

Psalm 149

"Israel Urged to Praise Yahweh, Her Creator-King, for Using Her in Holy War to Judge Rebellious Nations"

Scripture taken from the *NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE*®,
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation.
Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)

A1 STANZA 1: BECAUSE OF HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL AS CREATOR AND KING 149:1-4

B1 The Opening Call to Praise Yahweh 149:1

C1 The Opening Command to Praise Yahh! *{1}* Praise the LORD! ¹

C2 The Command to Sing Praise

D1 With a new song: Sing to the LORD a new song,

D2 In public with the godly: *And* His praise in the congregation of the godly ones.

B2 The Reasons to Praise Yahweh 149:2

C1 Yahweh is Israel's Creator: *{2}* Let Israel be glad in his Maker;

C2 Yahweh is Zion's King: Let the sons of Zion ² rejoice in their King.³

¹ 149:1 - Praise the LORD!: Heb. *Hallelu Yahh! Hallelu*, Praise!, is an emphatic (Piel) imperative. The readers / hearers are **commanded** to praise Yahweh! 149:9 ends with the same command.

² 149:2 - Zion: It is difficult, if not impossible, to be a true worshiper of the God of the Old Testament and not be pro-Zion. References to Zion in the Psalms include: Psalm 2:6; 9:11; 9:14; 14:7; 20:2; 48:2; 48:11; 48:12; 50:2; 51:18; 53:6; 65:1; 69:35; 74:2; 76:2; 78:68; 84:7; 87:2; 87:5; 97:8; 99:2; 102:13; ; 102:16; 102:21; 110:2; 125:1; 126:1; 128:5; 129:5; 132:13; 133:3; 134:3; 135:21; 137:1; 137:3; 146:10; 147:12; 149:2. When Jesus, the Great King returns to this earth, He will reign from Zion (Isa. 2:1-4; Micah 4:1-13). Will we apologize for that? We best not, for Yahweh will use the daughter of Zion to thresh the nations who seek to usurp Zion for their own purposes (Micah 4:11-13).

³ 149:2 - King: Some day, Jesus will sit on David's throne on Mt. Zion as Yahweh-come-in-the-flesh. He will be deserving of all worship and praise!

B3 The Form of Praise to Yahweh 149:3

- C1 With Dancing: {3} Let them praise His name with dancing;
- C2 With Stringed Instruments; Let them sing praises to Him with timbrel and lyre.

B4 More Reasons to Praise Yahweh 149:4

- C1 For His Pleasure in His People: {4} For the LORD takes pleasure in His people;
- C2 For His Salvation of His Afflicted: He will beautify the afflicted ones with salvation.

A2 STANZA 2: BECAUSE OF HIS VENGEANCE AND JUDGMENT AGAINST THE NATIONS 149:5-9

B1 The Call for the Godly to Exult 149:5

- C1 Exultation in glory: {5} Let the godly ones exult⁴ in glory;
- C2 Joyful shout in repose: Let them sing for joy on their beds.

B2 The Call for Holy War 149:6-9a

- C1 The Holiness of War 149:6
 - D1 The call for praise of God: {6} Let the high praises of God be in their mouth,
 - D2 The call for deadliness in battle: And a two-edged sword in their hand,⁵

⁴ 149:5 - exult, sing for joy: There is a question as to whether 149:5 should conclude the first stanza or begin the second. I believe it begins the second, because it provides the verbs for 149:6, which otherwise has none. I use the word "shout" rather than NASB's "sing for joy" because there is nothing in the first half of 149:5 which demands song.

⁵ 149:6 - praises, two edged sword: This is none other than holy war. Yahweh's godly saints in Israel are urged to praise Him while they take up the sword to slay those who oppose Him and Israel, His chosen people. This is the true holy war. All other efforts at holy war are false imitations serving a false god. Yahweh, the God of the Old Testament, the Creator of Heavens and Earth, is the God who chose Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, not Abraham, Ishmael, and Esau. The ultimate fulfillment of this command will take place at the Battle of Armageddon, towards the end of which Jesus Himself will descend from heaven to take up battle on behalf of Israel. (Isa. 63:1-6; Micah 4:11-13; Zech. 12:1-9; 14:1-4; Rev. 16:13-16; 19:11-21).

- C2 The Function of War 149:7
- D1 On an international level, vengeance 149:7
- E1 Vengeance on nations: {7} To execute vengeance ⁶ on the nations
- E2 Punishment for peoples: And punishment on the peoples,
- D2 On a leader level, imprisonment 149:8
- E1 To capture kings: {8} To bind their kings with chains ⁷
- E2 To enslave nobles: And their nobles with fetters of iron,
- D3 On a moral level, justice 149:9a
- E1 The execution of justice decreed by Yahweh in Scripture: {9} To execute on them the judgment written;⁸
- E2 A process which brings honor to Yahweh's godly people: This is an honor for all His godly ones.

B3 The Concluding Command to Praise Yahh! Praise the LORD! ⁹ 149:9b

⁶ 149:7 - vengeance, punishment: This is not unjustified, arbitrary violence on unsuspecting neighbor nations; it is rather retaliatory, just action levied against violent nations who have afflicted Israel, provoking Yahweh's interference to save her. This is justice, not provocation. Ultimately, Yahweh will use Israel as a powerful tool to wreak His Divine vengeance on all nations of the world for their rebellion against Him. Israel will be God's instrument to inflict Holy War against all nations, who are in rebellion (see Zech. 12:1-9).

⁷ 149:8 - kings - chains, nobles - fetters: Complete and total victory will have been achieved when enemy nations have been defeated so decisively that Israel will parade all classes of rulers before the world in chains and fetters. No half-won stalemate here!

⁸ 149:9 - judgment written: This holy war is justice (*mishpat*) that has been written in the inspired Holy Scriptures by Yahweh's prophets at the bidding of Yahweh's Spirit. (See OT references above.) As abhorrent as westerners are today of Islam's jihad, so the entire world will be horrified and enraged at Jesus' and Israel's holy war of the end times (Ps. 2:1-3), but he who sits in the heavens will laugh at them and install His King, Jesus, on His throne on Mt. Zion anyway (Ps. 2:4-6). Jesus will rule the world (Zech. 14:9) with a rod of iron, shattering all opposition (Ps. 2:7-9), and the world will be powerless to stop Him. Rulers of the earth are thus urged to show humble discernment and submit to the Son of God and of David, worshiping Him in fear and trembling, lest He grow angry and destroy them in His wrath. Blessed are all who trust in Jesus and take refuge in Him (Ps. 2:10-12)!

⁹ 149:9 - Praise the LORD!: Heb. *Hallelu Yahh!* *Hallelu*, Praise!, is an emphatic (Piel) imperative. The readers / hearers are **commanded** to praise Yahweh! 149:9 ends with the same command that began this Psalm in 149:1

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 149

Prepared by James T. Bartsch

August, 2006. Updated October, 2014

WordExplain.com

Email Contact: jbartsch@wordexplain.com

Scripture taken from the *NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE*®,
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation.
Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)