

Summer Psalms  
**CALL TO PRAISE**  
Saturday, July 26  
Reading: Psalm 148-150

**Psalm 149:2** *Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the people of Zion be glad in their King.*

Last night a thunderstorm rolled through the area where I live. It had heavy rain and strong winds. Many people (including my church) were left without power. We may fear the storm because of the damage it does, but there is another way to look at it. Listen to these words of the great 19<sup>th</sup> century English preacher Charles Spurgeon:

“Doth not all nature around me praise God? If I were silent, I should be an exception to the universe. Doth not the thunder praise Him as it rolls like drums in the march of the God of armies? Do not the mountains praise Him when the woods upon their summits wave in adoration? Doth not the lightning write His name in letters of fire? Hath not the whole earth a voice? And shall I, can I, silent be?”<sup>1</sup>

This is the triumphant theme of Psalms 148-150. All of creation was “built” to praise the Lord. The psalmist begins by calling for the heavens to praise the Lord (148:1-6). He next moves down to the earth and calls the elements, the land and trees, and all the creatures of creation (including people) to praise the Lord (148:7-13). Psalm 148 concludes with a call for Israel to praise the Lord (148:14). As God’s chosen people they are “His faithful servants...the people close to His heart.” Of all creation should not they be the leaders in giving praise to God!

Psalm 149 picks up this theme and continues to call God’s chosen people to lift up their voices in songs of praise. They are to praise Him corporately in their assembly (149:1) and individually on their beds (149:5). They are to praise Him as their Maker and King (149:2). This praise is to be a joyous celebration with music, dancing, and rejoicing (149:3, 5) for the Lord takes delight when His people worship Him (149:4). Psalm 150 concludes by saying, “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord” (150:6).

Two things stand out as I read these psalms. The first and most important lesson is that we should be the ringleaders in praising the Lord. All of heaven and all creation sing before Him. But we who have been chosen by God and been given salvation have the most to sing about! We waste so much time talking about things that don’t matter. Harry Ironside, pastor of Moody Church from 1929 to 1948 said this: “We would worry less if we praised more. Thanksgiving is the enemy of discontent and dissatisfaction.”<sup>1</sup>

The second thing that stands out is the cry for vengeance that concludes Psalm 149 (149:6-9). The psalms are full of cries for God’s justice. Here I want us to see how much greater the gospel is over the old law. Just as Jesus’ sacrifice was better and replaced the animal sacrifices of the old law, so the gospel has replaced the “call to war” on those who reject God. The gospel is still a “double-edged sword” offering salvation to those who believe and punishment by God (not us) for those who reject. When Christ returns His enemies WILL receive their just penalty. Until that day, we are to love our enemies and pray for their salvation. It is a glorious thing to be entrusted with the “good news” of salvation available to all people. PRAISE THE LORD!

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.christianquotes.info/top-quotes/20-glorious-quotes-about-praise/#axzz5PPfHKvJm>