation is that we can so easily forget what God has done for us when we are dealing with tragedies like school shootings or cancer, or even when we are just trying to make it through the hard and daunting grind of our daily lives.

We can forget his mercy, we can forget his great love for us, and we can forget that, through Christ, he has made us his children whom he loves and in whom he delights.

Therefore, we need to be a church that continually celebrates God's great work of salvation in our lives.

We need to celebrate his love for us and we need to remember the work he has done for us through Christ, so that we can live with the confidence that he will never leave us, he will never let go of us, and he will accomplish his great salvation purposes in our lives and in the world.

This brings us to the victory portion of Psalm 149. Look with me at verses 5-9

**Praise God because he will be victorious through Christ.**

**Psalm 149:5-9**

***[5] Let the godly exult in glory;***

***let them sing for joy on their beds.***

***[6] Let the high praises of God be in their throats  
and two-edged swords in their hands,***

***[7] to execute vengeance on the nations  
and punishments on the peoples,***

***[8] to bind their kings with chains  
and their nobles with fetters of iron,***

***[9] to execute on them the judgment written!***

***This is honor for all his godly ones.***

***Praise the LORD!***

**Text**

I want you to know that this will be the shortest point in the sermon. Not because it isn't important. It is unbelievably important. But it's also something we have touched on a lot in this Psalms series.

What we have here is a picture of God's future victory. The day when God executes his vengeance, punishment, and judgments on all those who are evil and don't worship him as God. This includes nations, peoples, kings, nobles, and even the spiritual rulers of Satan and his demons. **No one who opposes God will escape.**

And the reason that I have highlighted both verse 5 and 9 is because they help us to see two amazing truths about this future victory to come.

**First**, in verse 5, we get this vision of God's glory and his presence that is so all-consuming that his people will not only rejoice in him, but they will sing to him on their beds.

When we look at how beds are generally talked about in scripture, many times it isn't a place of singing, but instead it is a place of weeping and moaning. As in Psalm 6:6, where David writes:

***[6] I am weary with my moaning;***

***every night I flood my bed with tears;***

***I drench my couch with my weeping.***

But now, instead of it being a place of sadness, worry, and anxiousness for God's people, it will be a place of singing and total peace when he judges the nations and wins the final victory for his people.

And if that doesn't incite excitement and confidence in God's final victory over evil, then verse 9 should. Because the psalmist is telling us that God will execute a judgment on the world that he had already planned and written.

God didn't just decide that he would finally do away with evil. No, it has been his plan from the beginning of time. This is seen in the words of Solomon in Ecclesiastes 3:17 when he writes:

***[17] I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work.***

God has always had a perfectly timed plan for when he will rescue his people and bring final judgment on the earth.

### **Application**

Therefore, we need to sing songs of praise to our God because he is going to bring that promised final victory through Christ. As Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:57:

***[57] But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.***

We don't need to live in fear, we shouldn't grow weary, and we don't need to ask questions like, **"who will bring true justice in the face of the horrific events that happened this past Wednesday?"** Because the answer is already given, **"God, in the end, will bring justice and victory because he is powerful, and he planned it from the beginning of time."**

**And one day we will all eternally sing for joy in our beds as God's glory and peace fill the whole world.**

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But as exciting as this final victory will be, there's one crucial aspect that I think we don't often think about.

You see, when we think about eternity and God's final victory over sin, death, and Satan, we tend to view it like the battle of David and Goliath.

God, through Christ, is like David, and he is the one who is fighting the final battle while we are merely spectators off in the corner, like Israel.

And when it comes to God's saving us through Christ, that is absolutely true. We couldn't save ourselves, and we needed to be rescued.

But now that we are children of God, we are not simply called to be spectators. **Instead, we have the privilege of being participants.** Look with me at Psalm 149:6-9 again.



**Praise God because we get to participate through Christ.**

**Psalm 149:6-9**

***[6] Let the high praises of God be in their throats  
and two-edged swords in their hands,***

***[7] to execute vengeance on the nations  
and punishments on the peoples,***

***[8] to bind their kings with chains  
and their nobles with fetters of iron,***

***[9] to execute on them the judgment written!  
This is honor for all his godly ones.***

***Praise the LORD!***

What we have in these verses is a picture of God's people prepared for battle. We are an army going out for war with God's praises pouring out of our mouths, and two-edged swords in our hands.

And verses 7-9 make it clear that God will be using us, his people and army, to execute vengeance, punishment, and judgment on the world. This is confirmed by the verses I read two weeks ago from Revelation 19. Let me read some of them again.

**Revelation 19:13-15**

***[13] He (Christ) is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. [14] And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. [15] From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.***

You and I are a part of the armies of heaven, and one day we will be arrayed with fine linen, we will be following behind Christ on white horses, and we will be singing his praises as we go out to fight a cosmic battle that will result in victory as God makes all things new and reigns with us as his people forever.

**If that doesn't give us a desire to praise God and sing Hallelujah, I don't know what will.**

And yet, the good news of the cross tells us that we don't have to wait for that final day to participate with Christ in the great army of God. Rather, we are participating with him in his victory-bringing and kingdom-restoring work right now.

Because when Psalm 149 talks about God's people having two-edged swords in their hands, the New Testament applies that language to the Word of God.

As the author of Hebrews says in 4:12:

***[12] For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.***

## **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**

***[3] For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. [4] For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. [5] We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,***

We are not simply left to cower in the corner or just accept the fact that evil, sin, death, and tragedy will exist until Jesus returns.

Instead, we are called by God, through Christ, to use the weapons of his warfare, the living, active, and divine word of God, to expose people's thoughts and hearts, to destroy the evil strongholds of Satan, and to set captives free in and through the power of the gospel, so that God's kingdom will advance until the day he returns.

## **Conclusion**

Therefore, we should not grow weary and nor should we lose our hope and joy in God. Rather, we should praise him, sing to him, celebrate him, and shout his name and fame to the ends of the earth.

Because our God through Christ has delivered us from the power of sin, slavery, and death. He has chosen to delight in us as his people, and he has given us the assurance that there will be a day when we will participate with him in the promised and eternal victory of the Lamb.

But until then, he has given us the great task and the divine power, by His Spirit, to destroy evil, to tear down spiritual strongholds, and to set dead captives free with the living and active word of God.

So let's not allow ourselves to fear, to worry, or to lose hope. Instead, let's sing our songs of victory, let's give him our hallelujahs, and let's be a people who, in all things, Praise the Lord!

**Let's pray.**