



Level Up
Level Up Your Wonder
Psalm 148

This week Pastor Dustin explained how Psalm 148 teaches that God deserves praise. Because God deserves praise, *all* of creation praises him. Creation as a whole is a witness to God's greatness and beauty.

From the farthest galaxy, star, and planet, to the cells and atoms within our bodies, creation is like a work of art that tells us something about its Artist. Have you ever seen a great piece of art, like a score of music, a film, or a painting? Great pieces of art tell us something about its maker. But great pieces of art also have a purpose, whether that purpose is to communicate a message or simply to be enjoyed. Creation is intentionally designed to communicate something about God.

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you're still thinking about?
- What is something 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 148

- 1** Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
 praise him in the heights!
- 2** Praise him, all his angels;
 praise him, all his hosts!
- 3** Praise him, sun and moon,
 praise him, all you shining stars!
- 4** Praise him, you highest heavens,
 and you waters above the heavens!
- 5** Let them praise the name of the Lord!
 For he commanded and they were created.
- 6** And he established them forever and ever;
 he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.
- 7** Praise the Lord from the earth,
 you great sea creatures and all deeps,
- 8** fire and hail, snow and mist,
 stormy wind fulfilling his word!
- 9** Mountains and all hills,
 fruit trees and all cedars!
- 10** Beasts and all livestock,
 creeping things and flying birds!
- 11** Kings of the earth and all peoples,
 princes and all rulers of the earth!
- 12** Young men and maidens together,
 old men and children!
- 13** Let them praise the name of the Lord,
 for his name alone is exalted;
 his majesty is above earth and heaven.
- 14** He has raised up a horn for his people,
 praise for all his saints,
 for the people of Israel who are near to him.
Praise the Lord!

- The psalmist says to let all of creation praise God, “For he commanded and they were created.” We often think of creation as though it were the first spark of physical things, but theologians have argued that things are not that simple. While

creation does have a beginning, 'creation' refers more precisely to God giving existence to everything simultaneously and always. Everything that has being depends on God for its existence at every point of time. This means, among other things, that your existence at this moment is just as fresh, original, and intentional, as the very beginning of the universe. Take a moment to think about that, and discuss. What thoughts come to mind? How does that make you feel?

- Christians have often distinguished between *general revelation* and *particular revelation*. General revelation is God revealing himself through creation in a general fashion, through the heavens, our planet, and even through humanity. Creation was designed as a form of divine communication. But read Romans 1:19-23. Instead of worshiping the creator of creation, what do we do instead? Why is this so devastating to us and the rest of humanity?
- Because of sin, God's general communication gets garbled, and we misinterpret the message. This is why God has a more direct and particular revelation. Read John 1:14-18. So in summary, what's the difference between general and particular revelation, and why do we need particular revelation?
- Think about this. God created the universe so that we would know him. When sin made us misinterpret this message, God sent his Son to us. What does this say about who God is, and what he wants from us?
- If creation is designed to give its creator praise, then what does that say about how I live my life at this moment? What does this say about my purpose?
- How will you join in creation this week to praise the LORD? Take some time to think about this, discuss, and end in prayer. Ask God to remind you that he has created you to praise him, and created you to communicate his greatness. Ask him to make himself known through your life.