

1. In the Septuagint, the Greek word Allelujah occurs as the title of Psa 148. The word has come directly into the English Language without change as a religious expression.

2. Within the Psalm there is an emphasis on the power and wisdom of God; the Psalm is a witness of God's mighty deeds to come.

3. Our emphasis this morning will be on Revelation nineteen, Psa 148 and the 14th chapter of Zechariah where the reaction of the Universe and all Creation will exalt in praise of the Lord's return. I want to begin with an expanded translation of the nineteenth chapter of the Apocalypse of John.

Rev 19:1 "After I saw the destruction of Babylon and the resultant joy in heaven I heard the roar of a great crowd in heaven exclaiming: 'Praise God! deliverance and glory and power solely belong to Jesus the Christ,

Rev 19:2 for certain and just are all His judgments. He has condemned and judged ecumenical, political and commercial Babylon who for centuries corrupted the earth, by her false teachings. He is calling her to account for spilling the blood of His servants.'

Rev 19:3 At this point, John again heard from heaven, 'Hallelujah for the omnipotent Lord God reigneth.'

Rev 19:4 The twenty-four elders representing the raptured church and four special elect angels all fell prostrate and worshiped the Christ Who was seated on the throne. The raptured saints of heaven cried out, "Amen and Hallelujah!'

Rev 19:5 And out of the Throne Room in heaven came a voice praising God; in fact the voice demanded all His servants, small and great, all who fear and respect Him must praise His name.

Rev 19:6 And then I heard what sounded like the shouting of a large crowd, it sounded much like the waves of a hundred oceans crashing on a rocky shore, or like the crash of thunder from an approaching storm.

Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and be glad and honor Him; for the marriage has occurred and now we are ready to celebrate with a wedding banquet in honor of the Lamb of God and His Bride, the church. For she has made herself ready, she is prepared.

Rev 19:8 Because of her faith alone in Christ alone, she is permitted to wear her decorations on her uniform of glory; the uniform is made of the cleanest and whitest of fine linen.

Rev 19:9 The angel then said to me, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb of God.' And then he added, 'God Himself has so stated.'

Rev 19:10 I, John, then fell down to worship the angel but he rebuked me saying, 'Get up do not do that! I am a servant of God just like you and serve not only you but all your brothers in Christ. The purpose of all prophecy is to describe the triumph and return of Jesus the Christ.'

Rev 19:11 Then, I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a huge white horse; the rider was called Faithful and True. It is said of Him He has come to judge with justice and to make war on those who refuse to call Him Lord.

Rev 19:12 His eyes were like flames of fire, and on His head were many crowns of royalty. He had a name written on His forehead, He alone knew its meaning.

Rev 19:13 He was clothed in garments dipped in blood and His official title was clearly displayed, 'The Word of God.'

Rev 19:14 The angelic armies of heaven dressed in finest linen, white and clean were following Him; they too were riding on white horses.

Rev 19:15 In His mouth the Lord had a large executioner's sword with which to strike down the nations. He began slaughtering the armies of the nations and so flowed their blood it was like a man treading a winepress. He treading the winepress with the fury and wrath of God Almighty Himself.

Rev 19:16 And on His robe and on His thigh was the name: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Rev 19:17 And I saw an angel whose brightness was as the sun, he cried out to all the flesh eating birds in a voice which could be heard all over the world, 'Come, to Israel, Edom and Babylon, gather together for the great supper of God,

Rev 19:18 here you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great.'

Rev 19:19 Then I saw the Antichrist leading the world's kings, presidents, prime ministers and their armies; they were moving slowly but surely toward the Middle East. The Antichrist had put together a global coalition for the sole purpose of making war against, Israel, Christ and his heavenly army. The Antichrist and his forces were coming from the west across the Mediterranean, the Arab forces were coming from the south and the forces headquartered in Moscow moved a great armada south into the Holy Land and finally from the east came the oriental hordes--all armies aching for combat.

3.1 In cryptic fashion, only the result of the battle is described in this chapter--carnage fit for the world's vultures. The defeat of the armies of the beast, however, is the prelude of the destruction of the beast himself and his minions.

Rev 19:20 And then the Antichrist was captured together with his sidekick the False Prophet. The False Prophet who had been so convincing, he had seduced many into worshiping the image of the Antichrist and great numbers had followed his recommendation to take the mark of the beast. Both were cast into the lake of fire created for Satan and his demon subalterns.

Rev 19:21 The rest of those who fought against the Lord at Jerusalem, Megiddo and Edom were killed by the Lord's executioner's sword and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh. The population of Sheol, or Hades as the Greeks called it, was greatly increased. It is here that all unbelievers must live in torment until their judgment before the Great White Throne.

4. Most of you have heard and appreciated that great piece of music by Handel entitled the Hallelujah Chorus. But seven years after the rapture there will be the reality of that shadow portrayed by Handel. And now for a preview of what will one day be the real *Hallelujah Chorus*."

Psalm 148

NIV

Psa 148:1 Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens, praise him in the heights above.

Psa 148:2 Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

Psa 148:3 Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars.

Psa 148:4 Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.

Psa 148:5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

Psa 148:6 He set them in place forever and ever; he gave a decree that will never pass away.

Psa 148:7 Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,

Psa 148:8 lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding,

Psa 148:9 all mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,

Psa 148:10 wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,

Psa 148:11 kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth,

Psa 148:12 young men and maidens, old men and children.

Psa 148:13 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

Psa 148:14 He has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his saints, of Israel, the people close to his heart. Praise the LORD.

5. The praise begins in the heavenly sphere when that great Hallelujah chorus begins. God's unfinished redemptive praise and rejoicing come from above.

6. Here begins a heavenly company, whose praise and worship sounds first, even before the praise of the world of the angels. The heavenly company is itself "higher than the angels." They occupy a place in the heights, of heaven, where even the seraphim must veil their faces.

7. Marvelous truth, so fully revealed in the New Testament, will come tumbling from above! In the highest heavens, in that third heaven, is a large company of redeemed ones.

8. That company is the Church, the body and the bride of Christ. Through the long promised and long expected Rapture, the body has been united with the Head in glory; the bride has been joined to the Bridegroom to become symbolically the Lamb's wife.

9. Mighty Hallelujahs are now heard from these heights of glory! What was written by Paul in his letter to the church at Ephesus will then be fulfilled; the principalities and powers in heavenly places will behold the glorification of the true Church the manifold wisdom of God.

10. What Hallelujahs we shall sing, when He brings His many sons unto glory, when we all shall be like Him that He might be the first begotten among many brethren! Then the angels and all the heavenly hosts shout their adoring praises, their mighty Hallelujahs. The whole universe vibrates with praise of Him Who is and always has been.

11. What harmony that will be when the redeemed saints of God join in musical praise with the angelic hosts populating billions of galaxies stretching across vast light years of space. Each star will also answer with Hallelujahs of its own.

12. Sun and moon, all the stars of light, the heavens of heavens and the mysteries above the heavens will also praise Jehovah's name. Not to be outdone, a new sound is heard from the lower spheres of earth; there comes forth a universal call for praise. The Hallelujahs continue with the least known of earth's creatures--the monsters of the deep! Psa 148:7-14

Expanded Translation

Psa 148:7 Praise the LORD, you dragons of the deep:

Psa 148:8 Fire, and hail; snow, and vapours; stormy wind fulfilling his Word:

Psa 148:9 Mountains, and all hills; fruitful trees, and all cedars:

Psa 148:10 Beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl:

Psa 148:11 Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth:

Psa 148:12 Both young men, and maidens; old men, and children:

Psa 148:13 Let them praise the name of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven.

Psa 148:14 He also exalteth the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints; even of the children of Israel, a people near and dear unto him. Praise ye the LORD.

13. The Psalmist tell us that praise will begin in the heavenly sphere, with the things above; when that great hallelujah chorus will be aired, the great redemption finale from above. Yes, even before the angels there will be praise from the third heaven where a heavenly company; a company of redeemed saints standing amidst a stack of crowns piled higher than the snow-covered peaks of Mount Everest.

14. Then the angels will shout their adoring praise, their mighty hallelujahs. The whole universe will vibrate in expectation as the mighty King Jesus rises above all things made. The stars will answer with hallelujahs of their own; both sun and moon and the mysterious galaxies from far and near will sing in praise of Jehovah's name.

15. And then from below in bellowing praise with voices low and strong; yes, with songs of strength with deep basso voices out of the mouths of the monsters of the deep.

16. The basso voices will be accompanied by tenors, sopranos, baritones and altos from the many fishes of the sea. Myriad creatures way down in the depths of undiscovered waters will emerge in praise of Christ's deliverance--why? Because each knows they are all known by the God Who created them and their groanings have been heard.

17. Mountains above the earth and valleys below will also sing and so will the fruit trees, cedars, beasts, cattle, the creeping things and the birds, all must praise their Creator and such will be the end of their groanings. And from every place on earth mankind will stop and bow in reverence to the King of kings and Lord of lords – for heaven will one day come down and Christ's name will be hallowed above all names.

18. The heavenly overture is over and the musical score of praise segways from galactic choruses to bass voices resonating from deep ocean caves and even the waves themselves with their dangerous undertows and dark shadows praise His name.

19. The monsters of the depths, that is, the depths of the vast oceans are mentioned first. While there is a wonderful animal life upon the earth, in the waters of the vast oceans exist still another domain.

19.1 Oceanographers have measured the depths of the ocean. The deepest is 36,056 feet; and there are other depths which have never been sounded. Way down in these depths is a world all unto itself, which has not as yet been explored; in all probability that world will most likely never be known to earthly man. In the depths of the oceans move the great sea monsters. The Creator knows them all. These sea creatures will gladly praise Him.

20. Then the products of the air are mentioned. Fire and hail, electricity, elements both discovered and undiscovered will come forth with song and even the lightning and thunder, and the snowflakes with their vapors of tiny droplets of unseen water will join in melodic praise.

21. The hurricane which sweeps over the earth obeys His Word and must praise Him. Mountains towering in majestic ranges, the lower hills, the valleys, fruit trees, cedars, beasts, cattle, the creeping things, and the birds, all must praise Him and will praise their Creator and Restorer.

22. And, thus, will end the groans of creation.

NIV

Rom 8:19 The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.

Rom 8:20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope

Rom 8:21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

Rom 8:22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

23. Then we find mentioned the kings of the earth, the entire human race, princes and judges, young and old. They are called upon to praise Jehovah's name. His name alone will be exalted in that day of His visible and glorious manifestation, when He comes as warrior Jesus to deliver His people Israel.

24. This was all described when an angel told Zechariah about it some 520 years before the birth of Christ.

Zec 14:3 But then the Messiah will return, with His heavenly angelic army; Christ will destroy the godless nations and fight on your behalf, just as He has done so often in the past.

Zec 14:4 Jesus Christ will return at His Second Advent to the Mount of Olives and when His nail scarred foot touches earth there will be a great earthquake splitting Mount Moriah.

Zec 14:5 All those trapped in the city will flee to the east using the great valley caused by the Lord's return. When Jesus' foot touches the top of the Mount, it will split open making a way of escape. The valley will extend all the way to Jericho, a city located some 25 miles east of Jerusalem. Then the Lord God will move out with His Angelic army against the armies of the world.

Zec 14:6 On that day there will be no light from the sun because all the light needed will come from the supernatural aura of the Light of the World. That Light will be so special it defies human description.

Zec 14:7 It will be a unique day--a day known only to the LORD. Christ as the Light of the World will always shine; there will be no night, no darkness and no need for rest in perfect environment.

Zec 14:8 During the Millennium there will flow from the Throne of God in Jerusalem, living water, half to the Dead Sea and half to the Mediterranean Sea, both in summer and winter, a perpetual flow.

Zec 14:9 When the Messiah returns He will be King over the whole earth, not just the Holy Land. All other so-called religions will vanish. There will be no more Islamist, Hindu, Buddhist, Scientologist, Christian Scientist or Deist. He, the Christ will replace them all and each will be shown for what they were: impotent, worthless and silly attempts on the part of man to make themselves right with God.

Zec 14:10 The hill country of Benjamin and Judah shall be leveled; the country around Jerusalem will become like the Arabah, a level plain. Jerusalem will be raised up from the Benjamin Gate to the site of the First Gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the royal winepresses just as it was during the days of Israel's greatest prosperity.

Zec 14:11 Jerusalem will be inhabited by the saints of God during the Millennium; never again will Jerusalem be destroyed. Jerusalem will be a city of refuge.

Zec 14:12 After the deliverance of the remnant in the city; the Lord Jesus will strike the armies of the nations with a terrible plague, a divine concoction will rot their flesh, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths; they will be scattered as strange skeletons amidst a massive field of human and animal carnage.

Zec 14:13 After the remnant escapes from Jerusalem, the Lord will strike the residue of the nations with a great panic. The nations will turn against one another, each destroying the other.

Zec 14:14 After the ghastly plague and confusion imposed upon the invading armies of the world, the Lord Jesus will order forth the small but dedicated military remnant of Judah and they shall march out of the city in force. Israel will strip their enemies of all their gold, and silver and apparel even unto Megiddo where the Armies of the Antichrist, Pan Arabic Block, Orient and remnant of the Army of the North are suffering; there Israel will help themselves to the wealth of the nations ...

25. As we think about the many Psalms of praise found in the Word, we realize that we will have to wait till we are no longer hindered by our bodies of humiliation to truly appreciate what will one day occur.

26. From every place on earth mankind will stop and bow in reverence to the King of kings and Lord of lords—for heaven will one day come down and Christ's name will be hallowed above all names.

27. As we think about the many Psalms of praise found in the Word, we realize that we will have to wait till we are no longer hindered by our bodies of humiliation to truly appreciate what will one day occur.

28. Let us pray.

29. It is now time to prepare for the Lord's Table. Please put up your trays and turn in your hymnals to page 99 as we stand and sing the first and last stanzas of "*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross.*" Ken come and lead us please.