

The 148th Psalm

9-2-2012

Introduction

In the Septuagint, the Greek word Hallelujah occurs as the title of Psalm 148. The word has come directly into the English Language without change as a religious expression. Within the Psalms to which the title Hallelujah is attached, there is an emphasis on the power and wisdom of God as each Psalm is a witness of His mighty deeds. The last five Psalms are declared to be the Hallelujah Psalms. Our emphasis this morning will be on one of those five Psalms--Psalm 148.

Rev 19:1-8 is often declared to be the "Fourfold Hallelujah" and a New Testament celebration of Psalm 148.

KJV

Rev 19:1 And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:

Rev 19:2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

Rev 19:3 And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up forever and ever.

Rev 19:4 And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.

Rev 19:5 And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

Rev 19:6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunders, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Rev 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

Rev 19:8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

NIV

Rev 19:1 After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

Rev 19:2 for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants."

|Rev 19:3 And again they shouted: "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever."

Rev 19:4 The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: "Amen, Hallelujah!"

Rev 19:5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!"

Rev 19:6 Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

Rev 19:8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)

And now for a preview of what will one day be the real *Hallelujah Chorus*."

Psa 148:1-6

KJV

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

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

Psa 148:3 Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.

Psa 148:4 Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens.

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

Psa 148:6 He hath also stablished them forever and ever: he hath made a decree which shall not pass.

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.

The praise begins in the heavenly sphere, with the things above. This is the divine order. When that great Hallelujah chorus will be heard, the great finale of God's unfinished redemption symphony, its first notes of praise and rejoicing are not heard from earth, they come from above.

Here at least is a hint of a heavenly company, whose praise and worship stands first, even before the praise of the world of unseen spirits, the angels of God. That praising company is itself “higher than the angels.” They occupy a place in the heights, the heights of heaven, where even the seraphim must veil their faces.

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. That company is the Church, the body and the bride of Christ--the four and twenty elders. 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. Mighty Hallelujahs are now heard from these heights of glory!

What is written in the Ephesian epistle is now fulfilled, the principalities and powers in heavenly places behold the glorification of the true Church the manifold wisdom of God (Eph 3:10-11).

KJV

Eph 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

Eph 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

NIV

Eph 3:10 His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,

Eph 3:11 according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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.

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 answer with Hallelujahs of its own. Sun and moon, all the stars of light, the heavens of heavens and the mysterious water above these heavens will also praise Jehovah’s name.

Not to be outdone comes a new sound for we next move to the lower sphere of earth and a universal call for praise. We begin with the least known of earth’s creatures--the monsters of the deep! Psa 148:7-14

KJV

Psa 148:7 Praise the LORD from the earth, ye dragons, and all deeps:

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 unto him. Praise ye the LORD.

NIV

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 you 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.

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. 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 exists still another domain.

They 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, as He knows every star in the universe above. And these creatures of His hand will gladly praise Him. 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 even the snowflakes with their vapors of tiny droplets of unseen water will join in melodic praise.

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

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. What of that day of deliverance. An angel told Zechariah about it some 520 years before the birth of Christ.

Expanded Translation

Zec 14:1-21

Zec 14:1 Note well Israel, God's judgment day for you and your countrymen is on the way. Plunder will be piled high and handed out to the nations, particularly destructive will be the forces of the King of the North.

Zec 14:2 I'm bringing all the godless nations to war against Judah and particularly Jerusalem - your houses will be plundered, your women will be raped; half of the population of the city will surrender and be killed or enslaved and half will be left in Jerusalem to defend it.

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 earth atop 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.

Zec 14:15 Upon arriving at the respective encampments of their enemies the forces of Israel are surprised to find not only a suffering army, but even the donkeys, camels and horses have been consumed by the terrible plague; the hand of the Lord has destroyed all human and animal life.

Zec 14:16 When the Messiah makes His home with man on earth, the remnant of the nations will annually travel to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles and there they will worship the King, the Lord of the Armies.

Zec 14:17 Should any nation not send delegates to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of the Armies will cause a drought in their land.

Zec 14:18 Now if Egypt does not send a delegation to Jerusalem to worship the King and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles, that nation will get no rain and God will bring to that once proud king of the south a special plague designed to punish the entire nation.

Zec 14:19 Yes this shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that do not celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.

Zec 14:20 During the Millennial reign of Christ everything in the land shall be pure, sacred and set apart, even the horses and the pots and pans used for cooking will be as sacred as the utensils used in the Holy of Holies.

Zec 14:21 Yes, every pot in the city of Jerusalem and in all of Judah shall be Holy to the Lord: and all they that sacrifice shall come and cook and eat from them; and in that day there shall be no more error in the house of the LORD, for sin and evil shall be no more in the land of Judah.”

In that happy national Hallelujah Israel will no longer be far away, but near unto the Christ. They will be the great nation of praise, the great song leader on earth. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! And Hallelujah!

Now let us pray:

Father as we think about the many Psalms of praise found in Your 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.

Your 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 finale of Your redemption symphony from above. Yes Father even before the angels there will be praise from the third heaven where a heavenly company resides; a company of redeemed saints standing amidst a stack of crowns higher than the snow covered peaks of Mount Everest.

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.

And then from below in bellowing praise with voices low but strong; yes Father strong like their essence; songs of strength--songs of praise from deep basso voices of the monsters of the deep 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 Your deliverance--why? Because each knows they are all known by You Who created them and that their groanings have been heard.

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 Your name will be hallowed above all names.

It is our purpose this morning to praise You by celebrating our Lord's Table. Help us Father not only to examine ourselves but give us insight into that day when all of Your creatures will sing hallelujahs to Your name; for I ask these things in the name of Christ our Savior. Amen

Now as we continue to prepare for our Lord's Table, I want you to get your hymnals and turn to hymn number 99 as we stand and sing the first and last stanzas of *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*. Ken come and lead us please.