

A BIBLICAL STUDY ON PRAISE
LESSON NINE: PRAISE IN DOXOLOGIES

by Sandy Harber

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:14

If you were searching for verses that reference "praising the Lord" you would, no doubt, look in the book of Psalms first. The Hebrew title for Psalms means "praises." Psalms is a book of praises to and about the God of the Bible. We get our English word "Psalms" from the Greek title "Psalmos," which indicates "sacred songs sung to musical accompaniment." This collection of 150 psalms, or songs, is divided into five "books." Each book ends with a doxology. A "doxology" is a song or prayer that praises God for His power or glory. "Doxologies" literally means "glory words." These praise verses that complete each book of the Psalms bring glory to God.

The five divisions are as follows: Book 1: Psalms 1-41 - Doxology: Psalm 41:13. *"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen."*

Book 2: Psalms 42-72 - Doxology: Psalm 72:19. *"And blessed be his glorious name for ever; and let the whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen, and Amen."*

Book 3: Psalms 73-89 - Doxology: Psalm 89:52. *"Blessed be the Lord for evermore. Amen, and Amen."*

Book 4: Psalms 90-106 - Doxology: Psalm 106:48. *"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting; and let all the people say, Amen. Praise ye the Lord."*

Book 5: Psalms 107-150 - Doxology: Psalm 150. *"Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord."*

The first three doxologies end with a double "Amen." The Hebrew word "Amen" means "truly; it is so; truth." The Hebrew "Amen" is transliterated into the Greek and English languages. However, in the New Testament the Greek "Amen" is often translated "Verily" in our English Bibles. Twenty-five times in the Gospel of John Jesus says "Verily, verily" this or that (John 6:26; 8:58). He is stressing that what He is saying is true. Literally, He is saying, "Amen, Amen, I say unto you" etc. (John 5:24). When God says "Amen" it means "it is and shall be so." When man says "Amen" it means "so let it be." Man is agreeing with God that the statement is true. The doxologies in Psalms, then, are emphasizing the truth of the praise statements that went before the double "Amen."

The Psalm doxologies move from praises by an individual in books one through three to an invitation for all people to join in praising God in books four and five. Book four ends with "Amen" and "Hallelujah" (Praise ye the Lord). Book five ends with "Hallelujah" (Praise ye the Lord). Note that Psalm 150 in its entirety is the doxology which closes out the whole book of Psalms.

Doxologies, or glory words, are found in the New Testament, as well. For example, take a look at the following verses: Luke 2:14; Rom. 11:36; 16:27; Gal. 1:5; Jude 24-25. The book of Revelation contains three doxology passages: Rev. 1:4-7; 5:9-14; 15:3-4. Note that the last two doxologies were sung by the raptured Church and the Tribulation saints respectively. Praise lends itself to music. The praises of His people are a sweet sound in the ears of our God. Scripture admonishes us to sing psalms, hymns, and spirituals songs (Eph. 5:19). Music that comes from the heart brings joy to our Lord. Let your praises be framed in glory words that delight your Heavenly Father.

"To whom be glory forever and ever. Amen." Galatians 1:5