

## Praise of Thanksgiving

Psalm 147: 1-7

You may have noticed as we read the text that this psalm isn't ascribed to anyone in particular. It is believed to have been linked to the ministries of Haggai and Zechariah, and possibly read during the dedication of the second Temple in Jerusalem after it was rebuilt. Regardless of the motivation behind its writing, we clearly sense an attitude of praise and thanksgiving for the abundant blessings of the Lord.

Surely we all would agree that the Lord has blessed us beyond measure. He has given much more than we deserve, and continually provides His blessing unto us. While we ought to be thankful each day, and likely most of us are, an attitude of thanksgiving is more prevalent at this time of year. I enjoy the thanksgiving season, a time to reflect on the many blessings we have.

As we examine the [details](#) of this worshipful psalm, I want to consider: [Praise of Thanksgiving](#).

**I. The Appeal to Worship** (1) – [Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely](#). Here we discover the psalmist's appeal to worship. Notice:

**A. The Command** (1a) – [Praise ye the LORD](#). It doesn't appear that he is offering a mere suggestion, but rather an impassioned expectation for their worship. An attitude of worship and praise should never be considered optional for the believer. In fact, it should be expected. We have received much. The Lord is certainly worthy of our praise. Our worship should resonate from the overflow of our awareness of the Lord and our thankfulness to Him. Worship is natural.

**B. The Counsel** (1b) – [for it is good to sing praises unto our God](#). The psalmist assured them that it was good to sing praises unto the Lord. I will have to agree. There is nothing like gathering with the saved by grace and lifting our hearts in worship to the Lord who redeemed us from sin and gave us eternal life. He deserves our worship; and as we worship, it lifts our spirits and draws us closer to Him. I have entered the house of God many times down and discouraged from the cares of life, but left greatly encouraged following a time of heart-felt worship. Through worship we exalt the Lord, pointing others to Christ, while lifting our spirits at the same time!

**C. The Comfort** (1c) – [Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely](#). The psalmist affirmed that worship was pleasant and appropriate. It is

beautiful and fitting. I fear we are often too complacent when we gather under the pretense of worship. This is a special time, and we are privileged to have such an opportunity. Our worship is pleasing to the Lord, an offering of praise and adoration for the Lord who saved and keeps us!

**II. The Awareness in Worship** (2-3) – Here we discover the sense of awareness that aids our worship. As we come before the Lord in worship, we should be aware of:

**A. His Provision** (2a) – [The LORD doth build up Jerusalem](#). Bear in mind that this psalm was believed to be written as the second Temple was dedicated, following a time of captivity and absence from Jerusalem. Through it all, God had not forsaken them. He had been faithful to restore the remnant and would build them again.

- Our awareness of His provision will aid our worship as well. While we weren't in physical bondage, we all were bound in sin, a slave to our own depravity. In His mercy and grace, the Lord delivered us from the bondage of sin, purchasing our redemption, and providing life in Him!

**B. His Inclusion** (2b) – [he gathereth together the outcasts of Israel](#). These had suffered at the hands of their enemies, refugees forced to dwell in a foreign land. They had been driven away from their homeland, overthrown, and banished from Jerusalem. However, God faithfully gathered the outcasts home again. Their lineage provided favor. Being of Jewish descent granted access. They were not required to possess wealth or position.

- I am aware that salvation is available exclusively through Christ alone, but I rejoice there are no prerequisites to meet other than faith alone in Christ alone. The Lord died for whosoever, and thankfully it is available to all who come to Him by faith. That alone is reason to rejoice!

**C. His Compassion** (3) – [He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds](#). The psalmist rejoiced for the gracious compassion shown by the Lord. He knew their struggles and burdens. He was more than able to meet whatever need they had.

- I too am thankful we serve a gracious and compassionate Lord. He knows where we are in the journey. He knows our heartaches and fears. He has the ability to comfort, guide, and heal. He who was willing to bear our sin and shame on the cross will never forsake us in this life.

**III. The Acknowledgement through Worship (4-6)** – Here we find the acknowledgement of the great power and might of our Lord. The psalmist acknowledged that the Lord was:

**A. The God of Creation (4)** – *He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names.*

This presents a humbling thought. We know God created all that we see and know, and even those parts of space that are yet unknown. He actually told the number of stars and calls them all by their names. This literally means that God “*weighed them out, He appointed them, and counted them all.*” Scientists believe there are around 250 billion stars in the Milky Way Galaxy alone. The God we serve created each of those, divinely placing them exactly where He chose, and named every one. There is no doubt that we serve an awesome and powerful God! Surely He is more than able to meet our needs and provide for us.

**B. The God of Dominion (5)** – *Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.* The psalmist didn’t enjoy modern telescopes and satellites to provide closer views of the planets and stars. However, he witnessed enough with His naked eye to know the Lord was great and mighty, possessing infinite wisdom and understanding. He created the complexities of our universe, our world, and all that inhabits it. His creation was perfect and works according to His divine design. He not only created everything, He stands in control of everything. I rejoice to know that we serve One who possesses sovereign power. It may appear that our world is spiraling out of control, but our Lord is working according to His divine plan. He is creating a home in heaven for the saved by grace, and will return for us on that appointed day!

**C. The God of Redemption (6)** – *The LORD lifteth up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground.* Here the psalmist speaks of God’s dealings with man. He lifts up the meek and casts down the wicked. Salvation is available for those who seek Him by faith, and yet judgment waits those who reject His offer of grace.

- Some may view this verse negatively, but I view it with humility and rejoicing. We were undeserving of any of His grace. He was not obligated to provide for our redemption. He is God and that will never change. He doesn’t need us to exist, but we stand in great need of Him. God knew sin had caused separation. He knew there would have to be a sacrifice to atone for our sin. (In fact, He knew this long before He ever created man.) He could have left us in our sinful state and forced us to face the judgement we deserved. In His great mercy and grace, He sent His only begotten Son to die in our place, bearing our sin and providing salvation. I am eternally grateful for His mercies and grace toward us!

**IV. The Attitude in Worship (7)** – [Sing unto the LORD with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the harp unto our God.](#) Again the psalmist offered a command to worship, and here he referred to the attitude we are to possess in worship. We are to come before Him in a song of thanksgiving. Has God not been God to each of us? Has He not blessed us more than we could ever deserve? Has He not answered prayers and provided guidance and grace? Surely He is worthy of our songs of praise and thanksgiving. We must be willing to give our all in worship to Him. I couldn't imagine going throughout a day without offering praise, especially during the Thanksgiving season.

**Conclusion:** If you belong to Christ, having been saved by His grace, you have reason to rejoice. Take a moment to consider all He has done for you in the past. Consider the blessings you have enjoyed today. Think of the promises within the Word of God concerning our future. Doesn't that create a desire for worship? I could think of no better place or time to praise the Lord for His many blessings in our lives. If you have been blessed, come before the Lord in an attitude of praise!

If you are yet unsaved, you can't relate to much of what I've preached. However, that can change today. If the Lord has dealt with you regarding salvation, I urge you to respond to Him by faith. You can experience Thanksgiving as never before, rejoicing in your relationship with Christ and the promise of eternal life in Him!