

## Psalm 146: 1-10 (ESV): Put Not Your Trust in Princes

**Main point:** Trust in God, not in man.

**Open with a short prayer, inviting God to teach us.**

**Background:** A praise song.

### Focus of the study:

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup> I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

<sup>3</sup> Put not your trust in princes,

in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

<sup>4</sup> When man's breath departs, he returns to the earth;

on that very day a man's plans perish.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the Lord God,

<sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth,

the sea, and all that is in them,

who keeps faith forever;

<sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed,

who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

<sup>8</sup> the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

the Lord loves the righteous.

<sup>9</sup> The Lord watches over the sojourners;

The Lord upholds the widow and the fatherless,

but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

<sup>10</sup> The Lord will reign forever,

your God, O Zion, to all generations.

Praise the Lord!

### Questions:

1. *What is the instruction that the writer gives at the start of this psalm? How often is this instruction repeated?*
  - a. Praise the Lord! Repeats "praise" 4 times in the first 2 verses
2. *For how long is the writer going to praise the Lord?*
  - a. v. 2: "as long as I live", "while I have my being"
3. *So that's the writer's attitude as he starts this psalm: Praise God! That's the most important thing I can do in my entire life! What is the next instruction for the reader?*
  - a. v. 3: put not your trust in princes or men – *I wonder what that means? Who are "princes" and "sons of men"?*
    - i. People who appear to be powerful here on earth



4. *But what does the writer say is true about every single human being?*
  - a. v. 4: “when man’s breath departs, he returns to the earth” – in other words, when a man dies, that’s it. He has no more power.
5. *Then the writer turns from human rulers (princes) to God: what does the writer say is true about God?*
  - a. v. 6: God made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them
    - i. *What does this include?* Look around ... use descriptions...
  - b. God keeps faith forever
    - i. *How faithful is God? For how long will God be with you?*
  - c. v. 7: God executes justice for the oppressed
    - i. *Who is the only one who judges fairly every single time, who looks out for the downtrodden?*
  - d. God gives food to the hungry, sets prisoners free
    - i. *What does it mean to be hungry, or to be a prisoner? (Literal and figurative.) What is it like when you’re chained up? And then how does it feel to be freed?*
  - e. v. 8: God opens the eyes of the blind, lifts up those who are bowed down
    - i. *How does God take care of people? How has God taken care of you in your life?*
  - f. v. 9: God watches over the sojourners
    - i. *What’s a sojourner?* Traveler, wanderer, someone not at home.
      1. *Have you ever felt like you’re not really “at home”? Not settled?*
      2. *Where and with Whom is our true, eternal home?* With God in heaven
  - g. v. 9: God upholds the widow and the fatherless
    - i. *What’s it like for widows and fatherless?* Sadness, powerlessness, feeling alone.
    - ii. *What does God do for those people?* Upholds them – in the palm of his hands – safe, secure, seen, taken care of
6. *Will any president, dictator, king or queen on this earth rule forever? What has eventually happened to every president, dictator, king or queen since time began?*
  - a. They all pass away – “When man’s breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish”
7. *So why do you think we should not put our trust in earthly rulers?*
  - a. People, even powerful people, cannot save in any permanent way
    - i. Back to the beginning of this psalm, v. 3: “in whom there is no salvation”
  - b. These “powerful people” only have temporary power; they have no power in or compared with God’s eternal kingdom
8. *Who will reign forever and ever?*
  - a. v. 10: “the LORD will reign forever, to all generations”
9. *So how trustworthy and safe is God for your life today AND for your eternal salvation?*
10. *What should be our response to this good news?*
  - a. Again back to verse 1: Praise the Lord! *What would you praise the Lord for today? (generate as many ideas as possible)*

- Ask for any other prayer requests for today.
- Close in prayer, naming people and needs listed.
- End with a song, e.g., first verse of Amazing Grace

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