

PSALMS 146 and 147

Psalm 146 and the remaining four psalms are all joyous psalms of praise. A simple way of describing this psalm, is that it has a didactic purpose of urging men to put their trust in Yahweh.

Psalm 146

- 1 Praise YAHWEH! Praise YAHWEH, O my soul!
- 2 I will praise YAHWEH while I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
- 3 Do not trust in princes, in mortal man, in whom there is no salvation.
- 4 His spirit departs, he returns to the earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.
- 5 How blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in YAHWEH his God,
- 6 who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;
- 7 who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.
YAHWEH sets the prisoners free.

- 8 YAHWEH opens *the eyes of the blind*; YAHWEH raises up those who are bowed down;
YAHWEH loves the righteous;
- 9 YAHWEH protects the strangers;
He supports the fatherless and the widow, but He thwarts the way of the wicked.
- 10 YAHWEH will reign forever, Your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise YAHWEH!

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Psalm 147

Although no occasion for the writing of this psalm is given, we may find the situation in the days of Nehemiah most suitable. The walls of Jerusalem had finally been rebuilt, and the people greatly rejoiced because of the resulting sense of security and prosperity.

- 1 Praise YAHWEH! For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant *and* praise is becoming.
- 2 YAHWEH builds up Jerusalem; He gathers the outcasts of Israel.
- 3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.
- 4 He counts the number of the stars; He gives names to all of them.
- 5 Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.
- 6 YAHWEH supports the afflicted; He brings down the wicked to the ground.

- 7 Sing to YAHWEH with thanksgiving; sing praises to our God on the lyre,
- 8 who covers the heavens with clouds, who provides 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 which cry.
10 He does not delight in the strength of the horse;
He does not take pleasure in the legs of a man.
11 YAHWEH favors those who fear Him, those who wait for His lovingkindness.
- 12 Praise YAHWEH, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!
13 For He has strengthened the bars of your gates; He has blessed your sons within you.
14 He makes peace in your borders; He satisfies you with the finest of the wheat.
15 He sends forth 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 forth His ice as fragments; who can stand before His cold?
18 He sends forth His word and melts them;
He causes His wind to blow and the waters to flow.
19 He declares His words to Jacob, His statutes and His ordinances to Israel.
20 He has not dealt thus with any nation;
and as for His ordinances, they have not known them. Praise YAHWEH!

PRAYER

We praise you Almighty God, for you are the omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent Ruler of the Universe. You dwell in light inaccessible, and yet you have condescended to visit man in his lost estate. You sent a Saviour, Jesus, to be a ransom for our sins. He came and called all mankind to himself, Jew and Gentile, and declared that if any believed in him they would inherit everlasting life. Yet all turned away, despising the gift of life. They refused to have your Son reign over them. Oh, the hardness of men's hearts to reject their only hope of eternal life! But you have given us your holy word, and you have ordained ministers to preach it faithfully. Let your Holy Spirit shower blessings of convicting grace on all who hear, and may they then receive saving grace to anchor their souls on the Lord Jesus Christ, who came to call sinners to repentance. You take no delight in the death of the wicked. Enable us to show forth the same by sharing the message of salvation, working for you while it is day, for the night is coming when we can no longer work. We ask in Christ's name. Amen.