

Psalm 148 is a wonderful Psalm. **It has been called the “joy song of creation.”** Naturally, being one of the final Psalms, **it is a Psalm of praise.**

The book of Psalms is a book that features many moments of frustration and depression. Yet it is also a book filled with great praise. **A critical key to getting lifted out of depression is to pursue a godly life and offer praise to God. No believer’s life will ever be complete without praise and worship to God.**

In this Psalm, the writer exhorts all of heaven and all of and on earth to praise God. One might ask, how do planets praise God? How do animals praise God? **They praise God by their very existence.**

The only problem God has with His creation when it comes to offering Him praise is with humans. The only humans who think about praising and worshipping God are godly humans. Now the primary point of this Psalm is not difficult to see:

IT IS THE WILL OF GOD FOR EVERYTHING TO OFFER PRAISE TO GOD SINCE HE MADE EVERYTHING, BUT ONLY GOD’S PEOPLE ARE IN A POSITION TO OFFER PRAISE TO GOD AND THEY HAVE THE PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY TO DO THAT.

Everything should praise God and one day everything will praise God. God is the One who made everything and everything owes Him praise. Unfortunately, not all people praise God now, but there will come a day when they will.

The creation of God is a powerful witness of the greatness and glory of God. In fact, according to Romans 1:20, the creation of God leaves men without excuse for not recognizing the existence of God. This is why the Bible says one has to be a fool to say there is no God (Ps. 14:1).

Now there are two main praise divisions in this Psalm:

PRAISE DIVISION #1 – God is to be praised from the heavens. 148:1-6

It is chronologically accurate to begin with praise from heaven because praise begins in heaven. It is the very place from which praise originates.

_____ (AUDIO STARTS HERE) _____

As we read these opening verses, we see that God is to be praised from the “heavens” plural. That plural noun “heavens” is used three times in **verses 1, 4, 4.**

There are three heavens that we learn about in Scripture:

- 1) There is the heaven where the birds fly which is our atmosphere.
- 2) There is the heaven where the planets exist which is outer space.
- 3) There is the heaven where God’s throne is located—the third and highest heaven.

The point of these verses is that everything in all of the heavens is to praise the LORD and in fact does praise the Lord. Everything in the most upper regions of creation is to praise the Lord.

There are specifically six heavenly existences that are to praise God and do praise God:

Heavenly Existence #1 - God is to be praised by His angels. **148:2a**

One of the wonderful things we see concerning angels is that they do praise and worship God. The book of Revelation is filled with worship scenes that involve angels (Rev. 4:8; 5:11).

Heavenly Existence #2 - God is to be praised by all of His hosts. **148:2b**

The emphasis of this word is on all the Celestial armies of God. This includes all angels that form an army in the sky and on earth.

Heavenly Existence #3 - God is to be praised by the Sun and the Moon. **148:3a**

We know from Genesis 1:14-19 that God specifically made the Sun and the moon on day four to be two great lights in the sky that testified of God's greatness and glory. One of the lights, the Sun, is the great light during the day and the other, the moon, is the great light of the night. These two great lights are a perpetual praiseworthy reality. Their very existence offers praise to the Sovereign God.

Heavenly Existence #4 - God is to be praised by all of the stars. **148:3b**

God also made the stars on day four. He put them in the sky and He knows every star and every name of every star (Ps. 147:4). These things all reflect light. The sun without light, the moon without light and a star without light cannot be seen, nor can it display the glory of God. But the light shines forth the glory of God.

There is a children's poem that reads "Twinkle, Twinkle, little star, how I wonder what you are." What the stars actually are, are displays of the glory of God and they offer praise to God.

Heavenly Existence #5 - God is to be praised by the highest heavens. **148:4a**

Now the highest heavens include space that we have never seen. This is where praise originates. Praise originates at the throne of God.

Heavenly Existence #6 - God is to be praised by the waters above the heavens. **148:4b**

According to the Bible, God has storage vaults of water, high in the heavens (Gen. 1:7). It is from those very vaults that God draws water and moisture such as rain, snow and hail. All of these displays should be that which causes us to praise God.

Now having listed these existences, the writer says there are three reasons why these things praise God:

(Reason #1) - God commanded or spoke these things into existence. **148:5**

(Reason #2) - God has established these things forever. **148:6a**

Notice not just forever, but forever and ever. Now what this tells us is that in eternity these things will exist. There will be no need of the sunlight, but it may exist (i.e. Rev. 21:23; 22:5).

(Reason #3) - God has decreed that these things will never pass away. **148:6b**

When we look into the sky, we are looking at God's sky and God's creation. He should be praised for every bit of it.

PRAISE DIVISION #2 – God is to be praised from the earth. **148:7-14**

As we said, the witness of God is so powerful and profound in creation that men are without excuse (Rom. 1:20). Everything on earth reflects the glory and genius of God and He is to be praised for it.

There are nine earthly existences which praise God:

Earthly Existence #1 - God is praised by sea life. **148:7b**

We still do not know all of the sea life that exists in the sea. But all in the sea are there by God.

Earthly Existence #2 - God is praised by sea depths. **148:7c**

God has created the depths of the sea and there are still some areas that are so deep that sonar cannot even measure the depth. The deepest known spot is nearly seven miles deep.

Earthly Existence #3 - God is praised by all the weather. **148:8**

God is in control of fire, hail, snow, clouds and storms. Often times when a wildfire is burning you will hear someone say, "That fire is burning out of control." Truth is it is out of our control, but not God's control.

People moan and complain about the weather. It is too hot. It is too cold. It is too windy. It is too rainy. Truth is all weather is created and controlled by God and it does what He wants it to do.

Charles Spurgeon said snow and hail cannot praise God except by their existence; but we should praise God for their existence.

Earthly Existence #4 - God is praised by all the mountains. **148:9a**

The mountains and the hills are created by God and display the glory of God. The Psalmist loved the mountains and he saw the glory of God in those mountains and he offered praise to God.

Earthly Existence #5 - God is praised by all the trees. **148:9b**

Trees are an amazing creation of God. They give fruit, food, fuel, shade, building materials and places to rest. Some of the leaves on some trees can actually give healing. God has designed all the trees and they are something for which we can praise God.

Earthly Existence #6 - God is praised by all animal life. **148:10a**

Both nondomestic and domestic animals have been created by God and they display the glory of God.

Earthly Existence #7 - God is praised by all reptile life. **148:10b**

Creeping things like reptiles praise God. They have been created by Him and they do display His glory.

Earthly Existence #8 - God is praised by all bird life. **148:10c**

Birds display the glory of God.

Earthly Existence #9 - God is to be praised by all human life. **148:11-14**

Whatever one's station in life, all humans are to offer praise to the God of the Bible:

- 1) All political leaders are to praise God. **(148:11a)**
- 2) All people on earth are to praise God. **(148:11b)**
- 3) All high-ranked people in society are to praise God. **(148:11c)**
- 4) All people of all ages are to praise God **(148:12)** - young men, virgin girls, old men and children. Obviously age is not an excuse for not praising God.
- 5) All godly people are to praise God. **(148:14a)**
- 6) All Israel is to praise God. **(148:14b)**

Verse 13 makes it clear that God is to be praised because He alone is the exalted God. His glory is seen on earth and in heaven. But **verse 14** says He has lifted up a horn for His people. What that means is God cares about His people. He gives them strength and honor.

PARTING THOUGHTS:

- 1) **Look at something from God's creation every day and thank Him and praise Him.**
- 2) **Realize that all weather does come from God whether we like it or not. If you don't like it, get alone with God and ask Him to consider changing it.**
- 3) **When you have opportunity to talk to others about the greatness of God in creation, it is a form of praise. If we don't speak up for God, who will?**