

Praise the Lord! – Psalm 147

Pastor Adam Hall ☞ Dryden First Baptist Church ☞ July 31, 2022

Psalm 147 ESV

Praise the Lord!

For it is good to sing praises to our God;

for it is pleasant, 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;

he casts the wicked to the ground.

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 to Israel.

²⁰ He has not dealt thus with any other nation;

they do not know his rules.

Praise the Lord!

Memory Verse: Psalm 147:5

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

Introduction and Background

- have you ever noticed when there is a prison break in movies, or in real life, when the prisoners get free they do not act free?

- these prisoners do not enjoy their _____ of being out of prison but often return to committing all the evil that put them in prison to begin with

- no two people are more famous for this then Marv and Harry in the Christmas movies Home

_____ One and Two

- they escape prison and land in New York on a seafood truck and smell freedom...or is it fish?

- but that smell of freedom does not last long for them

- what did Marv and Harry do as soon as they were free from prison?

- they went back to robbing and stealing

- this freedom that they experienced did not bring freedom in their lifestyle

- they were set free but they returned to the horrible practices that got them in so much trouble and in prison

- unfortunately, this is how we act with regards to our own _____ in Christ
- we are given freedom from the power of sin by Jesus Christ and we sometimes turn again to our old behavior of sin which brings _____

- this psalm talks about the Lord bringing back the people of God from _____
- Israel, because of their rebellion against God, was exiled from the Promised Land and dispersed to other _____

- but the _____ brought Israel back from the nations and established Israel again in the Promised Land by His _____ and grace

- since the Lord has done this work of _____, delivering the people of God from exile and thus _____, they are commanded by God in this psalm to respond with worship by praising the Lord

- Psalm _____ has no indication of the author's name

- nor is there a subscript that gives a context for this psalm

- but we can see from the details found in this _____ that Israel has been in exile and the Lord has brought them back to the Promised Land and is establishing them _____

- the Lord gathers the _____ – referring to those who were in exile due to the rebellion of Israel

Psalm 147:2 The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he _____ the outcasts of Israel.

- the Lord establishes and protects Israel as a _____ as they have come back from exile

Psalm 147:13-14 For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your _____ within you. ¹⁴ He makes peace in your borders; he fills you with the finest of the wheat.

- because of these verses in Psalm 147, we can conclude that this psalm was written during the time of the ministry of _____ and Nehemiah

- this is what we call the post-exilic _____

- this is the time where Israel came from the foreign nations; where God had scattered them because of their _____ against God

- the Lord had warned Israel that if they _____ against God, then the Lord would _____ Israel by exiling them from the Promised Land

Jeremiah 25:11 This whole land shall become a ruin and a _____, and these nations shall _____ the king of Babylon seventy years.

- so Israel was exiled and the Promised Land decimated, we see these horrible _____ in the book of Lamentations

- the Lord fulfilled His promise and brought Israel back to the Promised Land after _____ years

- the Lord uses Cyrus the Persian King to _____ the people of Israel back in the Promised _____

- the people of God begin their restoration process by rebuilding the _____, rebuilding the walls around the city, rebuilding the houses and returning to the Lord in _____, repentance and obedience

- Psalm 147 was written during this _____ time in Israel

- this psalm was written to _____ the people of God to praise the Lord in the midst of His grace given to them

- in Psalm 147:1, 7, 12, 20 the psalmist exhorts the people of God to praise the Lord, sing to the Lord, and make _____ to the Lord

- then the psalmist gives the reasons for praising the Lord

- Psalm 147 has _____ parts

1) v 1-6 Praise the Lord because the Lord is gracious and sovereign over all creation

2) v 7-11 Sing praise to the Lord and make melody to the Lord with a lyre because the Lord is sovereign over creation and provides food for animals

3) v 12-20 Praise the Lord because the Lord restores the nation of Israel, provides snow and cold and sends His word to His people

Brief Outline:

1) (147:-1-6) Praise the Lord

2) (147:7-11) Sing to the Lord

3) (147:12-20) Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord

1) (147:-1-6) Praise the Lord

(147:1) Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is _____.

- this psalm starts out with the command to praise the Lord
- this is the _____ phrase “Hallelujah”
- to praise the Lord means that you are _____ the greatness of God
- you are declaring the _____ and majesty of God
- we need to be reminded that the psalms were used in corporate _____
- these psalms were compiled so that Israel could use them in _____ to be reminded of the _____ of God
- many psalms start just like Psalm 147 with a exhortation to _____ the Lord
- Psalms 146-150 all have a _____ of the importance of praising the Lord!
 - Psalm 146:1 Praise the Lord
 - Psalm 148:1 Praise the Lord
 - Psalm 149:1 Praise the Lord
 - Psalm 150:1 Praise the Lord
- the theme at the end of the psalms is “praise the Lord”!
- let us look at two reasons why the Lord is to be praised

Reason # 1 Why the Lord is to be praised – He is gracious

(147:2-3) The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel. ³ He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds.

- the Lord is _____ by means of His work done on behalf of Israel as described in Psalm 147:2-3
- the Lord _____ up Jerusalem
- now remember that Israel had been _____ and the city of Jerusalem was vacated and destroyed physically
- but the Lord brought His people back to the Promised Land and was building up Jerusalem again
- the Lord _____ the outcasts
- the Lord gathers those who have been exiled
- the sheep have been brought back into the _____ and thus the people of God have been _____ to the Promised Land
- the Lord is to be _____ because He heals those who are brokenhearted

- those who have experienced the horrible event of _____, the Lord heals them, and _____ them by His grace

- Praise the Lord for the _____ that He brings!

- when we are “brokenhearted” because of circumstances, through Jesus Christ, we can be _____ and restored!

Reason # 2 Why the Lord is to be praised – He is Sovereign and powerful over creation

(147:4-6) ⁴ He determines the number of the _____; 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 _____; he casts the wicked to the ground.

- the psalmist gives us another _____ why we ought to praise the Lord

- in Psalm 147:4-6 we see that he is focusing upon the Lord’s work in creation

- the Lord determines the _____ of stars

- but even more amazing than that, the Lord names all the stars

- just for your information, scientists _____ that there are approximately 200 billion trillion stars in the universe. Or, to put it another way, 200 sextillion.

- in other words, too many for us to count, but the Lord not only made each star, He has also _____ each star

- no wonder the psalmist can say that the Lord is _____, abundant in power, and His understanding is beyond measure

- we cannot even _____ to 200 billion trillion let alone name all those stars

- but praise the Lord, He is great and awesome

- this section ends with a _____ of how we ought to worship the Lord

- we ought to be _____ before this Lord who is great, who is powerful, and who has _____ that we cannot fathom

- but the _____ are warned here by the Lord that they will be _____ to the ground!

2) (147:7-11) Sing to the Lord

(147:7) Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make _____ to our God on the lyre!

- in this next section we are commanded to _____ to the Lord with our voices and to make _____ with the lyre which is a stringed instrument
- this is instruction on worshipping the Lord with _____ and music
- we need to highlight here that our _____ is not to each other
- but we are _____ to sing and make melody to our Lord and God
- the worship _____ is not for us, we are commanded to gather in obedience to God and worship the Lord alone!
- let us be a church that is committed to gathering in thankful _____ and _____ to our great God
- let us look at the two reasons why the Lord is to be _____

Reason # 1 Why the Lord is to be worshipped – He is sovereign over creation

(147:8-9) 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.

- in Psalm 147:8-9 we see a three-fold working of the Lord

- 1) the Lord provides the _____
- 2) the Lord makes the _____ grow
- 3) the Lord provides _____ for His creation

- I cannot help but think of Psalm 104 when I read these verses and see how God is sovereign in providing for His _____

Psalm 104:27 These all look to you, to give them their food in due season.

Reason # 2 Why the Lord is to be worshipped – the Lord does not look at outward appearances

(147:10-11) ¹⁰ His delight is not in the strength of the _____, nor his pleasure in the legs of a _____,
¹¹ but the LORD takes pleasure in those who _____ him, in those who _____ in his steadfast love.

- we see what the Lord delights and finds _____ in in Psalm 147:10-11
- the _____ does not delight in the power of a horse
- the Lord is not _____ with man's ability to run
- power and athletic skill does not _____ the Lord
- this completely goes _____ what our Canadian culture esteems

- we _____ people who are powerful and we adore and admire those are athletic

- but who is the Lord _____ with?

1) those who _____ the Lord

- this is a reverence for the LORD

2) those who _____ in His steadfast love

- this is a leaning upon, or confidence in, the character of God, who is _____

3) (147:12-20) Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord

(147:12) Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

- in the third section of Psalm 147, the psalmist _____ the people of God to praise the Lord _____ and in Psalm 147:20 this psalm also _____ with a exhortation to praise the Lord

- in Psalm 147 verses 1-6 and 7-11 the psalmist gives just two _____ why the Lord should be praised

- but in Psalm 147:13-20 three main _____ are given as to why the Lord is to be praised

- here are three more reasons the psalmist says we are to praise the Lord

Reason # 1 Why the Lord is to be Praised – He is gracious

(147:13-14) 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.

- the psalmist highlights the work of the Lord in the restoration of the people of God and their land

- we see that the _____ of the land of Israel are strengthened

- there is _____ within the borders of Israel

- the Lord provides the best wheat for His _____

- they are to _____ the Lord for His protection and _____ over the land of Israel

- these great works of the Lord are also talked about in the _____ of Nehemiah in chapter 3 where we read about the _____ and the walls of Jerusalem being repaired

Reason # 2 Why the Lord is to be praised – He is sovereign over _____

(147:15-17) ¹⁵ He sends out his command to the earth; his _____ runs swiftly.

¹⁶ He gives _____ like wool; he scatters frost like ashes. ¹⁷ He hurls down his crystals of ice like crumbs; who can stand before his cold?

- unless you have a snow machine, or like ice fishing, you are not going to like these three verses

- the psalmist _____ that the Lord sends His word and creation responds

- the Lord _____ the snow, frost and crystals of ice

- we see that the Lord is sovereign over all the changing _____, even winter

Reason # 3 Why the Lord is to be praised – He _____ His word to His people

(147:18-20) 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 to Israel. ²⁰ He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his rules. Praise the LORD!

- the Lord is to be _____ because the Lord sends His word to His people

- the Lord gives us His word that _____ us to His glory

- the word of Lord encourages us and _____ us

- the word of the Lord _____ us to salvation found in Jesus Christ

- the word of the Lord is sent to us so that we can _____ the Lord's holy decrees

- the psalmist _____ in Psalm 147:20 that the Lord has not _____ any other nation like He has treated Israel

- the psalmist quotes Deuteronomy 4 where the Lord _____ His great grace given to Israel in their election

- the nation of Israel has been _____ by God and has been shown _____ by God

Deuteronomy 4:32-34 "For ask now of the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether such a great thing as this has ever happened or was ever heard of.

³³ Did any people ever hear the voice of a god speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and still live? ³⁴ Or has any god ever attempted to go and take a nation for himself from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, and by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great deeds of terror, all of which the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?

- this _____ ends with the declaration that the Lord is to be praised

Application

1) Live as Free People Because of the Grace of the Lord

- in this psalm we see the _____ of the Lord

- we see the grace of God bringing the people of God back to the _____ of Israel to enjoy the _____ of the Lord

- the people of God had been brought _____ from exile to experience God and His _____ and live out the grace and mercy of God by being _____ to God

- this _____ of God bringing His people back from exile _____ us to the person and work of _____ Christ

- Israel had been _____ and those who receive the grace of _____ have been redeemed

- if we have received Jesus Christ, we experience His work of _____

- Colossians and Ephesians _____ declare that in Jesus Christ there is redemption

Colossians 1:14 in whom we have _____, the forgiveness of sins.

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the _____ of our trespasses, according to the riches of his _____,

- _____ is the work of Jesus, setting people _____ who are in bondage to sin

- sin holds all of humanity in its _____ and people in sin are not free from the _____ and authority of sin

- this means that we have a natural inclination to _____

- Jesus, when He went to the Cross, sets people _____ from the authority and power of _____

- those who receive the grace of Christ through _____ are set free from the power and authority of _____

- they have been given a new _____ and a new attitude towards sin

- because of this grace we are called, as Christians, to live as _____ people as we live all for the _____ of the Lord

- if you are here today and have _____ received the grace of _____ Christ, today is the day to experience the freedom that only Jesus Christ can _____

- Jesus _____ sinners, like each one of us, from the punishment and _____ of sin over our lives
- Jesus brings freedom, joy and _____
- only _____ can do this
- so if you are outside Jesus Christ _____ in Christ today, and His work done on the cross for you, so you can experience freedom from sin and its' consequence, which is eternal _____

2) Let Us Praise the Lord

- for the Christian, we ought to _____ the Lord for His work of grace done on _____ of us

- there is a chorus that some of you might have heard before called, "I came to Praise the Lord"

- listen to these lyrics

YOU CAN SIT AROUND AND COMPLAIN --- BUT I CAME TO PRAISE THE LORD
 YOU CAN SIT AROUND AND CRITICIZE ALL THE SAINTS --BUT I CAME TO PRAISE THE LORD

YOU CAN WALK AROUND WITH YOUR NOSE IN THE AIR AND EVEN CRITICIZE THE WAY I WEAR MY HAIR

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU CAME TO DO ---- BUT I CAME TO PRAISE THE LORD

- this song is about the _____ important thing we can do with our lives and you can guess it is "to _____ the Lord"

- people might do this and do that, but our life _____ ought to be to praise the Lord

- we ought to praise the Lord with our _____ and we ought to praise the Lord with our _____ as well

- if Jesus has saved you, are you living your life in _____ to the Lord?

- or are you doing this and that with your life?

- someone who has been _____ from sin, because of Christ, has a life that is characterized by praise to the _____!

3) The Lord is Sovereign, Let us NOT Worry!

- while I was studying this psalm I could not help but _____ about how the Lord _____ for creation

Psalm 147:4 He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.

Psalm 147:8-9 _____ covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain for the earth; he makes grass grow on the hills. ⁹ He _____ to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry.

- these verses reminded me of Jesus' teaching on _____ in the gospel of Matthew

Matthew 6:25-33 ²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not be _____ about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸ And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not be _____, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

- Jesus _____ us of the same _____ that are talked about in Psalm 147
- the Lord is _____ over His creation
- the Lord cares for His creation
- and since the Lord cares for His _____, He also cares for His people whom He has _____ by the death of His Son
- because the Lord is a sovereign heavenly Father, we are called to stop _____ and _____ first the Kingdom of God
- let us remind ourselves of the _____, might and _____ of God and seek first Jesus Christ and His _____
- when you are burdened with worry or anxiety _____ to the wonderful grace and power of God
- how many times are we beaten down by _____ and worry because we have not reflected upon the great _____ and power of God ?

Let us look to God's greatness lets praise the Lord.

Let us find joy in the grace of God and respond, of course, with praise.

Next Sunday...

- **Prepare your heart for communion.**
- **Psalm 111 – Pastor Adam Hall**

Memory Verse Psalm 111:2

