



The Causes

Lesson 4 • Psalm 147

The HALLELUJAH DOXOLOGY: <i>Called to Praise the LORD!</i>				
The CHOICE	The CAUSES	The CENTER	The CELEBRATION	The CONSUMMATION
Psalm 146	Psalm 147	Psalm 148	Psalm 149	Psalm 150

Psalm 147 The CAUSES for praising the LORD are found in His creation goodness and covenant graciousness in restoration!

"HALLELUJAH!" [Praise Yahweh!]

1st CALL to Praise (v. 1) *"Surely it is good to sing praises to our God;"*

CAUSES for Praise (vv. 1b-6) Regathering the PEOPLE of Jerusalem

2nd CALL to Praise (v.7) *"Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; sing praises to our God on the lyre,"*

CAUSES for Praise (vv. 8-11) Repenting (Fear & Faith) Until Davidic Kingdom RESTORATION

3rd CALL to Praise all (v.12) *"Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!"*

CAUSES for Praise (vv. 13-20) Restoring the PLACE of Jerusalem = City of Zion

"HALLELUJAH!" [Praise Yahweh!]

► **GRACIOUSNESS** to Exiled Jerusalem/Israel
● **GOODNESS** to Creation.
► **GRACIOUSNESS** to Humbled Israel.

● **GOODNESS** to Creation
► **GRACIOUSNESS** to Covenant Fear/Faith

► **GRACIOUSNESS** to Jerusalem/Zion
● **GOODNESS** to Creation
► **GRACIOUSNESS** to Jacob/Nation Israel

GENERAL Creational Basis

PARTICULAR Covenantal Focus

The Causes for Praising the LORD! *Psalm 147*

1. Characteristics of the Call. (1, 7, 12)

"Hallelujah! Praise Yahweh!"

Commanded & Fulfilling

Delightful & Beautiful

Personal & Congregational

Vocal & Musical

Scripture-Based & Trinity-Shaped

2. Causes for the Call: God's GREATNESS. (vv. 2-6)

Focus: *"great is our LORD"* (v. 5)

The Greatness of the LORD Is Seen in His Gracious REGATHERING of His Repenting People.

Observations

- The background is **the return from exile** of God's humbled, **repenting covenant people**. (vv. 2-3, 6; Ps 107:1-3)
- The **rebuilding** of Jerusalem **requires regathering** the **scattered exiles**. (v. 2b; Nehemiah 12:27-43)
- The **ultimate cause for praise** is the **regathering** of God's people in the **restored** Davidic Kingdom and New Jerusalem!

God's Greatness Is Cause for Singing Praises Because...

1. His **LOYAL LOVE** to repenting sinners, especially His rebellious covenant people. (v. 2)
2. His **GENTLE COMPASSION** for the broken-hearted. (v. 3; Isaiah 61:1-3; Revelation 21:1-4)
3. His **MAJESTIC CARE** over the universe. (v. 4)
4. His **ALMIGHTY WISDOM** in all His purposes. (v. 5; Psalm 8:3-8; Romans 11:33-36)
5. His **MERCIFUL JUSTICE** for the humbled and against the proud. (v. 6; Ps 149:4; 22:26; Isaiah 66:2; 11:4; Zephaniah 2:3)

3. More Causes for the Call: God's GOODNESS. (vv. 7-11)

Focus: "He gives to the beast his food and to the young ravens who cry." (v. 9)

God's Goodness Is Cause for Singing Praises Because...

1. He compassionately **CULTIVATES** the entire earth. (v. 8)
2. He compassionately **FEEDS** the beasts and the birds. (v. 9)
3. He graciously **DELIGHTS** in caring for His covenant people with this same compassion. (vv. 10-11)

4. Still More Causes for the Call: God's GRACIOUSNESS. (vv. 13-20)

Focus: "He has not dealt thus with any nation; and as for His ordinances they have not known them." (v. 20)

God's Graciousness Is Cause for Singing Praises Because of...

1. His special **RESOURCES** for His people. (vv. 13-14)
2. His special **RULE** over His people. (vv. 15-18)
3. His special **REVELATION** to His people. (vv. 19-20)

The **hardening of hearts** in **judgment** and the **softening of hearts** with **grace** raises many questions:

Why does the LORD harden some and soften others? *Romans 9:14-16, 19-24*

How can I know if I am one of His chosen people? *Romans 10:8-13*

How will those who have not heard be saved? *Romans 10:14-17*

We Must Trust in God's Special Revelation and Not Our Own Reasoning!

- Trust the **GREATNESS** of His **almighty wisdom**: *Whatever He does is for His ultimate glory and our ultimate good!* (v. 5)
- Trust the **GOODNESS** of His **merciful compassion**: *He shows grace to those who fear Him with an obedient faith.* (v. 11)
- Trust the **GRACIOUS** of His **sending His Word by His witnesses**: *We have been given the Word to share the Word.* (vv. 19-20)

Salvation is of the LORD! *Romans 11:33-36*

It is befitting for us as God's covenant people to sing beautiful praises to the LORD as a congregation because *His providential goodness* in caring for creation is a powerful reminder of *His sovereign graciousness* in providing for us by sending us *His powerfully effectual Word*, so we can be restored as witnesses who share it with the unreached nations!

"Hallelujah! Praise Yahweh!"