Psalm 146

"Praise to Yahweh Elohim for His Support of the Afflicted and the Down-Trodden"

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A1 THE OPENING CALL TO PRAISE YAHWEH  146:1-2

B1 The Psalmist's Call to Praise Yahweh  146:1

C1 His Call to Corporate Praise:  {1} Praise the LORD! ¹

C2 His Call to Personal Praise:  Praise the LORD, O my soul!

B2 The Psalmist's Life-Long Vow to Praise Yahweh  146:2

C1 To Praise Yahweh:  {2} I will praise the LORD while I live;

C2 To Sing Praises to His Elohim:  I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

A2 THE VALUE OF RELYING NOT UPON MAN, BUT UPON YAHWEH ELOHIM  146:3-9

B1 The Futility of Relying upon Man  146:3-4

C1 The Warning Not to Rely upon Nobility:  {3} Do not trust in princes,

C2 The Warning Not to Rely upon Impotent, Mortal Man

D1 His mortality:  In mortal man,

D2 His impotence:  in whom there is no salvation.

C3 The Description of Man's Mortality  146:4

D1 His departing spirit:  {4} His spirit departs, he returns to the earth;²

D2 His stilled intellect:  In that very day his thoughts perish.³

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¹ Psalm 146:1 - Praise the LORD:  Heb. Hallelu-Yahh! Hallelu (praise) is an intensive (Piel) masculine plural Imperative. The psalm opens with a corporate call to praise Yahh, and it will conclude with the same corporate call. Yahh is the abbreviated designation for Yahweh.

² Psalm 146:4 - earth:  The term refers not to the planet earth ('erets, 776, Gen. 1:1) but to the dust of the ground or soil ('adamah, 127) from which man ('adam, 120) was made (Gen. 2:7).

³ Psalm 146:4 - thoughts perish:  The normal Hebrew perspective is that death is the end of things. From the grave one can do nothing, he ceases to exist. "The dead experience no remembrance (Ps. 6:5; 88:12), no thought (Eccl. 9:10), no speech (Ps. 31:17; 94:17), especially no words of praise (Ps. 6:5; 30:9), and no work (Eccl. 9:10)" (Chris Church, "Sheol," Holman Bible Dictionary). There are, however, substantial glimmers of the resurrection in the Old Testament: Job 19:25-27; Psalms 16:10-11 (cf. Acts 2:27-28, 31; 13:34-37); 17:15; 49:15; 73:24; Isa. 26:19; Ezek. 37:1-14; Dan. 12:2; Hos. 6:1-2.
B2  The Blessings of Relying upon Yahweh Elohim  146:5-9

C1  The Statement of Blessing  146:5

D1  From the help of Elohim of Jacob:  \(5\) How blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

D2  From hope in Yahweh His Elohim:  Whose hope is in the LORD his God,

C2  The Greatness and Faithfulness of God  146:6

D1  Creator of all  146:6a

E1  Heaven and earth:  \(6\) Who made heaven and earth,

E2  The sea and its contents:  The sea and all that is in them;

D2  Eternally faithful:  Who keeps faith forever;  146:b

C3  The Compassion of Yahweh for the Afflicted and Downtrodden  146:7-9

D1  Justice for the oppressed:  \(7\) Who executes justice for the oppressed;  146:7

D2  Food for the hungry:  Who gives food to the hungry.

D3  Freedom for the prisoners:  The LORD sets the prisoners free.

D4  Sight for the blind:  \(8\) The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;  146:8

D5  Elevation for those bowed down:  The LORD raises up those who are bowed down;

D6  Love for the righteous:  The LORD loves the righteous;

D7  Protection for the aliens:  \(9\) The LORD protects the strangers;  146:9

D8  Support for the bereaved:  He supports the fatherless and the widow,

D9  Obstacles for the wicked:  But He thwarts the way of the wicked.
A3 THE CLOSING CALL TO PRAISE YAHWEH 146:10

B1 The Grounds for Praise: Yahweh's Eternal Reign

C1 The Eternal Reign of Yahweh: {10} The LORD will reign forever,

C2 The Unending Influence of Zion's Elohim: Your God, O Zion, to all generations.

B2 The Call to Corporate Praise: Praise the LORD! 5

4 Psalm 146:10 - Zion: It is impossible to worship Yahweh Elohim fully without observing and supporting His connection with Zion.

5 Psalm 146:10 - Praise the LORD! Heb. Hallelu-Yahh! Hallelu is an intensive (Piel) masculine plural Imperative. The psalm opened with a corporate call to praise Yahh, and it concludes with the same corporate call.