

PSALM 148

Here is a psalm of abounding praise to Yahweh, and the reason for it is apparently a major blessing that had been bestowed upon Israel (vs. 13,14). What better occasion can be found than the return of the Jews from the Babylonian captivity?

But is this universal anthem of praise limited in time? Barton Bouchier writes,

It is true, in this Psalm our translation presents it to us as a call or summons for everything that hath or hath not breath to praise the Lord--or as a petition that they may praise; but it is in realty a prediction that they *shall* praise. . . . This Psalm is neither more nor less than a prophecy of that coming day, when not only shall the knowledge of the Lord be spread over the whole earth, as the waters cover the sea, but from every created object in heaven and in earth, animate and inanimate, from the highest archangel through every grade and phase of being, down to the tiniest atom--young men and maidens, old men and children, and all kings and princes, and judges of the earth, shall unite in this millennial anthem to the Redeemer's praise.

- 1 Praise YAHWEH! Praise YAHWEH 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 stars of light!
- 4 Praise Him, highest heavens, and the waters that are above the heavens!
- 5 Let them praise the name of YAHWEH, for He commanded and they were created.
- 6 He has also established them forever and ever;
He has made a decree which will not pass away.

- 7 Praise YAHWEH from the earth, sea monsters and all deeps;
- 8 fire and hail, snow and clouds; stormy wind, fulfilling His word;
- 9 mountains and all hills; fruit trees and all cedars;
- 10 beasts and all cattle; creeping things and winged fowl;
- 11 kings of the earth and all peoples; princes and all judges of the earth;
- 12 both young men and virgins; old men and children.

- 13 Let them praise the name of YAHWEH, for His name alone is exalted;
His glory is above earth and heaven.
- 14 And He has lifted up a horn for His people, praise for all His godly ones;
even for the sons of Israel, a people near to Him. Praise YAHWEH!

PRAYER

Almighty God, the heavens and earth speak daily of your mighty works. There is no god like you who creates man after his own image, who raises up one nation and throws down another, who gives eternal life to each one who puts his trust in you. Open our eyes to behold your goodness and mercy as we pilgrim through this most beautiful earth, and let us take to heart that it is only because of man's rebellion and sin that we do not see it now in all its original glory. But in the rain and snow, in the fields of crops, in the fruitful trees and cattle, we see your tender care in providing for the needs of man. And when calamity comes upon us, let us not be so foolish as to charge you, Yahweh, with fault, but let us humble ourselves on bended knee and say, "Does the not the judge of all the earth do right?" Forgive us for our sins, and remember us for the sake of your only Son, our Savior and great High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.