

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

“PRAISE: THE WONDER OF HIS WORK AND WORD”

For individual study or group discussion

DATE: July 27, 2025

SPEAKER: Brian/Aaron

SERIES: Summer in the Psalms

PASSAGE: Psalm 147

Psalm 147 calls us to wholehearted praise, reminding us that it is pleasant and fitting to lift up our voices in song to God. Inviting believers to wonder at God's work and Word, the psalmist illustrates God's sovereignty and providence over all creation. When we praise God, we find the deepest pleasure our souls can know—because we were created for him. God commands what brings us true happiness: to glorify him and enjoy him forever.

Praise the LORD: The wonder of his redemptive work (vv. 1-14)

We praise God for his redeeming love. He heals the brokenhearted, gathers the outcasts, and restores what has been lost. Psalm 147 was likely written after Israel's return from Babylonian exile, a time of restoration and spiritual renewal. Not only does God revive his people, he also sustains his creation. He prepares rain for the earth, feeds the animals, and lifts up the humble while casting down the wicked.

He restores the ruined and broken. (vv. 1-6)

- Read Isaiah 61:1-4 and Luke 4:18-21. What do these passages reveal about the extent of God's redemptive work described in verses 2-3?
- Verses 4-5 remind us that God is not absent from our circumstances. What false narratives about God play in the background of your mind when you go through difficult seasons of life? How can you foster a spirit of praise even in the midst of trials?

He provides for all things, big and small. (vv. 7-9)

- Read Genesis 1:30, Job 5:8-16, and Luke 12:24. When have you witnessed God's care for his creation? How can his provision for all things, great and small, strengthen your faith in his promise to provide for all your needs?

He delights in those who trust in him. (vv. 10-11)

- Verses 10-11 emphasize that God delights “in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.” The world praises strength and might, but the LORD delights in the meek (Matthew 5:5). How are the people and institutions that we celebrate in this world often directly opposed to what God honors and uplifts? How does what we celebrate reveal the spiritual condition of our hearts?

He protects those who hide in him. (vv. 12-14)

- Read Leviticus 26:3-9 and Deuteronomy 11:13-25. What does God promise to all those who take refuge in him?

Praise the LORD: the wonder of his revealing Word (vv. 15-20)

Psalm 147 also highlights God's special relationship with his people through his Word. Israel's laws and decrees set them apart from other nations, calling his people to a life of worship and gratitude. Praising God is not just an obligation, but a joyous response to God's steadfast love and faithfulness which endures forever. Praise the LORD!

The power of his Word (vv. 15-18)

- Like Psalm 147:15-18, Job 37:1-13 describes the magnitude and majesty of God's power over nature. When you experience severe weather, how does it make you feel? What do these passages tell you about God? About yourself?
- In verses 15-20, the psalmist parallels God's created order with his covenant people, each of which are governed by his Word (i.e., laws and statutes). Like creation, where in our own lives do we need to submit in obedience to God's Word?

The grace of his Word (vv. 19-20)

- How are God's people unique from other peoples, according to 147:19-20?
- Psalm 147:19-20 highlights God's grace to Israel through the unique revelation of his statutes and rules. Read Jeremiah 31:31-40. How does Jeremiah anticipate the universal reach of God's Word? What familiar language does God use to guarantee his ability to accomplish his Word (vv. 35-37)?

Family Dinner Table

Man's Chief End

Psalm 147 calls us to joyful praise of God, declaring his goodness, power, and care for creation as well as his steadfast love for his people. C.S. Lewis, in *Reflections on the Psalms*, helps us see that such praise is not merely a duty but the natural overflow of delight. He writes that “we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment.”¹ The answer to Question 1 of the Westminster Shorter Catechism declares that, “Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.”² Lewis shows us that glorifying and enjoying God are not two separate aims but one united reality: “Fully to enjoy is to glorify. In commanding us to glorify him, God is inviting us to enjoy him.”³ Thus, Psalm 147 is not only a call to worship; it is an invitation into the very purpose for which we were made: to find our deepest joy in praising the One who is most worthy.

- Considering Psalm 147, what steps can you take to cultivate a more profound sense of gratitude and praise toward God in your daily routine?
- How can the truth that God delights in those who fear him and hope in his love (v. 11) shape your interactions and relationships with others?

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Metanoia Prison Ministries,
strategic partner ministry

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Norma A., supported missionary
partner serving in Spain

^{1,3} Lewis, C.S. *Reflections on the Psalms*. 1958, NY NY. Harcourt, Brace, & World Inc. 96-7

² Westminster Shorter Catechism. July 23, 2025. OPC.ORG. <https://opc.org/sc.html>