

In God we STILL Trust (Psalm 146)

Jeremiah 17:5, “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord.”

1. In God I Rejoice (146:1-2)

Note: Psalm 146 was likely written after the return from Babylonian exile when the people of Israel were rebuilding and reestablishing their faith and identity.

Despite a lack of certainty, they people worshipped God.

Happiness = satisfaction of temporary things (dopamine)

Joy = satisfaction in eternal things (Grace of God)

Joy is a byproduct of being filled with the Spirit (**Gal 5:22-23**).

Romans 14:17 Joy is in and found through the Holy Spirit.

Philippians 4:4, “Rejoice in the Lord always.”

“The man who has God for his treasure has all things in One.”

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2. In God I Trust (146:3-4)

There would be a tendency to put faith in your leaders as you reenter the land: Zerubbabel, Ezra, Nehemiah...

(146:3) “Put not your trust in princes.”

Princes refers to any national leader (kings, presidents etc)

Trust is a word for faith, do not place FAITH in humans who die.

Psalm 43:5 Why so downcast...put your hope in God.

Daniel 2:21, “He [God]...removes kings and sets up kings.”

Political leaders are just TOOLS in the hand of God.

Psalm 56:3-4 “Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.”

Anxiety is a symptom of putting hope in man, yourself or another.

3. In God, I Hope (146:5-10)

(146:5) “Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob.”

Help (*ezer*) Is someone who gives you aid you are lacking.

God is a helper. Eve was a helper (*ezer*) to Adam (**Gen 2:18**).

Hope = expectation of good for the future.

One does not expect good or predict doom because of a political outcome.

We are not saved because of Donald Trump, and we would not be lost if Harris was in office.

That is to place our HOPE in man.

Our expectation of good comes from faith in God, who is active in the affairs of men. Jacob needed to be reminded of this in **Genesis 28:13-15** (Jacob’s vision).

“Blessed (*happy*) is he whose help is the God of Jacob.”

Reasons to put hope in God rather than man:

A. He will give me justice (146:7)

God executes justice for the oppressed.

Romans 12:19, “Beloved, never avenge yourselves...I will repay.”

B. He will care for my needs (146:7)

God gives food to the hungry.

Philippians 4:19, “My God will supply every need of yours.

Context: This was a promise to supply needs for those giving.

C. God will save me (146:7)

The Lord sets the prisoners free. This refers to those unjustly jailed.

The Lord opens the eyes of the blind (Spiritual blindness).

D. God will encourage me (146:8)

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down.

We can either give that weight to God or distract ourselves.

One provides lasting peace, the other increases our consequences.

E. God loves me (146:8)

The Lord loves the righteous. Love is not giving people what they want, nor is it ensuring they go through no pain or trial.

Romans 8:28 For God’s children, God works all things together for good.

F. God will protect me (146:9)

The Lord watches over the sojourners. Travelling was dangerous.

God protects me in dangerous situations.

G. God helps the helpless (146:9)

God upholds the widow and the fatherless. God helps the helpless.

H. God will avenge me (146:9)

But the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

Only God can finally deal with evil.

We can trust in this God forever:

146:10 The Lord will reign forever. God is always in control.

