

Praise the LORD

Introduction

Psalm 147 is the second in a series of five 'Hallelujah psalms' or psalms of praise (psalms 146 – 150) which taken together serve as a conclusion for the book of Psalms. United by the common theme of praise, each psalm begins with an exhortation to praise the LORD, followed by a description of why the LORD is indeed worthy of praise, followed by a final exhortation to praise the LORD in the light of who He is and what He has done.

Although the rationale for praise is slightly different in each psalm, the main emphasis across the collection is upon the LORD as Creator and Sustainer of the cosmos, the Lord over history and the Redeemer of and Provider for His people. This is particularly evident in Psalm 147, the longest psalm in the collection, which combines all of these reasons for praise.

Structurally, the psalm can be divided into three sections, each beginning with an exhortation either to praise (vs1), or sing to (vs 7) or to extol (vs12) the LORD, the final section also ending with a climactic exhortation to praise (vs20). What is particularly striking is that each section of the psalm speaks about the LORD's relationship to His creation and His relationship with His people. In this way the psalm reminds the reader that the LORD who redeems and cares for His people, is also the Creator and Sustainer of the whole cosmos and that the power that the LORD exercises on behalf of His people is the same power that He displayed in creation.

Read Psalm147vs1-20



Investigate:

Answer the following questions from the text:

1. What does Psalm 147 teach us about the power and goodness of the LORD as the Creator and Sustainer of the cosmos?

2. What role does the Word of the LORD play in the LORD's work as Creator and Sustainer of the cosmos?
3. What does Psalm 147 teach us about the LORD's relationship with His people? What has the LORD done for His people?
4. What role does the Word of the LORD play in creating and sustaining the relationship between the LORD and His people?

? Think it through _____

1. How does what Psalm 147 teaches about the LORD find fulfilment in what the New Testament teaches about the Lord Jesus Christ?
2. How should we respond to the LORD in the light of this psalm? How should this response differ according to our circumstances?