

Psalm 147 – The God of Stars, Storms, and the Brokenhearted

A Hallelujah Psalm of Praise and Wonder

1 Praise the LORD!

For it is good to sing praises to our God;

For it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful.

The psalm begins with a powerful invitation: praise the LORD—not out of obligation, but because it's *good, pleasant, and fitting*. True praise brings joy to both the worshiper and the One being worshiped.

Personal Application:

Praise isn't something reserved for perfect days. It's always appropriate. No matter how you feel, *praise lifts your perspective*—and brings beauty into the moment.

2 The LORD builds up Jerusalem;

He gathers together the outcasts of Israel.

3 He heals the brokenhearted

And binds up their wounds.

God doesn't just build cities; He rebuilds *people*. He gathers the scattered and heals the hurting. He is attentive to both national restoration and personal brokenness.

Personal Application:

If you've been cast aside, scattered by failure, or wounded by life—take heart. The God who restores cities *also mends hearts*. Come to Him as you are. He doesn't ignore your pain—He binds it up with mercy.

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.

Billions of stars scattered across countless galaxies—and *He knows each one*. And yet, the same God who governs the cosmos pays attention to you.

Personal Application:

You are not lost in the crowd. The God who names the stars knows *your* name too. You don't have to earn His attention. You already have it.

6 The LORD lifts up the humble;

He casts the wicked down to the ground.

This consistent biblical theme is echoed again: God exalts the humble but brings down the proud. Power doesn't impress Him—humility does.

Personal Application:

Let go of self-promotion. Choose humility. God resists the proud, but He lifts the lowly. It is better to bow low before Him and be raised than to stand tall in pride and fall.

*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 grow on the mountains.
9 He gives to the beast its food,
And to the young ravens that cry.*

God's care extends far beyond humanity. From weather systems to the feeding of birds, He sustains all life. His faithfulness is both *cosmic* and *personal*.

Personal Application:

If God provides rain for grass and food for birds, can't you trust Him with your needs? (cf. Matthew 6:26). Give thanks—even before the answer comes. His faithfulness is woven into creation itself.

*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.*

God is not impressed by human might or muscle. What delights Him is reverence and trust—not performance, but dependence.

Personal Application:

You don't have to impress God. What He wants is your heart—your awe, your trust, your hope in His mercy. *Hope in Him*, not in your strength.

*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.*

The Lord is both a protector and a provider. He brings security, prosperity, and peace—not just as material blessings but as expressions of His grace.

Personal Application:

Has God given you peace in any area of your life? Strengthen your praise! Count your blessings, not just your burdens. And if you're still waiting for peace, trust the One who has promised to fill your life with His goodness in due season.

*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.*

God rules over nature with effortless command. He speaks, and elements obey. He controls both storm and thaw, snow and stream.

Personal Application:

If God governs the seasons, He can certainly guide your life. His Word has power—not only to create but also to soften hearts, melt fears, and bring renewal. *Let His Word do its work in you.*

*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!*

Israel was uniquely privileged to receive God's revealed Word. Yet now, through Christ and the gospel, God's truth has gone out to all nations.

Personal Application:

If you have access to God's Word, consider yourself blessed. Don't take it for granted. Let it shape your thinking, direct your choices, and fuel your praise.

Conclusion: The Great and Gracious God

Psalm 147 weaves together two grand truths:

- God is infinitely powerful—ruler of stars, storms, and seasons.
- God is intimately compassionate—He binds wounds, feeds birds, and lifts the brokenhearted.

He is worthy of your praise not just because of what He *does*, but because of who He is.

"Praise the LORD!" (Hallelujah)

Let this be the rhythm of your life:

- Praise in the ordinary
- Trust in the unknown
- Humility before the great
- Gratitude for the good
- And awe for the God who numbers the stars and knows your heart