

Psalm 147ⁱⁱⁱ “The Song of Tender Care”

¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

²The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

³He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.

⁴He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.

⁵Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.

⁶The LORD lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.

⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.^{iv}

⁸He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;

⁹He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.

¹⁰He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.

¹¹He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

¹²But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.^v

¹³Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;

¹⁴For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.

¹⁵He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
¹⁶He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.
¹⁷He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
¹⁸He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?
¹⁹He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
²⁰He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
²¹He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

ⁱⁱⁱ **About the Psalm: Psalm 147 or 147:13-21**

Psalm 147 is divided into three stanzas: vv. 1-6, 7-11 and 12-20, each beginning with a call to worship and continuing with motives for praise. The themes of God's sovereignty over the natural order and over human society are mingled throughout the psalm.

^{iv} In verse 7 we are all invited to add our individual voices as an instrument of praise. For each voice lends weight and beauty to what is sung; each story is a part of the song.

^v The implication here is that God is longing each search for the divine face, just as we search for a familiar face in a crowd of strangers.