

In the Gospel We Receive Hope (*The Praise of Hope*)

April 2, 2023 ▪ Brad Manley

Why hope fuels praise.

Why the object of hope matters.

Psalm 146:1-10

¹ Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

² I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

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

³ Put not your trust in princes,

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

⁴ When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;

on that very day his plans perish.

⁵ Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the LORD his God,

⁶ who made heaven and earth,

the sea, and all that is in them,

who keeps faith forever;

⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed,
 who gives food to the hungry.
 The LORD sets the prisoners free;
⁸ the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
 The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
 the LORD loves the righteous.
⁹ The LORD watches over the sojourners;
 he upholds the widow and the fatherless,
 but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
¹⁰ The LORD will reign forever,
 your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD! (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: Why is hope so essential to us as human beings?

Read & Discuss: Psalm 146:1-10

1. The central affirmation of this Psalm is in verse 5. What might be the significance of referring to God and “the God of Jacob”? What other words would you use to express the idea of “blessed”? Why do you think the psalmist makes “help” and “hope” parallel to each other in this verse?
2. The psalmist expresses his determination to practice life-long praise of God (v. 2). How might such a commitment affect a person’s spiritual life? How would you put this verse into your own words?
3. What reasons does the psalmist give for warning the people of God not to trust in princes (vv. 3-4)? In applying this to the context of our culture (rather than princes), what things or people might we be tempted to trust? Why is hoping in such things vain?
4. In verses 6-9, God is described as one who graciously provides for His people. This is in contrast to the situation of the wicked, whom He will “bring to ruin.” (v. 9c). How does this section of the psalm fuel hope for the believer? How do these truths encourage you even when life becomes difficult?
5. In contrast with princes, whose “breath departs” and “plans perish ” (v. 4), the “Lord will reign forever” (v. 10). How does this truth enhance the blessedness (or happiness) of the believer? What in this psalm especially motivates your heart to praise Him?
6. ***Read Romans 5:3-5 & 15:13 and Colossians 1:5-8, 27.*** How would you explain the hope we have as believers in Christ, which Old Testament people of God would not have fully understood? In what ways is the hope that Christians hold to different from how the world might define “hope”?

Apply: How should the hope we have in Christ shape the way we go through life each day?

Pray: Pray we would be people who live with confident hope in God. Pray as well that God would save many as the Gospel is shared in many churches this Easter—both at here at home and around the world.