

## Psalm 139: Knowledge

- Author: David
- Occasion: personal meditation
- Genre: devotion



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### To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. You Know Me

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, you have searched me and known me!  
<sup>2</sup>You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.  
<sup>3</sup>You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.  
<sup>4</sup>Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.  
<sup>5</sup>You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.  
<sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

### You're With Me

<sup>7</sup>Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?  
<sup>8</sup>If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!  
<sup>9</sup>If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,  
<sup>10</sup>even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

Psalm 139:14 Or for I am fearfully set apart  
 Psalm 139:20 Hebrew lacks your name  
 Psalm 139:24 Or cares  
 Psalm 139:24 Or in the ancient way (compare Jeremiah 6:16).

2

### You Made Me

<sup>11</sup>For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.  
<sup>12</sup>I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.<sup>13</sup>Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.  
<sup>13</sup>My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.  
<sup>14</sup>Your eyes saw my unformed substance; You know the span of my life  
 in your book were written, every one of them, the day that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.  
<sup>15</sup>How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!  
<sup>16</sup>If I would count them, they are more than the sand.  
<sup>17</sup>I awake, and I am still with you. I am bound to you

<sup>18</sup>Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God! O men of blood, depart from me!  
<sup>19</sup>They speak against you with malicious intent; your enemies take your name in vain.<sup>20</sup>Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD?  
<sup>21</sup>And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?  
<sup>22</sup>I hate them with complete hatred; I count them my enemies.  
<sup>23</sup>Search me, O God, and know my heart!  
 Try me and know my thoughts!<sup>24</sup>And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

### To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

#### You Know Me

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, you have searched me and known me!  
<sup>2</sup>You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.  
<sup>3</sup>You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.  
<sup>4</sup>Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.  
<sup>5</sup>You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.  
<sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

Space (1-3,5)

Time (4)

**Omniscience:**  
YHWH's knowledge of us is not limited by space and time

3

#### You're With Me

<sup>7</sup>Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?  
<sup>8</sup>If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!  
<sup>9</sup>If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,  
<sup>10</sup>even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

<sup>11</sup>If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,"  
<sup>12</sup>even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

#### Omnipresence:

YHWH's presence with us not limited by space



<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (1 John 1:5)

<sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:4,5)

4

**You Made Me**

<sup>13</sup> For you formed my inward parts;  
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup> I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.<sup>[a]</sup> (Omnifcent YHWH's creative power is unlimited)

<sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

<sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my unformed substance;  
**You Know the Span of My Life**

in your book were written, every one of them,  
the days that were formed for me,  
when as yet there was none of them.

<sup>17</sup> How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!

<sup>18</sup> If I would count them, they are more than the sand.  
I awake, and I am still with you.

**Omnipotent**  
YHWH's power is unlimited

**Space**  
Visualization: [Baby Olivia](#)  
Ultrasound: [9 Months](#)

**Time**  
 $7.5 \times 10^{18}$   
Psalm 139:14 Or for I am fearfully set apart

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## The Message of Psalm 139

The LORD knows me (1-6)  
and is with me (7-12)  
from beginning (13-16)  
to the end (17-18)  
and I am with Him (19-24)

6

**I Am Bound to You**

<sup>19</sup> Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God!  
O men of blood, depart from me!

<sup>20</sup> They speak against you with malicious intent;  
your enemies take your name in vain.<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord?  
And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?

<sup>22</sup> I hate them with complete hatred;  
I count them my enemies.

<sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart!  
Try me and know my thoughts!<sup>[c]</sup>

<sup>24</sup> And see if there be any grievous way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting!<sup>[d]</sup>

Psalm 139:20 Hebrew lacks your name  
Psalm 139:23 Or cares  
Psalm 139:24 Or in the ancient way (compare [Jeremiah 6:16](#))

**Loyalty Oath:**  
The psalmist binds himself to YHWH as YHWH has bound himself to him.

**Our deepest desire:**  
To be fully known and fully loved.

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### Psalm 139: Theology

The psalmist declares that God:

1. Knows Everything (1-6)
2. Is Everywhere at All Times (7-12)
3. Is Creator and Engineer of Life (13-15)
4. Is Eternal (16-18)

Omniscient  
Omnipresent  
Omnipotent  
Eternal

David describes a God that is so different from those of the ancient world that He defies comparison with the pagan gods on every level: They:

were regionally and cosmically bound  
had origin stories  
didn't care about people

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## Experiencing God's Presence

"Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it...How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven." (Genesis 28:16,17)

God is both **immanent** (near/within)

*YHWH, you have searched me and you know me...* (139:1)

*Yet I am always with you, You hold me by my right hand.* (73:23-28)

*YHWH is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.* (145:18)

*YHWH is close to the brokenhearted.* (34:18)

*YHWH heals* the brokenhearted and *binds up* their wounds (147:3)

## Experiencing God's Presence

and **transcendent** (beyond/outside)

**God is beyond:**

**Time**

Now to the King eternal,  
immortal, invisible, the  
only God... (I Timothy 1:17)  
Who alone is immortal  
and who lives in  
unapproachable light,  
whom no one has seen or  
can see. (I Timothy 6:16)

**Space**

*From everlasting to everlasting you  
are God* (90:2)

*Who is like YHWH our God, the One  
who sits enthroned on high, who  
stoops down to look on the heavens  
and the earth?* (113:6)

**Knowing**

*Great is YHWH and worthy of praise;  
his greatness no one can fathom*  
(145:3)

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## Symbolic Meaning of Numbers in Hebrew Poetry

Number	Meaning
3	Complete -- Water/Earth/Sky; Priests/People of Israel/God-fearers; The 3 patriarchs; in Christian theology: the trinity
4	humanity, the earth
5	<i>Torah</i> , law, the Pentateuch
7	creation, completion, perfection, rest
8	beyond perfection, new creation, law
10	law, commandments (decalogue)
12	tribes of Israel, the nation, community
22	number of letters in the Hebrew alphabet, complete (from Aleph to Tav)

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## The Doxology: Psalms 146-150

- These psalms begin with praise from the individual and continue with the praise from wider groups.

146 – My Soul

147 – Jerusalem

148 – Heaven and Earth

149 – Israel/"godly ones" (the church)

150 – Everything that has breath

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## The Doxology: Psalms 146-150

- Each begins and ends with “Hallelujah” (lit. “Praise YH”)
- They are carefully constructed and recapitulate the major themes of the Psalms (without lament).
- “Hallelujah Psalms” (contain the phrase: “Hallelujah”)
  - 104-106
  - 111-117
  - 135
  - 146-150 **5 psalms (begin & end with “Hallelujah”)**  
**Psalm 150 has a double “Hallelujah” in verse 6**

11 psalms

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Psalm 146: Hallelujah My Soul!

**How to Praise**

**Don't Trust in Man**

**Trust In YHWH**

**YHWH Reigns**

**Praise the LORD!**  
Praise the LORD, O my soul!  
I will praise the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

**Put not your trust in princes,**  
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

**When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;**  
on that very day his plans perish.

**1 I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**  
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.  
Put not your trust in princes,  
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

**2 When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;**  
on that very day his plans perish.

**3 Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,**  
whose hope is in the LORD his God,  
who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them,  
who keeps faith forever;

**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,  
who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them,  
who keeps faith forever;

**6 When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;**  
on that very day his plans perish.

**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!

**Eleven actions of YHWH**

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## Psalm 146: Hallelujah My Soul!

### How to Praise

**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.

### Don't Trust in Man

**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.

## Psalm 146: Hallelujah My Soul!

### Trust In YHWH

**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!

**Creator of water, earth, and sky**

**Constancy**

**Care for “the least of these”**

The “Quartet of the Vulnerable”

- Widow
- Orphan
- Sojourner
- The Poor

### YHWH Reigns

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## Psalm 146: Hallelujah My Soul!

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!

## Trust In YHWH

Creator of water, earth, and sky  
Constancy  
Care for “the least” of these

Does this look like Jesus?

## YHWH Reigns

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## Psalm 147: Hallelujah Jerusalem!

Call to praise with song  
Praise the Lord!  
For it is good to sing praises to our God;  
for it is pleasant,<sup>[b]</sup> and a song of praise is fitting.  
2 The Lord builds up Jerusalem;  
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.  
3 He heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.  
4 He determines the number of the stars;  
he gives to all of them their names.  
5 Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;  
his understanding is beyond measure.  
6 The Lord lifts up the humble;<sup>[b]</sup>  
he casts the wicked to the ground.

Power & Wisdom  
Call to praise with melody and song  
Provision Benevolence

7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;  
make melody to our God on the lyre!  
8 He covers the heavens with clouds;  
he prepares rain for the earth;  
he makes grass grow on the hills.  
9 He gives to the beasts their food,  
and to the young ravens that cry.  
10 His delight is not in the strength of the horse,  
nor his pleasure in the legs of a man,  
11 but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him,  
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

12 Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!  
Praise your God, O Zion!  
13 For he strengthens the bars of your gates;  
he blesses your children within you.  
14 He makes peace in your borders;  
he fills you with the finest of the wheat.  
15 He sends out his command to the earth;  
his word runs swiftly.  
16 He gives snow like wool;  
he scatters frost like ashes.  
17 He hurls down his crystals of ice like crumbs;  
who can stand before his cold?  
18 He sends out his word, and melts them;  
he makes his wind blow and the waters flow.  
19 He declares his word to Jacob,  
his statutes and rules<sup>[a]</sup> to Israel.  
20 He has not dealt thus with any other nation;  
they do not know his rules.<sup>[a]</sup>

Call for the city to praise  
Weather Seasons  
Praise the Lord!

Psalm 147:1 Or for he is beautiful  
Psalm 147:6 Or afflicted  
Psalm 147:19 Or and just decrees  
Psalm 147:20 Or his just decrees

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## Psalm 147: Hallelujah Jerusalem!

Call to Sing Praises to God  
Restores  
Does Justice

1 Praise the Lord!  
For it is good to sing praises to our God;  
for it is pleasant,<sup>[a]</sup> and a song of praise is fitting.  
2 The Lord builds up Jerusalem;  
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.  
3 He heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.  
4 He determines the number of the stars;  
he gives to all of them their names.  
5 Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;  
his understanding is beyond measure.  
6 The Lord lifts up the humble;<sup>[b]</sup>  
he casts the wicked to the ground.

Psalm 147:1 Or for he is beautiful  
Psalm 147:6 Or afflicted

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## Psalm 147: Hallelujah Jerusalem!

Call to sing and make melody to God  
7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;  
make melody to our God on the lyre!  
8 He covers the heavens with clouds;  
he prepares rain for the earth;  
he makes grass grow on the hills.  
9 He gives to the beasts their food,  
and to the young ravens that cry.  
10 His delight is not in the strength of the horse,  
nor his pleasure in the legs of a man,  
11 but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him,  
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

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## Psalm 147: Hallelujah Jerusalem!

Call for  
the city  
to praise  
God

Security  
Prosperity

12 Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!  
Praise your God, O Zion!  
13 For he strengthens the bars of your gates;  
he blesses your children within you.  
14 He makes peace in your borders;  
he fills you with the finest of the wheat.

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## Psalm 147: Hallelujah Jerusalem!

15 He sends out his command to the earth;  
his word runs swiftly.  
16 He gives snow like wool;  
he scatters frost like ashes.  
17 He hurls down his crystals of ice like crumbs;  
who can stand before his cold?  
18 He sends out his word, and melts them;  
he makes his wind blow and the waters flow.  
19 He declares his word to Jacob,  
his statutes and rules<sup>[q]</sup> to Israel.  
20 He has not dealt thus with any other nation;  
they do not know his rules.<sup>[d]</sup> Praise the LORD!

[Psalm 147:19](#) Or and  
just decrees  
[Psalm 147:20](#) Or his  
just decrees

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## Psalm 148: Hallelujah Heaven and Earth!

Praise YHWH from the heavens  
1 Praise the LORD!  
Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights!  
2 Praise him, all his angels;  
praise him, all his hosts!  
3 Praise him, sun and moon,  
praise him, all you shining stars!  
4 Praise him, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens!  
5 Let them praise the name of the LORD!  
For he commanded and they were created.  
6 And he established them forever and ever;  
he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.<sup>[p]</sup>  
Praise YHWH from the earth  
7 Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you great sea creatures and all deeps,  
8 fire and hail, snow and mist,  
stormy wind fulfilling his word!  
9 Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars!  
10 Beasts and all livestock,  
creeping things and flying birds!  
11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the earth!  
12 Young men and maidens together,  
old men and children!  
YHWH's splendor above the earth and the heavens  
13 Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for his name alone is exalted;  
his majesty is above earth and heaven.  
14 He has raised up a horn for his people,  
praise for all his saints,  
for the people of Israel who are near to him.  
Praise the LORD!  
  
[Psalm 148:6](#) Or it shall not be transgressed

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## Psalm 148: Hallelujah Heaven and Earth!

Praise YHWH from the heavens  
1 Praise the LORD!  
Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights!  
2 Praise him, all his angels;  
praise him, all his hosts!  
3 Praise him, sun and moon,  
praise him, all you shining stars!  
4 Praise him, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens!  
5 Let them praise the name of the LORD!  
For he commanded and they were created.  
6 And he established them forever and ever;  
he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.<sup>[a]</sup>

A (location)  
B (inhabitants)  
B (inhabitants)  
A (location)

[Psalm 148:6](#) Or it shall not be transgressed

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### Psalm 148: Hallelujah Heaven and Earth!

Praise YHWH from the earth

7 Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you great sea creatures and all deeps, Water  
8 fire and hail, snow and mist, Sky/Weather  
stormy wind fulfilling his word!

9 Mountains and all hills, Earth  
fruit trees and all cedars!

10 Beasts and all livestock, Plants  
creeping things and flying birds!

11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, Animals  
princes and all rulers of the earth!

12 Young men and maidens together, Mankind  
old men and children!

Even though many of these have no voice, it is man who releases the praise of inanimate creatures, recognizing in their being the God who created them. In man, creation finds a mouth to glorify its Author.

### Psalm 148: Hallelujah Heaven and Earth!

YHWH's splendor above the earth and the heavens

13 Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for his name alone is exalted;  
his majesty is above earth and heaven.

14 He has raised up a horn for his people,  
praise for all his saints,  
for the people of Israel who are near to him.

Praise the LORD!

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### Psalm 149: Hallelujah His Saints!

1 Praise the LORD! Who?  
Sing to the LORD a new song, What?  
his praise in the assembly of the godly! Why?  
2 Let Israel be glad in his Maker;  
let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!  
3 Let them praise his name with dancing,  
making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!  
4 For the LORD takes pleasure in his people;  
he adorns the humble with salvation.

### Psalm 149: Hallelujah His Saints!

5 Let the godly exult in glory;  
let them sing for joy on their beds. Who?  
6 Let the high praises of God be in their throats  
and two-edged swords in their hands, What?  
7 to execute vengeance on the nations  
and punishments on the peoples, Why?  
8 to bind their kings with chains  
and their nobles with fetters of iron,  
9 to execute on them the judgment written!  
This is honor for all his godly ones.

Praise the LORD!

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## Psalm 149: Hallelujah His Saints!

### Psalm 2

- <sup>1</sup> Why do the nations conspire  
and the peoples plot in vain?
- <sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth take their stand  
and the rulers gather together  
against the LORD  
and against his Anointed One.
- <sup>3</sup> "Let us break their chains," they say,  
"and throw off their fetters."
- <sup>9</sup> You will rule them with an iron scepter;  
you will dash them to pieces like pottery."
- <sup>10</sup> Therefore, you kings, be wise;  
be warned, you rulers of the earth.
- <sup>11</sup> Serve the LORD with fear  
and rejoice with trembling.
- <sup>12</sup> Kiss the Son, lest he be angry  
and you be destroyed in your way,  
for his wrath can flare up in a moment.

<sup>14</sup> They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful." (Revelation 17:14)

"Alas, alas, for the great city [Babylon]  
where all who had ships at sea  
grew rich by her wealth!  
For in a single hour she has been laid waste.  
<sup>20</sup> Rejoice over her, O heaven,  
and you saints and apostles and prophets,  
for God has given judgment for you against her!" (Revelation 18:19b-20)

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## Psalm 150: Hallelujah Everyone!

Praise the LORD!

Where? Praise God in his sanctuary;

praise him in his mighty heavens! <sup>[a]</sup>

Why? 2 Praise him for his mighty deeds;  
praise him according to his excellent greatness!

How? 3 Praise him with trumpet sound;  
praise him with lute and harp!

4 Praise him with tambourine and dance;  
praise him with strings and pipe!

5 Praise him with sounding cymbals;  
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

6 Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD!

[Psalm 150:1](#) Hebrew *expansē* (compare [Genesis 1:6-8](#))

Everything from first to last in creation:  
The heavens (vs 1) to "breathing beings" (vs. 6)

[All 3 categories of musical instruments](#)

Wind  
String  
Percussion  
String Wind  
Percussion

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