

PSALM 147 2024 – Praise to God for His Word and Providence!

8/31/24 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com www.ptwente.com

PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY, THE KING OF CREATION' Joachim Neander
(1650-80) (1:41)

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is my health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration.
2 Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen sound from His people again, Gladly for aye we adore Him.
Praise to the Lord, oh praise to the Lord!

PSALM 147 - Praise to God for His Word and Providence

He Heals the Brokenhearted

(vs. 1-6) Jehovah is extolled for building up, restoring, Zion and blessing His mourners.

Psa 147:1 Praise the LORD! (Hallelujah!) For it is good to sing praises to our God; For it is pleasant (being home), and praise is beautiful.

- Psalm 147 again, begins with that Hallelujah! It is suitable, it is fit, or it is beautiful. Praising the Lord, it's just **good** to spend your time in praising the Lord.
- Singing the divine praises is the best possible use of speech, it speaks of God, for God, and to God, and it does this in a joyful and reverent manner. Singing in the heart is good, but singing with heart and voice is better, for it allows others to join with us. Jehovah is *our* God, our covenant God, therefore let Him have the reverence of our praise; and He is so gracious and happy a God that our praise may best be expressed in joyful song.

Psa 147:2 The LORD builds up Jerusalem; He gathers together the outcasts of Israel.

- *The LORD builds up Jerusalem:* The Lord has built up Jerusalem again. The walls have been built up. The city has been fortified.
- The **gospel-church, the Jerusalem** that is from above, is of this building. He framed the model of it in his own counsels; he founded it by the preaching of his gospel; he adds to it daily such as shall be saved, and so increases it. He will build it up unto perfection, build it up as high as heaven. Are any of his people outcasts? Have they made themselves so by their own folly? He gathers them by giving them repentance and bringing them again into the communion of saints. Have they been forced out by war, famine, or persecution? He opens a door for their return; many that were missing, and thought to be lost, are brought back, and those that were scattered in the cloudy and dark day are gathered together again.
- *He gathers together the outcasts of Israel.* He has gathered together the outcasts of Israel, under the decree of Cyrus, all throughout the Persian Empire, which at that time ruled over the world. The Jews that were within the Persian Empire, had the permission of Cyrus to return to Jerusalem. He gathered together the outcasts of Israel.

Psa 147:3 He heals (not only a builder, but a healer) the brokenhearted And binds up their wounds (sorrows).

- This the Holy Spirit mentions as a part of the glory of God, and a reason for our declaring his praise: the Lord is not only a Builder, but a Healer; he restores broken hearts as well as broken walls.
- That period of captivity was hard on many of them. It said that we, you know, sat by the river in Babylon and we cried. They, who had taken us captive, demanded you know a party—songs of happiness. We heard of the Israeli songs, *Havah Neglia*, and so forth. Sing some of your songs, but how can we sing those kind of songs when we are in captivity? But **He heals the broken** in heart, and **He binds their wounds**.

Psa 147:4 He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name.

- *He counts the number of the stars;* Now this one is really, I'm in love with! He tells the number of the stars and *He calls them all by name*. As we have discovered there are millions of galaxies, and millions upon billions of stars in each galaxy. God knows the number! We don't know the number of stars. We just say it's astronomical. God knows the number of the stars. It is estimated there are ten to the twenty-fifth power! – 10 with 25 zeros after it, **ten trillion, trillion stars!** If you count 3 names per second, it would take **10 billion, billion years!** But that was before they found this new galaxy. God knows the number of the stars and He calls them **all** by name! You know, God talked to Job about Arcturus. He knows the fancy, Latin names or whatever. I mean, imagine! Imagine the awesomeness. Our God is an awesome God! He tells the number of the stars. He calls them all by their names! I've always just loved that Scripture!

Psa 147:5 Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.

- *Great is our Lord, and mighty in power:* (because) ***His understanding is infinite***. That is where difficulty arises. My understanding is **very finite**. God's understanding is infinite. Because of that, I can't understand God! I don't understand God! I don't understand the ways of God; the actions of God; or the activities of God. God's understanding is infinite! That is, He knows all things! Now it's rather pitiful and sad that many times with my limited understanding, I'm prone to challenge God in His activities, when He has infinite understanding. I sort of think, well Lord, don't You think You've made a mistake? I don't know why You would do that. And you sort of seek to advise God or to be His counselor.
- I'm afraid that many times our prayers reflect this. Lord, I want You to bow now to my wishes. I want to bend now to my desires. I want You, Lord, to do this, that I've got all figured out here. Because I understand this situation. And I know what's going on, so this is the way You should do it, you know. I'm trying to direct the activities of God through prayer. How much better that I say, Lord, work out Your will with Your infinite understanding! To recognize how limited I am. Rather than challenge God, that I submit! Just, well Lord, You know best! You do what You know is the best. His understanding is infinite!

Psa 147:6 The LORD lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked down to the ground.

- The LORD is **so great that nothing is great to Him**. He is **so condescending that nothing is little to Him!** His infinite majesty thus naturally bring low the lofty and exalts the lowly!

(vs. 7-11) Praise is given because of His provision for the lowly and His pleasure in them

Psa 147:7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; Sing praises on the harp to our God,

- *The LORD lifts up the humble.* Jesus said, blessed are the meek. They shall inherit the earth. The Lord brings down the proud. Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up. The Scripture always extols meekness over pride. The world sees things from the opposite side.
- The Lord lifts up the meek, but *He casts the wicked down to the ground. Sing unto the LORD with thanksgiving; sing praise on the harp to our God:* He opens the Psalm by declaring, *Hallelujah*, or praise the Lord! Sing unto Him with thanksgiving! Sing praises, accompanying on the harp unto our God!
- He is **our God**, and this fact is one choice joy of the song. We have chosen Him because He has chosen us; and we see in Him peculiarities which distinguish Him from all the pretended deities of those among whom we dwell. He is *our* God in covenant relationship for ever and ever, and to Him be praise in every possible form.

Psa 147:8 Who covers the heavens with clouds, Who prepares rain for the earth* (1.5 trillion tons/day), *Who makes grass to grow on the mountains.

Psa 147:9 He gives to the beast its food, And to the young ravens that cry.

- *Who covers the heavens with clouds, Who prepares rain for the earth, Who makes grass to grow on the mountains..* Now he is extolling this marvelous work of God in providing for His creatures.
- He caused the grass to grow upon the mountains and ***He gives to the beast its food, And to the young ravens that cry.*** He gives the beast His food, and to the young ravens that cry.

Psa 147:10 He does not delight in the strength of the horse; He takes no pleasure in the legs of a man.

- *He does not delight in the strength of the horse.* Now in battle, the horse was always considered an advantage. The cavalry units always had an advantage over the infantry. The horse, a thing of strength and power, especially in battle.
- But the Lord doesn't delight in the strength of the horse. *He takes no pleasure in the legs of a man.* The real strength is in the legs, the most powerful muscles of your body are in your legs. If you've done any weight lifting or all you know is that your lift with your legs, not with your back. And yet looking for strength, God doesn't take the pleasure of horses or the legs of a man.

Psa 147:11 The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, In those who hope in His mercy.

- Faith is so powerful! It blesses Him!

(vs. 12-20) He is magnified for His work on behalf of His people; The power of His word in nature and in grace!

Psa 147:12 Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion (the church and the people of God)!

Psa 147:13 For He has strengthened the bars of your gates; He has blessed your children within you.

- When Nehemiah had come back, he led the people in the rebuilding of the wall. They rebuilt the gates. The gates of the city, when closed, they had this large bar of planks that went through these sockets, so that the gates could not be opened without breaking, which was impossible. This large plank that was run through these sockets to lock the gates of the city.
- He has strengthened the bars of your gates and *He has blessed your children within you.* They live in that peace and security again.

Psa 147:14 He makes peace in your borders, And fills you with the finest wheat.

- *He makesh peace in your borders.* God has blessed. God has been good! The idea is that peace prevailed throughout the land.
- *And fills you with the finest wheat.* There is no want of wheat, and that of the best kind.

Psa 147:15 He sends out His command to the earth; His word runs very swiftly.

- *He sends out His command to the earth.* His **substantial word**, which appears to be a very active agent running everywhere, and performing the purposes of His will.

Psa 147:16 He gives snow like wool; He scatters the frost like ashes;

- *(Job 37:6) For He says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth'; Likewise, to the gentle rain and the heavy rain of His strength.*

Psa 147:17 He casts out His hail like morsels; Who can stand before His cold?

- *(Job 38:22) "Have you entered the treasury of snow, Or have you seen the treasury of hail,*

Psa 147:18 He sends out His word and melts them; He causes His wind to blow, and the waters flow.

- Note how these two sentences the word and the wind go together in nature. They attend each other in grace; **the gospel** and **the Holy Spirit co-operate** in salvation. The truth which the Spirit breathed into prophets and apostles he breathes into dead souls, and they are quickened into spiritual life.

Psa 147:19 He declares His word to Jacob, His statutes and His judgments to Israel.

- *He shows His word to Jacob* - To no other nation of the world beside had God given a revelation of His will. But the Gospel part of the word is also included; the word of grace, peace, reconciliation, righteousness, eternal life, and salvation, which was first published **to the Jews: it was "shown"** unto them, for it cannot be known by any without a revelation; the Gospel, and the things of it, are hidden things to natural men, and could never have been discerned by any, had they not been shown by the Lord; as they are externally in the ministration of the word, and internally and effectually by the Spirit of God; who is the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of divine things;

Psa 147:20 He has not dealt thus with any nation; And as for His judgments, they have not known them. Praise the LORD!

- God blessed you, Israel! He blessed you by making known His laws, His judgments, His statutes. Other nations do not know the judgments of the Lord. They do not share in that blessing.
- The psalmist is not rejoicing that other nations have not received these, but that Israel has! (and we believers, too!)
- Therefore; ***Praise the LORD. Hallelujah!***

KING OF KINGS *Song by Hillsong Worship (4:25)*

1 In the darkness we were waiting Without hope, without light. 'Til from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes. To fulfill the law and prophets. To a virgin came the word. From a
throne of endless glory To a cradle in the dirt.

(Refrain) Praise the Father, praise the Son. Praise the Spirit, three in one. God of glory, Majesty,
Praise forever to the King of Kings

2 To reveal the kingdom coming And to reconcile the lost To redeem the whole creation You did not
despise the cross. For even in your suffering, You saw to the other side Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died (Refrain)

3 And the morning that You rose All of Heaven held its breath. 'Til that stone was moved for good. For
the Lamb had conquered death. And the dead rose from their tombs And the angels stood in awe. For
the souls of all who'd come To the Father are restored. And the church of Christ was born, Then the
Spirit lit the flame

Now this gospel truth of old Shall not kneel, shall not faint. By His blood and in His name, In His
freedom I am free! For the love of Jesus Christ Who has resurrected me! (Refrain)

Praise forever to the King of Kings

PRAY FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD

LEADERS: - *Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation, including Xi Jinping – China; Narendra Modi - India; Joe Biden – USA; Joko Widodo - Indonesia; Luiz Lula da Silva - Brazil; Arif Alvi - Pakistan; Bola Tinubu - Nigeria; Hasina Wazed - Bangladesh; Vladimir Putin - Russia; Lopez Obrador–Mexico; Benjamin Netanyahu–Israel; Olaf Scholz – Germany; Keir Starmer – U.K.*

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE/MILITARY; ISRAEL:

FOR STATES POSTING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS! LOUISIANA! TENNESSEE! OKLAHOMA? OTHER STATES?

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