

## **The Unsearchable Riches of Christ**

(Psalm Book Five (3) – Psalm 135 to Psalm 150)

### **THE CONSUMMATION**

#### **I. Exhortation to praise and to give thanks to the LORD based on past experiences**

##### **(Psalms 135 to 136)**

##### **A. Psalm 135 – A call to praise and to bless the LORD**

1. To the servants who stand in the house of God (vv. 1-2; Psa. 134:1-2)
2. For His goodness in His sovereign election (vv. 3-4; Eph. 1; 1 Pet. 2:9-10)
3. For His greatness manifested in His creation (vv. 5-7; Psa. 148:1; 96:4; 99:2; 145:3; Rom. 1:20; John 1:1-4; Col. 1:15-17)
4. For His mighty deeds (vv. 8-18)
  - a. Saving His people out of Egypt with signs and wonders (vv. 8-9; Exo. 9:13-16)
  - b. Smiting mighty kings and many nations – Sihon & Og (vv. 10-11; Num. 21:21-26, 33-35; Deut. 3:11; Eph. 6:10-13)
  - c. Giving the promised land to His people as a heritage (v. 12; Col. 1:12-13; 2:6-7)
  - d. His faithfulness, judgment, and compassion (vv. 13-14; Deut. 32)
  - e. Eliminating all the idols (vv. 15-18)
5. Bless the LORD from Zion (vv. 19-21; Psa. 115:9-11; 118:2-4)
  - a. The household of Israel, of Aaron, and of Levi
  - b. The ones who fear the LORD
  - c. The LORD, who dwells in Jerusalem

## **B. Psalm 136 – Thanksgiving to the LORD for His everlasting loving-kindness**

1. Giving thanks to the living God who is the God of gods and the Lord of lords (vv. 1-3)
2. For His great power and wisdom manifested in His wonderful creation (vv. 4-9)
3. For redeeming His people out of Egypt, through the wilderness, into the good land (vv. 10-22; Deut. 4:34; 7:21; 11:2-7)
4. For His mercy and compassion (vv. 23-26)

## **II. Maturing through experience (Psalms 137 to 139)**

### **A. Psalm 137 – Being absolute for Zion**

(Psa. 69:9; Zech. 1:14; 8:2)

1. Reminiscing the negative experience of Babylon (vv. 1-3)
  - a. The tower of Babel (Gen. 11:1-9) – signifying confusion, division, dispersion, mixture, and idolatry
  - b. The captivity (Psa. 126; Isa. 15:7)
  - c. Babylon the Great (Rev. 17:1-6, 9, 15, 18)
2. The faithfulness to Jerusalem (vv. 4-6; Psa. 48:1-2; 132:13-14; Isa. 62:1-7)
  - a. The choice of the Lord (Deut. 12:5; Ps. 132:13-14)
  - b. The unique ground of oneness (Ps. 133; 1 Cor. 1:10; 12:25a; Eph. 4:3-6, 13)
  - c. For the building up of God's house (1 Tim. 3:15-16)
  - d. The heavenly Jerusalem in the New Testament age (Gal. 4:21-31; Heb. 11:10; 12:22-23; Rev. 21)
3. Reminding the LORD to judge Edom and Babylon (vv. 7-9; Obadiah; Isa. 13; Rev. 14:8; 16:19; ch. 17-18; 19:1-3; Psa. 74, 79)
  - a. The sons of Edom – the descendants of Esau, the brother of Jacob (Rom. 9:13; Mal. 1:2-4; Obadiah; Isa. 34:5-10)

- b. The daughter of Babylon (Isa. 47:1; Rev. 14:8; 16:19b; 18:1-7, 18-24; 17:16-17)

## **B. Psalm 138 – Gaining confidence in the living God**

1. Giving thanks with all our hearts (vv. 1-3)
  - a. Singing praises to God before the gods (Psa. 97:7; 136:2; 1 Sam. Ch. 5)
  - b. Worshipping toward the holy temple and giving thanks to His name
    - For His loving-kindness and truth
    - For magnifying His word on behalf of His name
    - For answering prayers
    - For His strengthening
2. Having a clear view of the coming age (vv. 4-7; Psa. 72: 7-11; Zech. 8:20-23; Isa. 60:3-5; Rev. 11:15; 21:24)
  - a. All the kings of the earth shall praise the LORD
  - b. They will sing of the ways of the LORD
  - c. They will behold the glory and the exaltation of the LORD
    - Who regards the lowly (Psa. 10:17; 25:9; 136:23; 149:4; 1 Pet. 5:5)
    - Who resists the proud (Psa. 18:27; 101:5; 147:6; James 4:6)
3. Having absolute trust in the loving-kindness of the LORD (vv. 7-8)
  - a. To save us to the uttermost from our enemies
  - b. To perfect His work in us (Phil. 1:6)

## **C. Psalm 139 – Attaining to the excellence of the knowledge of the living God**

1. His omniscience (vv. 1-6)
2. His omnipresence (vv. 7-12)
3. His omnipotence in His creation (vv. 13-16)
4. The treasure of His divine wisdom and knowledge (vv. 17-18)
5. Being fully one with God's judgment (vv. 19-22)
6. Being fully transparent to God (vv. 23-24)
7. Walking in the everlasting way

### **III. Psalms 140 to 145 – Offering up incense to God through unceasing prayers**

(Rev. 5:8; 8:3-5; Luke 1:8-10)

#### **A. Psalm 140 – Praying for deliverance and preservation**

1. From evil, violent, wicked, and proud men (vv. 1-5)
2. Experiencing God as the strength of salvation (vv. 6-8)
3. Praying for judgment against the enemies (vv. 9-11)
4. Knowing the LORD and living in His presence (vv. 12-13)

#### **B. Psalm 141 – Offering up incense for God’s enjoyment**

1. Incense – the sweet savor of Christ offered up to God (vv. 1-2)
  - a. The compound of the incense (Exo. 30:34-38)
  - b. The golden censers – the prayers of the saints (Rev. 5:8; 8:3-5; Luke 1:8-10)
  - c. The golden incense altar (Exo. 30:1-10; Heb. 9:3-4; Rev. 8:3)
2. Setting a guard over the lips and the heart (vv. 3-4; Prov. 4:23)
  - a. From the defilement within (Matt. 12:34; Luke 6:45)
  - b. From the evil things without
3. Prayer against the wicked deeds of evil men (vv. 5-7)
4. Fully trusting in the living God for salvation (vv. 8-10)

#### **C. Psalm 142 – Experiencing the living LORD as the only help in time of trouble (a maskil)**

#### **D. Psalm 143 – Praying with a humble desire to know the living God**

1. Appealing to the faithfulness and righteousness of God for deliverance (vv. 1-6)

- a. Not based upon our own righteousness (v. 2; Rom. 3:20; Job 15:14-16)
  - b. The vicious attack of the enemy (vv. 3-4)
  - c. Reminiscing the past experiences for comfort and strength (vv. 5-6)
2. Crying out to the LORD for a speedy reply (vv. 7-12)
    - a. Desiring to hear His speaking
    - b. Desiring to be taught by Him – to know His way and to do His will
    - c. Desiring to be led by His Spirit
    - d. Desiring to glorify Him

**E. Psalm 144 – Blessing and worshipping the living LORD who answered the prayers**

1. Subjective enjoyment of the LORD as the Almighty One (vv. 1-2; Psa. 18:2)
2. Humbling oneself before God (vv. 3-4)
3. Commanding the LORD to come down and destroy His enemies (vv. 5-8)
4. Singing a new song unto the living God for His deliverance (vv. 9-11)
5. The blessings of the people, whose God is the Lord (vv. 12-15; Ps. 33:12)

**F. Psalm 145 – The praises of the saints offered up as the rich incense for God’s enjoyment and glory (in alphabetical order in Hebrew, in which only the letter “Nun ך” is omitted)**

1. His greatness and awesome acts (vv. 1-7)
2. His loving-kindness and mercy and the glory of His kingdom (vv. 8-13)
3. His righteousness and faithfulness to all of His creation (vv. 14-21)

#### **IV. Psalms 146 to 150 – The universal and unending praise to the LORD God for the fulfillment of His eternal purpose**

(Rev. 4:2, 9-11; 5:11-14; 7:9-12; 11:15-18; 12:10; 14:1-3; 15:1-4; 19:1-9)

##### **A. Psalm 146 – Praising the Lord God, Who reigns forever** (Luke 1:31-33; Rom. 15:12; Rev. 11:15; 19:11-16)

1. From Zion
2. He is our only help
3. He is the faithful one
4. He will judge the wicked

##### **B. Psalm 147 – Praising God for building up Jerusalem, the City of God**

(Gal. 4:25-31; Heb. 11:8-10; 12:22-24; Rev. 3:12)

1. Gathering all the outcasts and the scattered ones (vv. 1-6)
2. The restoration of all things (vv. 7-11)
3. The glory of the city (vv. 12-20)

##### **C. Psalm 148 – The whole creation praising God for the manifestation of the glory of the sons of God** (Rom. 8:19-21)

##### **D. Psalm 149 – The praises of the godly ones, reigning with the LORD over the nations** (Rev. 5:10; 20:4)

##### **E. Psalm 150 – Let everything that has breath, praise the LORD!**