

Psalm 150

Psalm 150:1–22

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An Introduction to Psalm 150

Introduction: Psalm 150

I must confess that, at a superficial read of this psalm, I am getting no more out of it than we should praise God using a variety of musical instruments. This is the final psalm of all the psalms, and the final *Praise Yah!* psalm, so I would suspect that there is more to it than just this. Whether or not I am able to unearth more is another question entirely.

Chapter Outline

the Chart Index

Slavishly literal:

Moderately literal:

Praise Yah!
Praise El in His holiness.
Praise Him in the atmosphere of His strength.

Psalm
150:1

Praise Yah!
Praise God in His holiness [or, in His sanctuary].
Praise Him in the expanse of His majesty [strength, protection].

Praise Jehovah!
Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His expansive majesty.

Here is how others have handled this verse:

Ancient texts:

Dead Sea Scrolls	.
Latin Vulgate	.
Masoretic Text	Praise Yah! Praise El in His holiness. Praise Him in the atmosphere of His strength.
Peshitta	.
Septuagint	Alleluia. Praise God in his holy places: praise him in the firmament of his power.

Significant differences:

Thought-for-thought translations; paraphrases:

CEV	Shout praises to the LORD! Praise God in his temple. Praise him in heaven, his mighty fortress.
Good News Bible (TEV)	Praise the LORD! Praise God in his Temple! Praise his strength in heaven!
<i>The Message</i>	Hallelujah! Praise God in his holy house of worship, praise him under the open skies;...
New American Bible	.
New Jerusalem Bible	.
New Living Testament	.
Revised English Bible	.

Mostly literal renderings (with some occasional paraphrasing):

Bible in Basic English	Let the Lord be praised. Give praise to God in his holy place: give him praise in the heaven of his power.
Complete Apostles' Bible	.
Complete Jewish Bible	.
Easy English (Churchyard)	.
<i>God's Word™</i>	.
HCSB	Hallelujah! Praise God in His sanctuary. Praise Him in His mighty heavens.
JPS (Tanakh)	.
NET Bible®	Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary! Praise him in the sky, which testifies to his strength!
New International Version	.
<i>The Scriptures</i> 1998	.

Literal, almost word-for-word, renderings:

<i>The Amplified Bible</i>	.
Albert Barnes (revised)	.
A Conservative Version	.
Updated <i>Emphasized Bible</i>	.
English Standard Version	Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens!
Hebrew Names Version	.
Keil and Delitzsch (revised)	.
KJV (Scofield)	.
King James 2000 Version	.
LTHB	.
MKJV	.
NASB	.

New King James Version	.
NRSV	.
Owen's Translation	.
Updated Bible Version 2.11	.
A Voice in the Wilderness	.
WEB	Praise Yah! Praise God in his sanctuary! Praise him in his heavens for his acts of power!
Young's Literal Translation	.
Young's Updated LT	Praise Jah! Praise God in His holy place, Praise Him in the expanse of His strength.

What is the gist of this verse? .

Psalm 149:1a			
Hebrew/Pronunciation	Common English Meanings	Notes/Morphology	BDB and Strong's Numbers
hâlal (לָלַל) [pronounced haw-L AHL]	<i>praise, sing, celebrate</i>	2 nd person masculine plural, Piel imperative	Strong's #1984 BDB #237
Yâh (יְיָ) [pronounced yaw]	an abbreviated form of YHWH, the proper name for God in the Old Testament	proper masculine noun	Strong's #3050 BDB #219

Translation: [Praise Yah!](#) Psalms 146–150 all begin with [Praise Yah](#) (Yah being an abbreviated form of YHWH in the Old Testament). The psalms previous to this were written by David and there is no reason to suppose that David did not write these as well.

I don't know if David was, at some time or another, struck with the desire to write psalms which praise God for various things, but that is essentially what we have in these final 5 psalms. These 5 psalms begin and end with this phrase.

Psalm 150:1b			
Hebrew/Pronunciation	Common English Meanings	Notes/Morphology	BDB and Strong's Numbers
hâlal (לָלַל) [pronounced haw-L AHL]	<i>praise, sing, celebrate</i>	2 nd person masculine plural, Piel imperative	Strong's #1984 BDB #237
ʾĒl (אֵל) [pronounced ALE]	<i>God, god, mighty one, strong, hero</i>	masculine singular noun	Strong's #410 BDB #42
bē (בְּ) [pronounced b ^{eh}]	<i>in, into, through; at, by, near, on, upon; with, before, against; by means of; among; within</i>	a preposition of proximity	Strong's #none BDB #88
qôdesh (קֹדֶשׁ) [pronounced koh-DESH]	<i>holiness, sacredness, apartness, that which is holy, holy things</i>	masculine singular noun with the 3 rd person masculine singular suffix	Strong's #6944 BDB #871
Possibly this means a sacred [holy, set apart] place; a sanctuary.			

Translation: **Praise God in His holiness** [or, *in His sanctuary*]. Most translators interpret this to mean that the reader is being urged to praise God in His sanctuary. It appears that the praise is to occur when God is in His sanctuary, as opposed to the person hearing this psalm being in His sanctuary.

An alternate understanding is, God is to be praised for His righteousness and justice, which together, make up His holiness. It is very reasonable for the believer to be urged to praise God for His character, as everything that we based our faith upon is based upon God's character. God's character, attested to throughout Scripture, is one of the most important things for us to understand; and it is what we base our trust upon.

Psalm 150:1c			
Hebrew/Pronunciation	Common English Meanings	Notes/Morphology	BDB and Strong's Numbers
hâlal (לָלַל) [pronounced haw-L AHL]	<i>praise, sing, celebrate</i>	2 nd person masculine plural, Piel imperative; with the 3 rd person masculine singular suffix	Strong's #1984 BDB #237
bê (בְּ) [pronounced b ^{eh}]	<i>in, into, through; at, by, near, on, upon; with, before, against; by means of; among; within</i>	a preposition of proximity	Strong's #none BDB #88
râqîya' (רָקִיעַ) [pronounced raw-KEE-ag]	<i>atmosphere, extended surface, expanse, the first heaven; extended surface (solid); firmament</i>	masculine singular construct	Strong's #7549 BDB #956
Although BDB speaks of the Hebrews considering this to be a solid, I think the idea is, they recognized that there was some sort of reality to the atmosphere; that the atmosphere was not empty.			
ôz (זֹרֶךְ) [pronounced gôhz]	<i>strength, might; firmness, defense, refuge, protection; splendor, majesty, glory praise</i>	masculine singular noun with the 3 rd person masculine singular suffix	Strong's #5797 BDB #738

Translation: **Praise Him in the expanse of His majesty** [strength, protection]. The exact meaning of this phrase is also in doubt. *Expanse* often refers to the atmosphere about the earth, which the Hebrews apparently recognized as real and definable.

BDB has, as the definition: *[This Hebrew word means] the vault of heaven or firmament, [which is] regarded by the Hebrews as a solid and [that it] supports the waters above it.*¹ I don't know that *solid* is the best way to express this. I believe that the writers of Scripture recognized that our atmosphere was not empty space, but that it was real and definable, and capable of holding up clouds and water.

I think the sense that we should take here is, just as the atmosphere surrounds the earth, preserving all life upon the earth; so does God's majesty, strength and protection surround those who are His own.

**Praise Him in His mighty deeds;
Praise Him in an abundance of His majesty.**

Psalm
150:2

**Praise [or, celebrate] Him in His mighty deeds;
Praise Him in His abundant majesty [or,
greatness, magnificence; immutability].**

¹ *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*; Hendrickson Publishers; ©1996; p. 956 (slightly edited).

**Praise and celebrate Him for His mighty deeds
and praise Him because of His abundant majesty.**

Here is how others have translated this verse:

Ancient texts:

Dead Sea Scrolls	.
Latin Vulgate	.
Masoretic Text	Praise Him in His mighty deeds; Praise Him in an abundance of His majesty.
Peshitta	.
Septuagint	Praise him on <i>account of</i> his mighty acts: praise him according to his abundant greatness.

Significant differences:

Thought-for-thought translations; paraphrases:

CEV	Praise our God! His deeds are wonderful, too marvelous to describe.
Good News Bible (TEV)	Praise him for the mighty things he has done. Praise his supreme greatness.
<i>The Message</i>	Praise him for his acts of power, praise him for his magnificent greatness;...
New American Bible	.
New Jerusalem Bible	.
New Living Testament	.
Revised English Bible	.

Mostly literal renderings (with some occasional paraphrasing):

Bible in Basic English	.
Complete Apostles' Bible	.
Complete Jewish Bible	.
<i>God's Word</i> ™	Praise him for his mighty acts. Praise him for his immense greatness.
HCSB	Praise Him for His powerful acts; praise Him for His abundant greatness.
JPS (Tanakh)	.
NET Bible®	Praise him for his mighty acts! Praise him for his surpassing greatness!
New International Version	.
<i>The Scriptures</i> 1998	.

Literal, almost word-for-word, renderings:

<i>The Amplified Bible</i>	.
Albert Barnes (revised)	.
A Conservative Version	.
Updated <i>Emphasized Bible</i>	.
English Standard Version	.
Hebrew Names Version	.
Keil and Delitzsch (revised)	.
KJV (Scofield)	.
King James 2000 Version	.
LTHB	Praise Him in His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness.
MKJV	.

NASB	.
New King James Version	.
NRSV	.
Owen's Translation	.
Updated Bible Version 2.11	.
A Voice in the Wilderness	.
WEB	.
Young's Literal Translation	Praise Him in His mighty acts, Praise Him according to the abundance of His greatness.
Young's Updated LT	.

What is the gist of this verse? .

Psalm 150:2a			
Hebrew/Pronunciation	Common English Meanings	Notes/Morphology	BDB and Strong's Numbers
hâlal (לָלַל) [pronounced haw-L AHL]	<i>praise, sing, celebrate</i>	2 nd person masculine plural, Piel imperative; with the 3 rd person masculine singular suffix	Strong's #1984 BDB #237
b ^e (בְּ) [pronounced b ^{eh}]	<i>in, into, through; at, by, near, on, upon; with, before, against; by means of; among; within</i>	a preposition of proximity	Strong's #none BDB #88
g ^e bûwrâh (גְּבוּרָה) [pronounced g ^e voo-RAW]	<i>strength, might; mighty deeds (or acts) in the plural</i>	feminine plural noun with the 3 rd person masculine singular suffix	Strong's #1369 BDB #150

Translation: [Praise](#) [or, *celebrate*] [Him in His mighty deeds](#);... The gist of this psalm is, the psalmist is calling upon those hearing this psalm to praise God for a number of things—here, for His mighty deeds.

This is one area where more people are mixed up than any other. They read about the miracles of Jesus, about Him telling His disciples that they would do even greater works, and, one time, He even speaks of moving a mountain from here to there. We read about the miracles which occurred during the time of the exodus, and we expect such things to occur in our lives. God's *mighty deeds* are not necessarily miracles, any more than we can flip a switch on our television sets and start receiving images and sounds from all over the world. Is God able to perform miracles? Of course! The Creator is not confined to His creation. Has God performed miracles? Probably on several occasions, He has. However, what is more amazing is, God knew all that was going to occur and every decision that we would ever make, and He devised things in order to bring to pass whatever great things He desired to bring to pass. You have no doubt heard the saying, *a butterfly flaps his wings in Africa and a hurricane is set into motion over the Atlantic Ocean*. Whereas, I doubt that much like this ever has occurred, God has, in the creation of this earth, flapped a few butterfly wings here and there, with end results of great hurricanes elsewhere. God can, thousands of years ago, set some things into motion, which bring much greater things to pass many years later. For instance, when Moses smacked the rock with his stick out in the desert, and out burst a great burst of water (we are likely speaking of a geiser of some sort), it is not necessary for God to suddenly create the water and the pressure the moment that Moses strikes the rock. This could have been a natural phenomenon which had been building up for centuries, and God timed the burst through of the water to coincide Moses striking the rock, something which involves much greater planning. Furthermore, God has done these sort of things millions of times, many as a response to prayers made thousands of years later.

We ought to celebrate God's great deeds and praise Him for them.

Psalm 150:2b

Hebrew/Pronunciation	Common English Meanings	Notes/Morphology	BDB and Strong's Numbers
hâlal (לָלַל) [pronounced haw-L AHL]	<i>praise, sing, celebrate</i>	2 nd person masculine plural, Piel imperative; with the 3 rd person masculine singular suffix	Strong's #1984 BDB #237
b ^e (בְּ) [pronounced b ^{eh}]	<i>in, into, through; at, by, near, on, upon; with, before, against; by means of; among; within</i>	a preposition of proximity	Strong's #none BDB #88
rôb (רַב) [pronounced roh ^b]	<i>multitude, abundance, greatness</i>	masculine singular construct	Strong's #7230 BDB #913
gôdel (גָּדֹל) [pronounced GO-de]	<i>strength, might; magnitude, greatness; magnificence, majesty; immutability; arrogance, insolence</i>	masculine singular noun with the 3 rd person masculine singular suffix	Strong's #1433 BDB #152

Perhaps, the key to the meaning of this word is, it is used in both a good sense (Num. 14:19 Deut. 3:24) and a bad (Isa. 9:9 10:12). *Greatness, magnificence* and *majesty* don't seem to have negative counterparts; however, when God's ways and heart are *immutable*, this is a good thing. When our heart is *immutable*, this is not necessarily a good thing.

Translation: ...Praise Him in His abundant majesty [or, greatness, magnificence; immutability]. This final word is quite difficult to determine a meaning for. As you will not in the Hebrew table above, this word can be used in a good and a bad way, which seems to take the meanings which we would like to apply—*majesty, greatness, magnificence*—off the table. *Immutability* might be the best way to render this final word, as unchanging character in God is a good thing; but an unchanging character in man is not. So, in one sense this seems like a reasonable understanding for this word. However, this word is very close in form to several words which mean *greatness, strength, might*. Furthermore, we have the masculine singular construct *multitude, abundance*. Immutability strikes me as being an absolute, when associated with God, so that having an abundance of it does not make a great deal of sense. Perhaps, the concept could be God's glory?

**Praise Him in a sound of a trumpet;
praise Him in a lute and lyre.**

Psalm
150:3

**Praise Him with the sound of a trumpet
[and] praise Him with a hand-held harp and a
lyre.**

Praise god with the sound of the trumpet and praise Him with hand-held harps and lyres.

Here is how others have translated this verse:

Ancient texts:

Dead Sea Scrolls	.
Latin Vulgate	.
Masoretic Text	Praise Him in a sound of a trumpet; praise Him in a lute and lyre.
Peshitta	.
Septuagint	Praise him with the sound of a trumpet: praise him with psaltery and harp.
Significant differences:	None.

Thought-for-thought translations; paraphrases:

CEV	Praise God with trumpets and all kinds of harps.
Good News Bible (TEV)	.
<i>The Message</i>	Praise with a blast on the trumpet, praise by strumming soft strings;...
New American Bible	.
New Jerusalem Bible	.
New Living Testament	.
Revised English Bible	.

Mostly literal renderings (with some occasional paraphrasing):

Bible in Basic English	Give him praise with the sound of the horn: give him praise with corded instruments of music.
Complete Apostles' Bible	.
Complete Jewish Bible	.
<i>God's Word</i> ™	.
HCSB	Praise Him with trumpet blast; praise Him with harp and lyre.
JPS (Tanakh)	.
NET Bible®	.
New International Version	.
<i>The Scriptures</i> 1998	.

Literal, almost word-for-word, renderings:

<i>The Amplified Bible</i>	.
Albert Barnes (revised)	.
A Conservative Version	.
Updated <i>Emphasized Bible</i>	.
English Standard Version	.
Hebrew Names Version	.
Keil and Delitzsch (revised)	.
KJV (Scofield)	.
King James 2000 Version	.
LTHB	Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the harp and lyre.
MKJV	.
NASB	.
New King James Version	.
NRSV	.
Owen's Translation	.
Updated Bible Version 2.11	.
A Voice in the Wilderness	.
WEB	.
<i>Young's Literal Translation</i>	Praise Him with blowing of trumpet, Praise Him with psaltery and harp.
Young's Updated LT	.

What is the gist of this verse? .

Psalm 150:3a

Hebrew/Pronunciation	Common English Meanings	Notes/Morphology	BDB and Strong's Numbers
hâlal (לָלַל) [pronounced haw-L AHL]	<i>praise, sing, celebrate</i>	2 nd person masculine plural, Piel imperative; with the 3 rd person masculine singular suffix	Strong's #1984 BDB #237
b ^e (בְּ) [pronounced b ^{eh}]	<i>in, into, through; at, by, near, on, upon; with, before, against; by means of; among; within</i>	a preposition of proximity	Strong's #none BDB #88
têqa' (תְּקַע) [pronounced tay-K AHG]	<i>blast or sound [of a horn]</i>	masculine singular construct	Strong's #8629 BDB #1075
This word occurs only here.			
shôwphâr (שׁוֹפָר; also שׁוֹפָר) [pronounced shoh-FAWR]	<i>horn, trumpet; transliterated shophar</i>	masculine singular noun	Strong's #7782 BDB #1051

Translation: *Praise Him with the sound of a trumpet...* The trumpet is found in the procession of the Ark, but it is not found in Psalm 57 (see comments below v. 3b).

God is praised and celebrated with music.

Psalm 150:3b

Hebrew/Pronunciation	Common English Meanings	Notes/Morphology	BDB and Strong's Numbers
hâlal (לָלַל) [pronounced haw-L AHL]	<i>praise, sing, celebrate</i>	2 nd person masculine plural, Piel imperative; with the 3 rd person masculine singular suffix	Strong's #1984 BDB #237
b ^e (בְּ) [pronounced b ^{eh}]	<i>in, into, through; at, by, near, on, upon; with, before, against; by means of; among; within</i>	a preposition of proximity	Strong's #none BDB #88
nêbel (נֶבֶל) [pronounced NAY ^b -veh]	<i>a portable harp, lute, guitar</i>	masculine singular noun with the definite article	Strong's #5035 BDB #614
w ^e (or v ^e) (וְ) [pronounced weh]	<i>and</i>	simple wâw conjunction	No Strong's # BDB #251
kînnôwr (כִּנּוֹר) [pronounced kin-NOHR]	<i>hand-harp, lyre</i>	masculine singular noun	Strong's #3658 BDB #490

Translation: *...[and] praise Him with a hand-held harp and a lyre.* Interestingly enough, we find these same two instruments named together in Psalm 57:8. I placed that psalm with David in 1Sam. 22, during that time that David was running from Saul, and he was out of fellowship; and it became apparent that David got back into fellowship once again. We also find these same instruments named in 1Chron. 15:16, when David moved the Ark, and this psalm seems to be very appropriate to that time and place.

**Praise Him in a timbrel and dancing;
praise Him in strings and organ.**

Psalm
150:4

**Praise Him with the timbrel [or, *tambourine*]
and [with] dancing;
praise Him with stringed instruments and
organ.**

**Praise God with tambourines and with dancing;
praise Him with stringed instruments and with the organ.**

Here is how others have translated this verse:

Ancient texts:

Dead Sea Scrolls	.
Latin Vulgate	.
Masoretic Text	Praise Him in a timbrel and dancing; praise Him in strings and organ.
Peshitta	.
Septuagint	Praise him with timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and the organ.

Significant differences:

Thought-for-thought translations; paraphrases:

CEV	Praise him with tambourines and dancing, with stringed instruments and woodwinds.
Good News Bible (TEV)	Praise him with drums and dancing. Praise him with harps and flutes.
<i>The Message</i>	Praise him with castanets and dance, praise him with banjo and flute;...
New American Bible	.
New Jerusalem Bible	.
New Living Testament	.
Revised English Bible	.

Mostly literal renderings (with some occasional paraphrasing):

Bible in Basic English	Give him praise with instruments of brass and in the dance: give him praise with horns and corded instruments.
Complete Apostles' Bible	.
Complete Jewish Bible	.
<i>God's Word</i> ™	Praise him with tambourines and dancing. Praise him with stringed instruments and flutes. .
HCSB	.
JPS (Tanakh)	.
NET Bible®	.
New International Version	.
<i>The Scriptures</i> 1998	.

Literal, almost word-for-word, renderings:

<i>The Amplified Bible</i>	.
Albert Barnes (revised)	.
A Conservative Version	.
Updated <i>Emphasized Bible</i>	.
English Standard Version	.

Hebrew Names Version	.
Keil and Delitzsch (revised)	.
KJV (Scofield)	.
King James 2000 Version	.
LTHB	Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and pipes.
MKJV	.
NASB	.
New King James Version	.
NRSV	.
Owen's Translation	.
Updated Bible Version 2.11	.
A Voice in the Wilderness	.
WEB	Praise him with tambourine and dancing! Praise him with stringed instruments and flute!
Young's Literal Translation	Praise Him with timbrel and dance, Praise Him with stringed instruments and organ.
Young's Updated LT	.

What is the gist of this verse? .

Psalm 150:4a			
Hebrew/Pronunciation	Common English Meanings	Notes/Morphology	BDB and Strong's Numbers
hâlal (לָלַל) [pronounced haw-L AHL]	<i>praise, sing, celebrate</i>	2 nd person masculine plural, Piel imperative; with the 3 rd person masculine singular suffix	Strong's #1984 BDB #237
bê (בְּ) [pronounced b ^{eh}]	<i>in, into, through; at, by, near, on, upon; with, before, against; by means of; among; within</i>	a preposition of proximity	Strong's #none BDB #88
tôph (תֹּפ) [pronounced tohf]	<i>timbrel, tambourine; it is sort of a drum or tambourine and it is generally held in the hands of dancing women</i>	masculine singular noun	Strong's #8596 BDB #1074
wê (or vê) (וּ) [pronounced weh]	<i>and, even, then; namely; when; since, that; though</i>	simple wâw conjunction	No Strong's # BDB #251
mâchôwl (מַחֹל) [pronounced maw-KOHL]	<i>dance, dancing</i>	masculine singular noun	Strong's #4234 BDB #298

Translation: Praise Him with the timbrel [or, tambourine] and [with] dancing;... We find timbrels (tambourines?) and dancing at a number of different celebrations, including the moving of the Ark.

This final psalm seems to be primarily one of praise directed toward God throughout.

Psalm 150:4b

Hebrew/Pronunciation	Common English Meanings	Notes/Morphology	BDB and Strong's Numbers
hâlal (לָלַל) [pronounced hâw-L AHL]	<i>praise, sing, celebrate</i>	2 nd person masculine plural, Piel imperative; with the 3 rd person masculine singular suffix	Strong's #1984 BDB #237
b ^e (בְּ) [pronounced b ^{eh}]	<i>in, into, through; at, by, near, on, upon; with, before, against; by means of; among; within</i>	a preposition of proximity	Strong's #none BDB #88
minnîym (מִנִּיִּם) [pronounced mihn-NEEM]	<i>strings [of a harp]</i>	masculine plural noun	Strong's #4482 BDB #577
This is a homonym, which is mên (מֵן) [pronounced mayn] (this is the masculine singular form; our noun is found in the masculine plural); and the other meaning is <i>part, a portion of</i> . Strong's #4482 BDB #585.			
w ^e (or v ^e) (וְ) [pronounced weh]	<i>and, even, then; namely; when; since, that; though</i>	simple wâw conjunction	No Strong's # BDB #251
ʿûwgâb (עוּגָב) [pronounced goo-GAW ^{EV}]	<i>organ; but is given several other translations (tibia, fistula, syrinx, pipe, reed, flute, organ)</i>	masculine singular noun:	Strong's #5748 BDB #721

This word is probably related to the word *to blow*, which could indicate something similar to a woodwind or horn instrument; however, this *blowing* could also be similar to the air being pumped through pipes as an organ functions. Barnes reasonably rejects the organ as being too recent a musical instrument to be found in the days of Job; and adds that even if such an instrument existed, it would be unlikely used in a family gathering.²

Translation: ...praise Him with stringed instruments and organ. We find a mention of *stringed instruments* only here and possibly in Psalm 45:8. The organ (or, tibia, pipe, reed or flute) is quite the ancient instrument, being mentioned in Gen. 4 and Job 21 and 30. For this reason, agreeing with Barnes, I would be less likely to lean toward this being an organ.

**Praise Him in cymbals of sound;
praise Him in cymbals of a loud noise [or, a
battle cry].**

Psalm
150:5

**Praise Him with resounding cymbals [or, the
cymbals of a report?];
[and] praise Him with loud cymbals [or, the
cymbals of a battle cry?].**

Here is how others have translated this verse:

Ancient texts:

Dead Sea Scrolls
Latin Vulgate
Masoretic Text

Praise Him in cymbals of sound;
praise Him in cymbals of a loud noise [or, a battle cry].

² Barnes' Notes; Job, F. C. Cook, editor; reprinted 1996 by Baker Books; p. 351.

Peshitta	.
Septuagint	Praise him with melodious cymbals: praise him with loud cymbals.

Significant differences:

Thought-for-thought translations; paraphrases:

CEV	Praise God with cymbals, with clashing cymbals.
Good News Bible (TEV)	.
<i>The Message</i>	Praise him with cymbals and a big bass drum, praise him with fiddles and mandolin.
New American Bible	.
New Jerusalem Bible	.
New Living Testament	.
Revised English Bible	.

Mostly literal renderings (with some occasional paraphrasing):

Bible in Basic English	Give him praise with the loud brass: give him praise with the high-sounding brass.
Complete Apostles' Bible	.
Complete Jewish Bible	.
<i>God's Word</i> TM	.
HCSB	Praise Him with resounding cymbals; praise Him with clashing cymbals.
JPS (Tanakh)	.
NET Bible®	.
New International Version	.
<i>The Scriptures</i> 1998	.

Literal, almost word-for-word, renderings:

<i>The Amplified Bible</i>	.
Albert Barnes (revised)	.
A Conservative Version	.
Updated <i>Emphasized Bible</i>	.
English Standard Version	Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
Hebrew Names Version	.
Keil and Delitzsch (revised)	.
KJV (Scofield)	.
King James 2000 Version	.
LTHB	.
MKJV	.
NASB	.
New King James Version	.
NRSV	.
Owen's Translation	.
Updated Bible Version 2.11	.
A Voice in the Wilderness	.
WEB	Praise him with loud cymbals! Praise him with resounding cymbals!
<i>Young's Literal Translation</i>	Praise Him with cymbals of sounding, Praise Him with cymbals of shouting.
Young's Updated LT	.

What is the gist of this verse? .

Psalm 150:5a

Hebrew/Pronunciation	Common English Meanings	Notes/Morphology	BDB and Strong's Numbers
hâlal (לָלַל) [pronounced haw-L AHL]	<i>praise, sing, celebrate</i>	2 nd person masculine plural, Piel imperative; with the 3 rd person masculine singular suffix	Strong's #1984 BDB #237
b ^e (בְּ) [pronounced b ^{eh}]	<i>in, into, through; at, by, near, on, upon; with, before, against; by means of; among; within</i>	a preposition of proximity	Strong's #none BDB #88
tzel ^e tzel ⁱ ym (צִלְצִלִּים) [pronounced tzel ^e -tzel ^e -LEEM]	<i>musical instrument (cymbals?); possibly fish spears (which make a clinking noise?)</i>	masculine plural construct	Strong's #6767 BDB #852
The singular version of this noun refers to the <i>buzzing</i> or <i>whirring</i> of locusts, and sometimes to the locusts themselves. In the Bible, the plural version, as we have here, refers either to musical instruments or to things which make a clinking or clanging noise.			
shêma ^r (שָׁמַר) [pronounced SHAY-mahg]	<i>a report; a hearing; speech; fame; singing, music; a sound</i>	masculine singular noun	Strong's #8088 BDB #1034

This word is derived from shêma^r (שָׁמַר) [pronounced shaw-MAHG], which means *to listen, to hear; to listen and obey; to give heed to; to pay attention to*. Strong's #8085 BDB #1033. Gesenius lists this as one word, but with several meanings; BDB separates this into two words. At some point, I ought to carefully examine this word in order to limit the number of meanings.

Translation: *Praise Him with resounding cymbals* [or, *the cymbals of a report?*];... In this verse, we have a repetition of the musical instrument, although it is not completely clear that we are dealing with cymbals (others suggest *fish spears*, whatever the hell that is). In both cases, it is paired up with an unusual word. In v. 5a, it is paired up with the masculine singular noun *a report; a hearing; speech; fame; singing, music; a sound*. Even though we may want to take the lazy man's way out and simply say that these are cymbals which are loud, or sound loud or are resounding; perhaps the idea is to connect them with a word which means *report, speech*.

Psalm 150:5b

Hebrew/Pronunciation	Common English Meanings	Notes/Morphology	BDB and Strong's Numbers
hâlal (לָלַל) [pronounced haw-L AHL]	<i>praise, sing, celebrate</i>	2 nd person masculine plural, Piel imperative; with the 3 rd person masculine singular suffix	Strong's #1984 BDB #237
b ^e (בְּ) [pronounced b ^{eh}]	<i>in, into, through; at, by, near, on, upon; with, before, against; by means of; among; within</i>	a preposition of proximity	Strong's #none BDB #88
tzel ^e tzel ⁱ ym (צִלְצִלִּים) [pronounced tzel ^e -tzel ^e -LEEM]	<i>musical instrument (cymbals?); possibly fish spears (which make a clinking noise?)</i>	masculine plural construct	Strong's #6767 BDB #852

Psalm 150:5b

Hebrew/Pronunciation	Common English Meanings	Notes/Morphology	BDB and Strong's Numbers
The singular version of this noun refers to the <i>buzzing</i> or <i>whirring</i> of locusts, and sometimes to the locusts themselves. In the Bible, the plural version, as we have here, refers either to musical instruments or to things which make a clinking or clanging noise.			
תְּרוּעָה (t'rûw'âh) [pronounced t'rû-AWH]	<i>a shout, a cry; a tumult, a loud noise; a joyful noise, rejoicing; a war cry, a cry for battle; the blast [of war, alarm or joy]</i>	feminine singular noun	Strong's #8643 BDB #929

Translation:...[and] praise Him with loud cymbals [or, the cymbals of a battle cry?]. As in the previous half of v. 5, we have the same exact words, except that cymbals this is connected to a war cry or a battle cry. Although the idea may simply be that these cymbals are loud; I think the better approach is, they are sounding the alert for an armed conflict.

**All the breathing praise Yah;
Praise Yah!**

Psalm
150:6

**Everything that breathes praises Yah;
Praise Yah!**

**Let everything that breathes praise Yah!
Praise Yah!**

Here is how others have translated this verse:

Ancient texts:

Dead Sea Scrolls	.
Latin Vulgate	.
Masoretic Text	All the breathing praise Yah; Praise Yah!
Peshitta	.
Septuagint	Let every thing that has breath praise the Lord. Alleluia!
Significant differences:	None

Thought-for-thought translations; paraphrases:

CEV	Let every living creature praise the LORD. Shout praises to the LORD!
Good News Bible (TEV)	Praise the LORD, all living creatures! Praise the LORD!
The Message	Let every living, breathing creature praise GOD! Hallelujah!
New American Bible	.
New Jerusalem Bible	.
New Living Testament	.
Revised English Bible	.

Mostly literal renderings (with some occasional paraphrasing):

Bible in Basic English	Let everything which has breath give praise to the Lord. Let the Lord be praised.
Complete Apostles' Bible	.
Complete Jewish Bible	.
God's Word™	Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Hallelujah!

HCSB .
 JPS (Tanakh) .
 NET Bible® .
 New International Version .
The Scriptures 1998 .

Literal, almost word-for-word, renderings:

The Amplified Bible .
 Albert Barnes (revised) .
 A Conservative Version .
 Updated *Emphasized Bible* .
 English Standard Version .
 Hebrew Names Version .
 Keil and Delitzsch (revised) .
 KJV (Scofield) .
 King James 2000 Version .
 LTHB .
 MKJV [Let everything that breathes praise Jehovah. Praise Jehovah!](#)
 NASB .
 New King James Version .
 NRSV .
 Owen's Translation .
 Updated Bible Version 2.11 .
 A Voice in the Wilderness .
 WEB .
 Young's *Literal Translation* .
 Young's Updated LT [All that breathe praise Jah! Praise Jah!](#)

What is the gist of this verse? .

Psalm 150:6a			
Hebrew/Pronunciation	Common English Meanings	Notes/Morphology	BDB and Strong's Numbers
kôl (כֹּל) [pronounced kohl]	<i>every, each, all of, all; any of, any</i>	masculine singular construct not followed by a definite article	Strong's #3605 BDB #481
n°shâmâh (נִשְׁמָה) [pronounced n°shaw-MAW]	<i>breath; spirit; living creature; mind; panting, anger</i>	feminine singular substantive with the definite article	Strong's #5397 BDB #675
With kôl, it means <i>every breathing thing, every living creature</i> .			
hâlal (לָלַל) [pronounced haw-L AHL]	<i>to praise, to sing, to celebrate; to glory</i>	3 rd person feminine singular, Piel imperfect	Strong's #1984 BDB #237
Yâh (יְיָ) [pronounced yaw]	an abbreviated form of YHWH, the proper name for God in the Old Testament	proper masculine noun	Strong's #3050 BDB #219

Translation: [Everything that breathes praises Yah;...](#) This is a fitting end to all of the psalms. We do not have the imperative here, so we have a statement of fact, as opposed to all creatures being urged to praise God.

Psalm 150:6b			
Hebrew/Pronunciation	Common English Meanings	Notes/Morphology	BDB and Strong's Numbers
hâlal (לָלַל) [pronounced haw-L AHL]	<i>praise, sing, celebrate</i>	2 nd person masculine plural, Piel imperative	Strong's #1984 BDB #237
Yâh (יָהּ) [pronounced yaw]	an abbreviated form of YHWH, the proper name for God in the Old Testament	proper masculine noun	Strong's #3050 BDB #219

Psalm 150 Addendum

Exegetical Studies in the Psalms

[illegible]

Exegetical Studies in the Psalms