

Psalm 147

"Praise to Yahweh for His Restoration of, Provision for, and Revelation to Israel"

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A1 STANZA 1, RESTORATION: Musical Praise to Yahweh for His Restoration of Israel, His Infinite Intellect, and His Moral Justice 147:1-6

B1 The Opening Call to Praise Yahweh in Song 147:1

C1 The Command to Praise: {1} Praise the LORD! ¹

C2 The Justifications for Praise

D1 It is good: For it is good to sing praises to our God;

D2 It is becoming: For it is pleasant *and* praise is becoming.

B2 The Content of Praise 147:2-6

C1 Yahweh's Restoration of Israel 147:2-3

D1 His building up of Jerusalem: {2} The LORD builds up Jerusalem;

D2 His retrieval of Israel's outcasts: He gathers the outcasts ² of Israel.

D3 His healing of the broken-hearted in Israel: {3} He heals the brokenhearted

D4 His mending of the wounded in Israel: And binds up their wounds.

C2 Yahweh's Cognitive Control of the Cosmos 147:4

D1 His numbering of the stars: {4} He counts the number of the stars; ³

¹ Psalm 147:1 - Praise the LORD: Heb. *Hallelu Yahh!*

² Psalm 147:2 - outcasts of Israel: The language of this psalm may date to the Restoration under Ezra and Nehemiah (see Franz Delitzsch, *Psalms, Commentary on the Old Testament* [[K & D](#)]).

³ Psalm 147:4 - He counts the number of the stars: Astronomers have no clear idea about how many stars there are in the universe, partly because of the immense distances and the fact that no one knows how large the universe is. Here is [one feeble attempt to estimate](#) the number of stars in the universe:

[Kornreich](#) used a very rough estimate of 10 trillion galaxies in the universe. Multiplying that by the Milky Way's estimated 100 billion stars results in a large number indeed: 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 stars, or a "1" with 24 zeros after it (1 septillion in the American numbering system; 1 quadrillion in the European system). Kornreich emphasized that number is likely a gross underestimation, as more detailed looks at the universe will show even more galaxies.

The amazing thing is that God knows precisely not only the exact number of stars, but He has named each of them!

D2 His naming of the stars: He gives names to all of them.

C3 Adonai's Infinite Greatness and Cognition 147:5

D1 His greatness and abundant strength: {5} Great is our Lord and abundant in strength;

D2 His infinite understanding: His understanding is infinite.

C4 Yahweh's Moral Justice 147:6

D1 His support of the afflicted: {6} The LORD supports the afflicted;

D2 His overthrow of the wicked: He brings down the wicked to the ground.

A2 STANZA 2, PROVISION: Musical Praise to Yahweh for Providing Food for Animals and Care for Humans Who Rely on Him 147:7-11

B1 The Call to Thank Yahweh in Song Accompanied by Lyre 147:7

C1 The Call to Thank Yahweh in Song: {7} Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;

C2 The Call to Sing Praises to Yahweh with Lyre: Sing praises to our God on the lyre,

B2 Reasons for Thankful Musical Praise 147:8-11

C1 For Providing Vegetation 147:8

D1 Forming clouds in the heavens: {8} Who covers the heavens with clouds,

D2 Showering rain upon the earth: Who provides rain for the earth,

D3 Growing grass on the mountains: Who makes grass to grow on the mountains.

C2 For Providing Food 147:9

D1 To each animal: {9} He gives to the beast its food,

D2 To noisy ravens: *And* to the young ravens which cry.

C3 For Valuing Reliance Upon Himself Rather Than Physical Strength 147:10-11

D1 His eschewing external, visible strength 147:10

E1 Remaining unimpressed with a horse's strength: {10} He does not delight in the strength of the horse;⁴

⁴ Psalm 147:10 - horse: The Psalmist has cited God's care for animals. Here He approves of those (Israeli) humans who do not rely either upon the strength of a horse or their own power (in battle).

E2 Remaining unimpressed with human strength: He does not take pleasure in the legs of a man.

D2 His valuing those who rely upon Him 147:11

E1 Favoring Yahweh-fearers: {11} The LORD favors those who fear Him,

E2 Favoring dependers on His loyal love: Those who wait for His lovingkindness.

A3 STANZA 3: Zionistic Praise to Yahweh for Protecting Israel and for Speaking to Control Precipitation and to Reveal His Laws to Israel 147:12-20

B1 The Call for Israelis to Praise Yahweh Elohim 147:12

C1 The Call for Jerusalem to Praise Yahweh: {12} Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!

C2 The Call for Zion to Praise Her Elohim: Praise your God, O Zion!

B2 The Reasons for Israelis to Praise 147:13-20a

C1 For Yahweh's Re-establishment of the Nation 147:13-14

D1 Strengthening its defenses: {13} For He has strengthened the bars of your gates;

D2 Blessing its arms-bearers: He has blessed your sons within you.

D3 Providing peace: {14} He makes peace in your borders;⁵

D4 Providing crops for food: He satisfies you with the finest of the wheat.

C2 For Yahweh's Verbal Power over Nature 147:15-18

D1 Dictating weather conditions on earth 147:15

E1 The earthly extent of His command: {15} He sends forth His command to the earth;

E2 The rapid fulfillment of His word: His word runs very swiftly.

D2 Creating wintry precipitation 147:16-17

E1 Wool-like snow: {16} He gives snow like wool;

E2 Ash-like frost: He scatters the frost like ashes.

⁵ Psalm 147:14 - He makes peace in your border: Ultimately, this will be fulfilled in Christ's [Millennial Kingdom](#) (Isa. 2:1-4), but especially, and eternally, in [New Jerusalem](#), the heavenly Zion (Rev. 21:1-22:5).

- E3 Pellets of sleet or hail: {17} He casts forth His ice as fragments;
- E4 Unbearable cold: Who can stand before His cold?
- D3 Ordaining warm weather thaw 147:18
 - E1 Ordering warmer temperature: {18} He sends forth His word and melts them;
 - E2 Sending wind to melt faster: He causes His wind to blow and the waters to flow.
- C3 For Yahweh's Revelation of Himself in the Scriptures to Israel 147:19-20a
 - D1 His Self-Revelation to Israel 147:19
 - E1 Uttering His words: {19} He declares His words to Jacob,
 - E2 Recording His decrees: His statutes and His ordinances to Israel.
 - D2 The exclusivity of His Self-Revelation 147:20a
 - E1 No Self-Revelation to any other nation: {20} He has not dealt thus with any nation;
 - E2 The nations' ignorance of His decrees: And as for His ordinances, they have not known them.

B3 The Concluding Call to Praise Yahh: Praise the LORD! ⁶ 147:20b

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 147
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⁶ Psalm 147:20 - Praise the LORD: Heb. *Hallelu Yahh!*