

From Generation to Generation

從一代到一代

Psalms 145: 1-13

詩篇 145: 1-13

Psalm 145

- Final psalm in the group of psalms attributed to David (Psalms 138-145)
- Leads into final 5 Hallelujah Psalms (145 to 150)
- Acrostic poem in Hebrew
- David celebrates God as the Great King over all

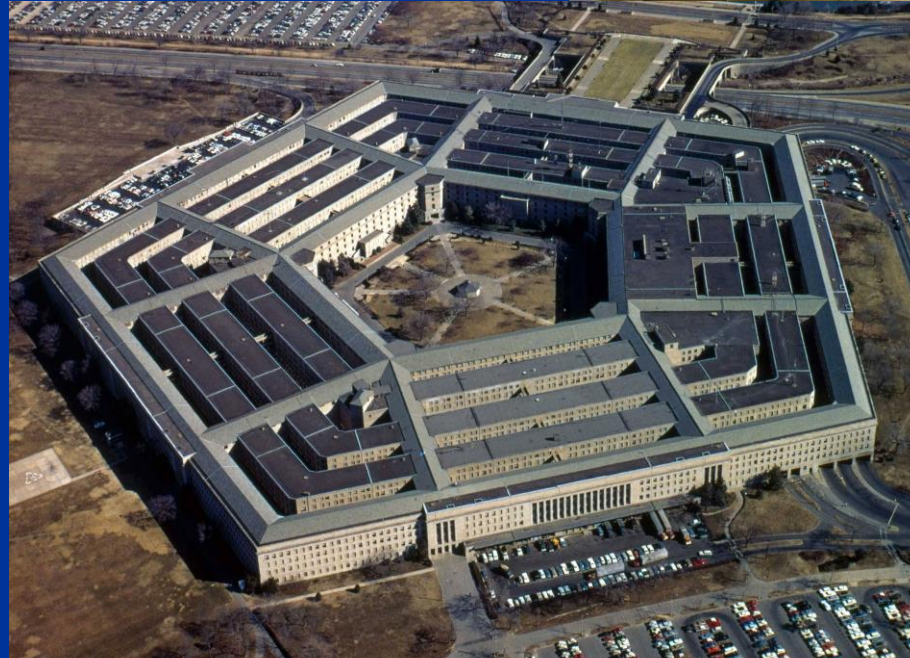
Psalm 145

- (1-3) – David wants to praise God all the time (every day, forever and ever)
- (4-7) – God's actions reveal His royal qualities
- (8-9) – God's character makes Him a great King
- (10-13) – God's kingdom is glorious, mighty and everlasting
- (14-17) God's provision & care for all creatures
- (18-20) God's provision & care for those who love & fear Him
- (21) David invites every creature to join him in praise

The splendor & glory of earthly kingdoms – Buckingham Palace & Ballroom



The glory & power of earthly kingdoms – White House, Oval Office and Pentagon



The splendor & power of earthly kingdoms – The Kremlin



The glory & elegance of earthly kingdoms – Elysee Palace



Focus on vv. 3-4

- 3 You are wonderful, Lord,
and you deserve all praise,
because you are much greater
than anyone can understand.
- 4 Each generation will announce to the next
your wonderful and powerful deeds. (CEV)

耶和華本為大、該受大讚美。
其大無法測度。
這代要對那代頌讚你的作為、
也要傳揚你的大能。

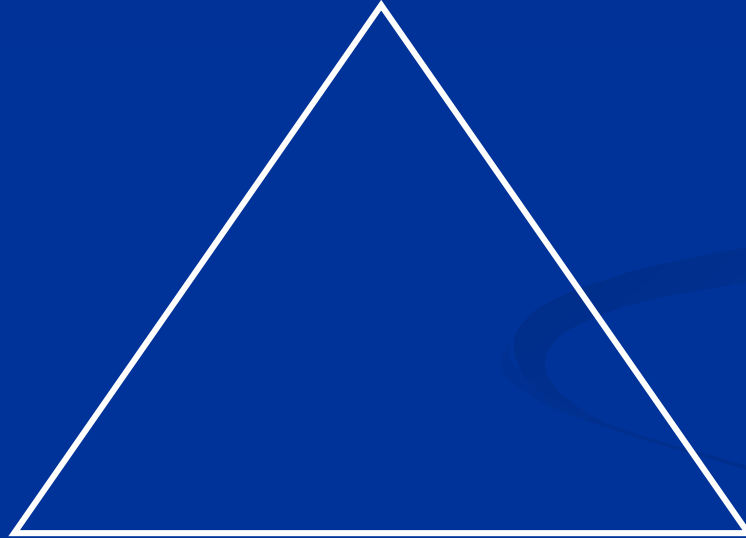
(詩篇 145: 3-4)

A king needs ...

- a territory and subjects to rule
- the right and authority to rule
- power, resources, & support to rule

What makes someone a great king?

Great King 偉大的王



暴君 Tyrant

Weakling 弱王

What makes someone a great king ?

- good heart: compassion, integrity, caring (blesses his people)
- provides order (lawgiver)
- protects his kingdom (warrior)
- wise & decisive
- leaves a legacy

What made David a great king ?

- very connected to God
- willing to overlook sins of others, but not his own
- forgive others; repent of his own sin
- did not blame others for his mistakes; did not make excuses
- humble enough to listen to those under him and change accordingly
- imperfect ... but a man after God's own heart
- Jesus, Son of David is the perfect King

How did we come to know about King David?

- How did those born after David's reign know about him?
- Each generation announced to the next his wonderful and powerful deeds
- “David stories” - told and re-told
- “David stories” - written down and passed on to subsequent generations

Would we know about him if these
stories were not passed down?

From one generation to another; how long is one generation?

■ “... the average period, generally considered to be about thirty years, during which children are born and grow up, become adults, and begin to have children of their own.” *

* dictionary.com

■ 20 to 30 years

How many “generations” at FEC ?

- We have from newborns to 100 yr olds
- up to 3 or 4 generations

We must share the stories of God's mighty & awesome works with them!

- Would the younger generations be interested?
- If authentic and true to life, then relevant for every and any generation

What makes a story a great story?

- 5 essential elements of a story:
 - character(s)
 - setting
 - plot
 - conflict
 - resolution
- “no story until something goes wrong”

"LIFE IS LIKE A ROLLER COASTER.
UPS, DOWNS, TWISTS AND TURNS,
BUT WHAT A RIDE!"
-LISA LAYDEN



Authentic “true-to-life” stories

IF THERE ARE NO UPS AND DOWNS IN YOUR LIFE
IT MEANS YOU ARE DEAD



In the ups & downs, twists & turns of our lives ...

■ our great God and King intervenes – He provides for us, saves us, redeems us, ...

The Lord helps the fallen
and lifts those bent beneath their loads. ...

The Lord is close to all who call on him,
yes, to all who call on him in truth.

He grants the desires of those who fear him;
he hears their cries for help and rescues them.

The Lord protects all those who love him,
but he destroys the wicked. (Psalm 145: 14, 18-20, NLT)

14 跌倒的，耶和華都扶持他們；
被壓迫的，他都扶他們起來。

18 凡是求告耶和華的，耶和華都和他們接近，
就是和所有真誠求告他的人接近。

19 敬畏他的，他必成就他們的心願，
也必聽他們的呼求，拯救他們。

20 耶和華保護所有愛他的人，
卻要消滅所有惡人。

(詩篇 145: 14, 18-20, 新譯本)

Can we reconcile our reality with these bold statements (Ps. 145: 14, 18-20)?

- God's care often not expressed in physical ways
- His care often shown in spiritual and eternal ways

God's actions flow from his heart

The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.

The Lord is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.

(Psalm 145: 8-9)

8 耶和華有恩典有憐憫，
不輕易發怒，大有慈愛。

9 耶和華善待萬有，他的憐憫臨到他一切所造的。

(詩篇 145: 8-9, 新譯本)

■ In v. 8, David quotes God's self-revelation from
Exodus 34:6

Moses' request / God's response

Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.”

And the LORD said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. (Exod. 33: 18-19a)

摩西說：“求你給我看看你的榮耀。” 耶和華說：“我要使我的一切美善都在你面前經過，並且要把我的名字耶和華在你面前宣告出來；
(出埃及記 33: 18-19a, 新譯本)

Moses' request / God's response

Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.” And the LORD said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. (Exod. 33: 18-19)

And [the LORD] passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”
(Exod. 34: 5-7)

Moses' request / God's response

摩西說：“求你給我看看你的榮耀。” 耶和華說：“我要使我的一切美善都在你面前經過，並且要把我的名字耶和華在你面前宣告出來；

(出埃及記 33: 18-19a, 新譯本)

耶和華在摩西面前經過，並且宣告說：
“耶和華，耶和華，是有憐憫有恩典的神，
不輕易發怒，並且有豐盛的慈愛和誠實，
為千千萬萬人留下慈愛，赦免罪孽、過犯
和罪惡。一定要清除罪，追討罪孽自父及子
至孫，直到三四代。” (出埃及記 34: 6-7, 新譯本)

Near the “centre” of Psalm 145 we find God’s heart

- David doesn’t elaborate on God’s wonderful, awesome, and mighty works
- He merely quotes the “name” of God (LORD; 耶和華)
- God’s love defines Him and everything He does
- Yet He is holy and righteous in His love
- “... maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.” (Exod. 34: 7)
- “為千千萬萬人留下慈愛，赦免罪孽、過犯和罪惡。一定要清除罪，追討罪孽自父及子至孫，直到三四代。”
(出埃及記 34: 7, 新譯本)

In our individual lives ...

- How has God been at work in the “tensions” and “ups and downs”?
- Do we share these stories with those “behind” us?
- God’s care may not be expressed in physical ways
- His care often shown in spiritual & eternal ways
- God’s ultimate goal is our transformation into the image of His Son
- “... at its most basic level, a story is a transformation unveiled - either the transformation of a situation or, most commonly, the transformation of a character.” *

* www.writersdigest.com/online-editor/the-5-essential-story-ingredients

In our corporate lives ...

- How has God been at work in the “tensions” and “twists & turns”?
 - Do we share these stories with those “behind” us?
 - God’s care may not be expressed in physical ways
 - His care often shown in spiritual & eternal ways
 - God’s ultimate goal is our transformation into the spotless bride of Christ
 - “... a story is a transformation unveiled - either the transformation of a situation or ... the transformation of a character.” *
- * www.writersdigest.com/online-editor/the-5-essential-story-ingredients

Transformation of situations in FEC's story

- The beginning & early days (1985 – 1987)
- The Granville & Heather days (since 1988)
- The Blundell & No. 5 Rd. days (since 1994)
- The last 5 years – much changes & very fast
 - Plateau and declining
 - Many, especially young people left
 - Changes in pastoral staffing
 - Accidental fire reveals rotting support structures
 - FEC's people gave willingly & sacrificially to restore our building

Transformation of people in FEC's story?

- That's what we should be sharing with one another – tension, imperfection, and all
- Transformation is an ongoing dynamic process; don't wait for ideal conclusion before sharing your story
- Next generation(s) need to hear how God is at work in our lives
- How else would they know about our great God and King?

Psalm 145 - David's last composition in the book of Psalm

- very well crafted poem
- a “flaw” in this acrostic hymn of praise
- Clue: Hebrew alphabet has 22 letters; how many verses in this psalm?
- Intentional? Accidental?
- 13b only found in later manuscripts
- Good intention to correct the flaw?
- We are sinful imperfect people living in a sinful imperfect world; but ... our God the King is perfect! His Son Jesus Christ is perfect!

As we celebrate our 34th Anniversary ...

- Let's not be afraid to share our stories
- Let's tell the next generation(s) about the wonderful work God is doing in our lives