

PSALM 148 2024 – Pure Praise - No Petition! Praise to the LORD from Creation!

9/14/24 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com www.ptwente.com

PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY, THE KING OF CREATION' J. Neander (1650-80) Graham (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! O let all that I 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! O praise to the LORD

The Psalms are devoted to a great part to praising the LORD. Beginning with 146, all begin and end with the Hebrew word, *hallelujah*, which means, “Praise the LORD!” These are Psalms in which we are exhorted to man’s highest capacity and that is that capacity to praise the Lord. Man comes to the ultimate of his life experiences when he devotes himself to praise God. Thus, the exhortations here at the end of the Psalms are really devoted to the exhorting of the people to praise the LORD.

For the exposition of Psalm 146, the chief requisite is a heart on fire with reverent love to the LORD over all, who is to be blessed forever!

PSALM 148 – Pure Praise - Praise to the LORD from Creation

Verses 1-6 – descending-from the heavens; vs. 7-14 ascending-from the earth

Psa 148:1 Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights!

- Whoever hears this word, is invited, entreated, and commanded to magnify the LORD!

Psa 148:2 Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts!

- The beginning with a hallelujah. Then, *Praise the LORD from the heavens*. The Psalmist, first of all, he is going to call, really, pretty much the whole universe into praise. And he begins with the highest order of created beings, the angels. Those in the heavens.
- *Praise Him in the heights! Praise Him, all His angels! Praise Him, all His hosts!* These are the heavenly hosts. Now just who they are and what they are, will remain for us a mystery until we are there. But just the various of hosts of heaven that God has created. We know that angels are in various orders or ranks. There are the cherubim. There are the seraphim. There are the great and mighty angels. Thus, the exhortation for the hosts of heaven to praise God.

Psa 148:3 Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all you stars of light!

- Still dealing with the heavens, the sun, the moon, all the stars of light, praise the LORD!

Psa 148:4 Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, And you waters above the heavens!

- This is probably a reference to the universe as such. The Bible speaks of three heavens. There is **that heaven**, which is the atmosphere around the earth. As God created the birds that fly through the heavens, the atmosphere around the earth. The **second heaven** is your celestial heaven, the stars, the moon, the planets and so forth—in the heavens. We look up into the heavens at night. The **third heaven** is the place of God’s dwelling, wherever that may be. Paul the apostle, in writing to the Corinthians, said, **(2Co 12:2, 4)** *I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. [4] how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.*
- The hosts of heavens are called upon to praise the LORD. Then the heaven of heaven, the very dwelling place of God.
- *And you waters above the heavens!* This probably is a reference to the heaven, the atmosphere around the earth, referring probably to the clouds that are carrying the water.

Psa 148:5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, For He commanded and they were created.

- They exist at the Word of God. God said, let there be light and there was light! God commanded and they were brought into existence by what they call the divine fiat, or by the divine word of God. He spoke the universe into existence.
- The highest praise of the LORD is to declare of what He is! Those who were created by command are under command to adore their Creator!

Psa 148:6 He also established them forever and ever; He made a decree which shall not pass away.

- Now, having called on the heavens, he turns now to the earth and calls upon the earth and those that dwell upon the earth to praise the LORD. Starting basically with inanimate objects and then working to animate objects and ultimately unto man. They do not fail because the LORD does not fail them! (*Psa 119:90*) *Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides.*

Psa 148:7 Praise the LORD from the earth, You great sea creatures and all the depths;

- So, *Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures, (sea monsters) and all the depths:* All of those creatures that dwell in the depths of the sea.

Psa 148:8 Fire and hail, snow and clouds; Stormy wind, fulfilling His word;

Psa 148:9 Mountains and all hills; Fruitful trees and all cedars;

Psa 148:10 Beasts and all cattle; Creeping things and flying fowl;

- He is calling on them to praise the LORD!

Psa 148:11 Kings of the earth and all peoples (dignified with powers of reason); Princes and all judges of the earth;

Psa 148:12 Both young men and maidens; Old men and children

- He does not leave anybody out!

Psa 148:13 Let them praise the name of the LORD, For His name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and heaven.

- We are to praise the name of the LORD. That name, Yahweh, or Jehovah, whatever the pronunciation maybe, probably Yahweh.
- All through the Bible there is great reverence given to the name of God. Now God is not His name and do not get confused. The Bible speaks of many gods. The gods of the heathen are many, but the Bible speaks of the true and the living God. It speaks of Him by name.

Psa 148:14 And He has exalted the horn (power) of His people, The praise of all His saints—Of the children (not literal but spiritual) of Israel (62x in Psalms), A people near to Him (chosen, special treasure). Praise the LORD!

- His goodness to all His creatures does not prevent His having a special favor to His chosen nation: He is good to all, but He is God to His people. He lifts up the down-trodden, but He in a peculiar manner lifts up His people. When they are brought low He raises up a horn for them by sending them a Deliverer!
- In our fallen condition, He has called us and brought us into a relationship with Him!
- Praise the LORD, or Hallelujah! This should be the Alpha and Omega of a good man's life. Let us praise God to the end, world without end. The field of praise which lies before us in this Psalm is bounded at beginning and end by landmarks in the form of Hallelujahs, and all that lieth between them is every word of it to the LORD's honor. Amen.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY – F. Crosby, Royal Albert Hall – (3:25) (*Psa 148:13*) *Let them praise the name of the LORD, For His name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and heaven.*

1 To God be the glory, great things He has done; So loved He the world that He gave us His Son, Who yielded His life an atonement for sin, And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice! O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son, And give Him the glory, great things He has done.

2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, To every believer the promise of God; The vilest offender who truly believes, That moment from Jesus a pardon receives. (Refrain)

3 Great things He has taught us, great things He has done, And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; But purer, and higher, and greater will be Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (Refrain)

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