

## Psalm 148

# "Let All Creation in the Heavens and Earth Praise Yahweh!"

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### **A1 PRAISE YAHWEH FROM THE HEAVENS! 148:1-6**

**B1 The Opening Command to Praise Yahh! {1} Praise the LORD! <sup>1</sup> 148:1a**

**B2 The Command to Praise Yahweh from the Heights of the Heavens 148:1b**

C1 From the Heavens: Praise the LORD from the heavens;

C2 From the Heights: Praise Him in the heights!

**B3 The Command to Warrior-Messengers to Praise Yahweh 148:2**

C1 To Yahweh's Messengers: {2} Praise Him, all His angels;

C2 To Yahweh's Soldiers: Praise Him, all His hosts! <sup>2</sup>

**B4 The Command to Celestial Light-Bearers to Praise Yahweh 148:3**

C1 To Sun and Moon: {3} Praise Him, sun and moon;<sup>3</sup>

C2 To Stars: Praise Him, all stars of light!

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<sup>1</sup> 148:11 - Praise the LORD!: Heb. *Hallelu Yahh!* *Hallelu*, Praise!, the verb used exclusively in 148:1-4, is an emphatic (Piel) imperative. The readers / hearers are **commanded** to praise Yahweh, as are various entities in His creation!

<sup>2</sup> 148:2 - hosts: Heb. *tsaba'* (6635) - regularly used of armies or soldiers. The angels, Heb. *mal'ak* (4397), messengers, are Yahweh's armies. One of Yahweh's names is Yahweh-Sabaoth (Tsebaoth), meaning Yahweh of Troops or Yahweh of Armies (1 Sam. 17:45). One of the best visual descriptions of Yahweh's troops (though the word is not used there) is 2 Kings 6:17.

<sup>3</sup> 148:3 - sun, moon, stars: In Psalm 98:8-9 the rivers are urged to clap their hands and the mountains to sing for joy "before the LORD, for He is coming to judge the earth ...." In Isa. 55:12 the mountains and hills will break forth into shouts of joy, and "all the trees of the field will clap *their* hands." In what way are inanimate objects to praise Yahweh? This side of heaven it is impossible to know just how. Psalm 19:1 reveals that the "heavens are telling the glory of God; And their expanse is telling the work of His hands." It is true that, merely by their existence, God's celestial creations are a praise to His great power. And yet, I personally wonder if, in the presence of the Creator / King Himself during the Millennium and in Eternity, nature will not somehow be given a voice beyond our present comprehension to praise the Creator. Or perhaps we will be given ears to hear the praise of nature to which we now are deaf.

**B5 The Command to the Highest Heavens to Praise Yahweh! 148:4**

- C1 To Highest Heavens: {4} Praise Him, highest heavens,
- C2 To Waters Above the Heavens: And the waters that are above the heavens! <sup>4</sup>

**B6 The Reasons the Heavens are to Praise the Name of Yahweh 148:5-6**

- C1 Because of His Commanding Them into Existence 148:5
- D1 The urging to praise Yahweh's name: {5} Let them praise <sup>5</sup> the name of the LORD,
- D2 Because of Yahweh's creation by command: For He commanded <sup>6</sup> and they were created.
- C2 Because of His Eternal Establishment of Them 148:6
- D1 His establishment: {6} He has also established them forever and ever; <sup>7</sup>
- D2 His fixed law: He has made a decree which will not pass away.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> 148:4 - waters ... above the heavens: In Gen. 1:7-8, Elohim divided the waters which under the expanse or firmament from the waters which were above the expanse or firmament (v. 7). And God call the expanse or firmament heaven (v. 8). It is my understanding that the primeval, pre-Flood earth's atmosphere was surrounded by a water vapor canopy which greatly enhanced growing conditions and improved longevity. Ps. 148:4 is evidently a command for even the primeval, pre-deluge waters to praise Yahweh! If my understanding is correct, not only does this command reach to the highest of the heavens, it reaches back to the most ancient of times!

<sup>5</sup> 148:5 - let them praise: Not an imperative, but an intensive (Piel) imperfect, translated here as a clause-initial jussive -- "let them."

<sup>6</sup> 148:5 - commanded: Yahweh is so powerful He does not have to construct objects from raw materials with His hands as we humans do. He merely speaks matter into existence -- from nothing!

<sup>7</sup> 148:6 - forever and ever: Heb. for always, for all time. After God has destroyed the existing heavens and earth He will create new heavens and a new earth in which dwells righteousness (2 Pet. 3:7-13; Rev. 21:1). Though some maintain that there will be no sun or moon shining upon the new earth (Rev. 21:23; 22:5), strictly speaking, all the text says is that there is no need of the sun or moon. It is my belief, though I do not hold it dogmatically, that the entities described in Psalm 148:1-6 will exist into eternity. In the New Jerusalem, the light of the sun and moon will be superfluous, for it will be overpowered by the light of the glory of God and the Lamb.

<sup>8</sup> 148:6 - decree which will not pass away: Decree almost seems to mean fixed laws of nature; "not pass away" (BDB denotes the concepts of passing over, through, by, or passing on) seems to carry the notion that the heavenly bodies operate according to fixed laws which serve as boundaries *beyond which they cannot deviate*. This brings to mind such phenomena as gravity, centrifugal force, orbiting, rotating, galaxies, solar systems, red

**A2 PRAISE YAHWEH FROM THE EARTH! 148:7-14**

**B1 The Call to Praise:** {7} Praise the LORD from the earth, **148:7a**

**B2 The Entities of Praise 148:7b-12**

C1 The Seas: Sea monsters and all deeps; 148:7b

C2 The Elements 148:8

D1 The elements themselves: {8} Fire and hail, snow and clouds;

D2 The bearer of the elements: Stormy wind, fulfilling His word;

C3 The Topography: {9} Mountains and all hills; 148:9a

C4 The Trees: Fruit trees and all cedars; 148:9b

C5 The Animals 148:10

D1 Wild and domesticated: {10} Beasts and all cattle;

D2 Insects and reptiles; and birds: Creeping things and winged fowl;

C6 Humanity 148:11-12

D1 According to station in life 148:11

E1 Highest and lowest classes: {11} Kings of the earth and all peoples;

E2 Executive and judicial classes: Princes and all judges of the earth;

D2 According to age 148:12

E1 Youth of both genders: {12} Both young men and virgins;

E2 The oldest and the youngest: Old men and children.

**B3 Grounds for Praise 148:13-14a**

- C1 The Exalted Name and Glory of Yahweh 148:13
  - D1 The call to praise Yahweh's name: *{13}* Let them praise the name of the LORD,
  - D2 The exaltation of His name: For His name alone is exalted;
  - D3 The exaltation of His glory: His glory is above earth and heaven.
- C2 The Exalted Station of Israel, the People of Yahweh 148:14a
  - D1 Yahweh's provision of a powerful King for His people: *{14}* And He has lifted up a horn <sup>9</sup> for His people,
  - D2 Yahweh's provision of a special people for Himself
    - E1 Holy people: Praise for all His godly ones;
    - E2 Beloved people -- the sons of Jacob: *Even* for the sons of Israel, a people near to Him.

**B4 Concluding Call to Praise Yahh!: Praise the LORD! <sup>10</sup> 148:14b**

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 148

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<sup>9</sup> 148:14 - horn: A horn is what gives a male animal the facility to exert the influence of his power and might. A king is what gives a nation the facility to exert influence and power. The immediate reference is to the king current at the time of writing. The far reference is to the Messiah, through whom Israel will exert influence all over the world! (See Isa. 2:1-4; 11:1-5, 10; Zech. 14:9.)

<sup>10</sup> 148:14 - Praise the LORD!: Heb. *Hallelu Yahh!*