

Psalm 147

¹ Praise the LORD! Join with me in singing praises to His name, because praise is a joy on our part and is fitting for such a great God. Why should we praise Him?

For His great love for obedient children

² Consider His great love when His children are obedient. He repaired Jerusalem and built it into a great and special city after gathering the outcasts of the Jews who had been held in captivity. ³ Once the Jews were back in Jerusalem He healed the wounds they had sustained in captivity and mended their broken hearts.

For His vast knowledge and power

⁴ The LORD knows the number of stars in the universe, and He has given a name to each one of them. ⁵ His wisdom and understanding are limitless, and He has more power than we can ever comprehend this side of heaven. ⁶ As strong as He is, it is no wonder that He can and will raise up and support those who are meek and humble. At the same time He will knock the wicked down to the ground so that they cannot get up again.

For His wonderful provision

⁷ Sing praises and give thanks to the LORD ⁸ for the way He provides life-giving food for wild animals and humans in their need. Think about it – He causes clouds to form which in turn drop rain to water the ground. The water enables vegetation to grow green and lush ⁹ as food for animals and young ravens when they cry because they are hungry. It also enables crops to grow to feed humans. ¹⁰ He takes pleasure in these things, but He is totally unimpressed with the physical strength of horses and the physical strength of a man. ¹¹ Oh, but He is impressed with and favors those who fear the LORD and wait patiently for Him to pour out His tender love and kindness. What does a genuine, biblical fear of the LORD look like in the life of a believer? That kind of person will do good so that he does not disappoint his heavenly Father, and he will avoid or abandon every sinful practice knowing that sin will break sweet fellowship with the Father.

For His ability to make life wonderful

¹² All of you in Jerusalem, praise the God of Israel! ¹³ You should, because He is the One who has fortified your city and has blessed everyone within its walls. ¹⁴ He has caused your neighboring nations to be at peace with you and has satisfied you with the finest provisions of food. ¹⁵ Nature instantly obeys ¹⁶ His command, and He commands both snow and frost to cover the ground. ¹⁷ At other times He commands ice to form as the temperature drops to an unbearable low. ¹⁸ Then He sends warm air to melt the ice, and rivers carry the water downstream.

For His love for Israel

¹⁹ Israel is special to the LORD. He made His Word known to her, and He has given her particular laws and rules to obey. ²⁰ He has not dealt with any other nation like He has Israel, and the other nations do not understand or follow the rules God has laid out for Israel. So, I say again, “Praise the LORD!”