

Psalms 147-150 – Thursday, August 8th, 2019

Psalm 147 -- 1 Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; For it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful. 2 The LORD builds up Jerusalem; He gathers together the outcasts of Israel. 3 He heals the brokenhearted And binds up their wounds. 4 He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. 5 Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite. 6 The LORD lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked down to the ground. 7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; Sing praises on the harp to our God, 8 Who covers the heavens with clouds, Who prepares rain for the earth, Who makes grass to grow on the mountains. 9 He gives to the beast its food, And to the young ravens that cry. 10 He does not delight in the strength of the horse; He takes no pleasure in the legs of a man. 11 The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, In those who hope in His mercy. 12 Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion! 13 For He has strengthened the bars of your gates; He has blessed your children within you. 14 He makes peace in your borders, And fills you with the finest wheat. 15 He sends out His command to the earth; His word runs very swiftly. 16 He gives snow like wool; He scatters the frost like ashes; 17 He casts out His hail like morsels; Who can stand before His cold? 18 He sends out His word and melts them; He causes His wind to blow, and the waters flow. 19 He declares His word to Jacob, His statutes and His judgments to Israel. 20 He has not dealt thus with any nation; And as for His judgments, they have not known them. Praise the LORD!

- Psalm 147 is the second of 5 final "Hallelujah Psalms" as they're known, and speaks to how good pleasant and beautiful it is.
- It's not just good for us to praise the Lord; it's pleasant and beautiful in the sight of the Lord to be on the receiving end of praise.
- Certainly He is worthy of all our praise for all that He has done in His provision for us, protection of us, and His love toward us.

Psalm 148 -- 1 Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights! 2 Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts! 3 Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all you stars of light! 4 Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, And you waters above the heavens! 5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, For He commanded and they were created. 6 He also established them forever and ever; He made a decree which shall not pass away. 7 Praise the LORD from the earth, You great sea creatures and all the depths; 8 Fire and hail, snow and clouds; Stormy wind, fulfilling His word; 9 Mountains and all hills; Fruitful trees and all cedars; 10 Beasts and all cattle; Creeping things and flying fowl; 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples; Princes and all judges of the earth; 12 Both young men and maidens; Old men and children. 13 Let them praise the name of the LORD, For His name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and heaven. 14 And He has exalted the horn of His people, The praise of all His saints— Of the children of Israel, A people near to Him. Praise the LORD!

- Psalm 148 is another one of those Psalms that is packed full of pure praise such that there is no petition within it whatsoever.
- It seems that the Psalmist is calling upon the whole of creation to join with him in this heavenly chorus of praise to the Lord.
- What's interesting is that of all of God's creation, it is man alone who chooses of his own volition to offer praise to the Lord.

G. Campbell Morgan - "What a wonderful song this is! Look over it again, and note the fact that there is no reference in it, from first to last, to the mercy, or pity, or compassion of God. But that is because there is no reference to evil in any form."

Adam Clarke - "O what a hymn of praise is here! It is a universal chorus! All created nature have a share, and all perform their respective parts."

Psalm 149 -- 1 Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, And His praise in the assembly of saints. 2 Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. 3 Let them praise His name with the dance; Let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp. 4 For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation. 5 Let the saints be joyful in glory; Let them sing aloud on their beds. 6 Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand, 7 To execute vengeance on the nations, And punishments on the peoples; 8 To bind their kings with chains, And their nobles with fetters of iron; 9 To execute on them the written judgment— This honor have all His saints. Praise the LORD!

- I would suggest that Psalm 149 while also a magnificent Psalm of praise has a very powerful truth concerning spiritual warfare.
- Namely, that of the praise of God from our mouths, and with it the Word of God in our hands to execute judgment as His saints.
- The reason being is the demonic forces of wickedness in high places have to flee when we praise God and proclaim His Word.

Charles Spurgeon - The word of God is all edge; whichever way we turn it, it strikes deadly blows at falsehood and wickedness. If we do not praise we shall grow sad in our conflict; and if we do not fight we shall become presumptuous in our song. ...as you have the sword of the Spirit, which is two-edged, which is indeed all edge, ...go forth and praise God by the use of that two-edged sword which is the Word of God."

Psalm 150 -- 1 Praise the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament! 2 Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness! 3 Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp! 4 Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! 5 Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with clashing cymbals! 6 Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!

- Psalm 150 brings this amazing songbook to a most powerful end with the praise of the Lord for Who He is and How good He is.
- It's as if the Psalmist is declaring that everyone, everywhere, that has breath should praise the Lord for everything, every time.
- I cannot think of a better way to end a Bible study and with it, this wonderful book in the Bible than to close by praising the Lord.