

הללו (תהלים ק"נ) - Hallelu (Psalm 150)

Source Sheet by Alex Hamilton

(1) Hallelujah. Praise God in God's sanctuary; praise Adonai in the sky, Adonai's stronghold. (2) Praise Adonai's mighty acts; praise Adonai and their exceeding greatness. (3) Praise Adonai with blasts of the horn; praise Adonai with harp and lyre. (4) Praise Adonai with timbrel and dance; praise Adonai with lute and pipe. (5) Praise Adonai with resounding cymbals; praise Adonai with loud-clashing cymbals. (6) Let all that breathes praise the Adonai. Hallelujah. (7) Let all that breathes praise the Adonai. Hallelujah!

(א) הִלְלוּ יְהוָה | הִלְלוּ-אֵל בְּקִדְשׁוֹ
הִלְלוּ וְהוֹ בְּרִקיעַ עֲזוֹ: (ב)
הִלְלוּ-וְהוֹ בְּגִבוֹרֹתָיו הִלְלוּ וְהוֹ
כָּרֹב גְּדִלוֹ: (ג) הִלְלוּ-וְהוֹ בְּתִקְעַת
שׁוֹפָר הִלְלוּ וְהוֹ בְּנִבְלִים וְכִנּוֹר: (ד)
הִלְלוּ-וְהוֹ בְּתִנְיֹתַי וּמַחֲזֵלֵי הִלְלוּ וְהוֹ
בְּמִנִּים וְעוּגָב: (ה) הִלְלוּ-וְהוֹ
בְּצִלְצְלֵי-שִׁמְעַת הִלְלוּ וְהוֹ בְּצִלְצְלֵי
תְרוּעָה: (ו) כָּל הַנְּשָׁמָה תְהַלֵּל
יְהוָה הִלְלוּ-יְהוָה: (ז) כָּל הַנְּשָׁמָה
תְהַלֵּל יְהוָה הִלְלוּ-יְהוָה:

Words to Know

Praise God

Drum

הִלְלוּ יְהוָה

בְּתִנְיֹתַי

Commentaries

This is the last psalm of the 150 psalms in the *Book of Psalms*. The first verse of the *Book of Psalms* begins with “happy is the [single] person” and the last verse ends with "all that breathe" praising God. This shows how the *Book of Psalms* begins with one person and ends with all forms of life.

--Adapted from *Siddur Lev Shalem*, The Rabbinical Assembly

One should always praise God with words, but this psalm teaches us that sometimes you can only express yourself through music and artistic expression. The different ways of musical expression are demonstrated by the multitude of instruments described here.

--Adapted from *The Koren Ani Tefillah Siddur*, Koren Publishers

Discussion Question

Are there other artistic ways to celebrate God? Why do the artists choose to express themselves the way they do?