



Level Up
Level Up Your Celebration
Psalm 147

The book of Psalms concludes with an intentionally structured collection of five psalms that serves as the climactic crescendo to this powerful book of prayer and praise to the LORD God. Psalms 146–150 are known as the *Hallel* because they each begin and end with the celebratory shout of *Hallelujah*, meaning “Praise YHWH (i.e., the LORD)!” This week we will continue our exploration of the *Hallel*. As we do, we want to dig into worship. When we level up our praise, we level up our lives!

This week in our gathering, Pastor Dustin led us through Psalm 147—level up your celebration. This psalm celebrates the return of the Jewish people to their homeland and the rebuilding of their nation after seventy years of exile and captivity in the land of Babylon. The Babylonian exile (~ 587 B.C.) highlights one of the darkest moments in the nation of Israel’s history, but through it all the Lord sustained his covenant people. Furthermore, the Lord God was now providing them with new life in the land of the living. In the eyes of the psalmist, both aspects are a reason to celebrate! God sustains us through our lowest moments by not abandoning us to spiritual death. Hallelujah! God then offers us healing and restoration in the security and provision of his eternal kingdom. Hallelujah!

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you’re still thinking about?

- What is something from the message that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- What is at least one practical takeaway for you from the message?

Psalm 147

¹Praise the LORD!

For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

²The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

³He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.

⁴He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.

⁵Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.

⁶The LORD lifts up the humble;
he casts the wicked to the ground.

⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre!

⁸He covers the heavens with clouds;
he prepares rain for the earth;
he makes grass grow on the hills.

⁹He gives to the beasts their food,
and to the young ravens that cry.

¹⁰His delight is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his pleasure in the legs of a man,

¹¹but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

¹²Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!
Praise your God, O Zion!

¹³For he strengthens the bars of your gates;
he blesses your children within you.

¹⁴He makes peace in your borders;
he fills you with the finest of the wheat.

¹⁵He sends out his command to the earth;
his word runs swiftly.

¹⁶He gives snow like wool;
he scatters frost like ashes.

¹⁷ He hurls down his crystals of ice like crumbs;
who can stand before his cold?
¹⁸ He sends out his word, and melts them;
he makes his wind blow and the waters flow.
¹⁹ He declares his word to Jacob,
his statutes and rules to Israel.
²⁰ He has not dealt thus with any other nation;
they do not know his rules
Praise the LORD!

- Like the post-exilic Jews, have you ever experienced a really challenging season in your life? Reflecting on that season, what were some of the causes and results of that difficult season? How did the LORD help lead you through that time in your life?
- Verse 3 says the LORD God '*heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.*' How do the hard seasons of life often affect us mentally and emotionally? How do those seasons often challenge our spiritual relationship with the LORD?
- Verses 4 & 5 remind us that God is not absent from our circumstances. What is the lie/false narrative about God that plays in the background when we are going through difficult seasons of life? How can we promote a spirit of praise even in the midst of trials?
- In the eyes of the psalmist, what lessons can be learned from close observations of the natural world and why should these observations be a cause for us to celebrate the LORD God?
- According to verses 10–11, the world praises strength and might, but the LORD delights in the meek—those who put their trust in him. How are the people and institutions that we often celebrate in this world set in direct contrast to what God celebrates and uplifts? How does what we celebrate often speak to the spiritual condition of our hearts?
- In verses 15-20, the psalmist parallels God's created order with his covenant people, each of which are governed by his word (i.e., laws and statutes). Like creation, where in our own lives do we need to submit in obedience to God's word?
- How can personal engagement with the Bible, whether in our corporate gatherings, in your vGroup, or in your personal time, increase your daily praise?

- What were some of the truths of this psalm that Pastor Dustin mentioned in his message? How can we let the truths of this psalm empower us as Vintage Church to serve our city?
- Thinking back on your spiritual journey as a Christian, what reasons do you have today to praise Jesus' work in your life? When considering your future as a Christian, what reasons do you have to celebrate today?
- What do you have to celebrate this week? How will you celebrate the LORD?

Close your discussion by praying as a group. Celebrate in prayer how the LORD is working in your life personally, in your family, in your vGroup, and in the life of Vintage Church.