

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.

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

² 147:2 - 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]*).

- C2 Yahweh's Cognitive Control of the Cosmos 147:4
 - D1 His numbering of the stars: {4} He counts the number of the stars;
 - 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;³

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.

³ 147:10 - 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).

- D3 Providing peace: *{14}* He makes peace in your borders;
- 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.
 - 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! ⁴ 147:20b

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 147

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⁴ 147:20 - Praise the LORD: Heb. *Hallelu Yahh!*