



Scripture for the week of May 2: Psalm 148

“1 Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above. 2 Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts. 3 Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars. 4 Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord, for at his command they were created, 6 and he established them for ever and ever—he issued a decree that will never pass away. 7 Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, 8 lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, 9 you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, 10 wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, 11 kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, 12 young men and women, old men and children. 13 Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens. 14 And he has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart. Praise the Lord.”

Sunday, May 2:

Scripture: Read above Scripture slowly (even if it is very familiar to you).

Questions: What stood out for you as you read this Scripture? What do you hope to be reminded of as you focus on this Scripture this week? This Scripture is all about Praise. If this Psalmist believes that nature is to Praise God, how much more do you think that we should as well? Do you see that the first six verses talk about Praising the Lord from the heavens? And, do you see that the rest of the verses talk about Praising the Lord from the earth?

Prayer: Lord, God I can feel the joy that is expressed from this Psalm. Let that joy invade my life so that I too will desire to up my game in Praising You. Teach me this week what it means to express my praise of You in all circumstances just because of who You are.

Monday, May 3:

Scripture: Psalm 148:1-2: “1 Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above. 2 Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.”

Questions: Do you remember reading in Revelation how the angels around the throne were Praising God? Do you believe that this is a glimpse of what is in store for us? How do you think you will do Praising God in heaven if we don't do it here on earth?

Prayer: Lord, teach me this week how to Praise You in a way that seems so natural. Let it be so natural here that the thought of doing it in heaven will be just a continuation of what I did here on earth only in Your actual presence.

Tuesday, May 4:

Scripture: Psalm 148:3-4: “3 Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars. 4 Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.”

Questions: Don't you think it is interesting that the Psalmist is calling on inanimate objects to recognize their Creator? Do you see that we should also be aware of our Creator and so praise Him for what we have seen as His creation? Isn't there something in creation to Praise God about?

Prayer: Lord God, You have created the heavens and the earth. We have been witnesses of this beautiful Creation especially as we have watched the Spring flowers and have seen the changing of the seasons. For that alone we should Praise You for all You have Created as we can observe Your beauty all around us.

Wednesday, May 5:

Scripture: Psalm 148:5-6: “5 Let them praise the name of the Lord, for at his command they were created, 6 and he established them for ever and ever—he issued a decree that will never pass away.”

Questions to Ponder: Have you seen a beautiful sunrise or sunset? Have you looked at the stars and are mesmerized by them? What things have you seen in the heavens that makes you thankful to God? Isn't praise all about being thankful to God for what He has done and what we have seen? Will you praise Him this day for what has amazed you when you look above?

Prayer: Lord God, I am thankful for what You have revealed to me in the heavens and the skies. Sometimes I am so overwhelmed by a beautiful sunset and by the stars in the sky. I Praise You for Your creation that I can be a part of seeing the beauty in the skies. Thank You for opening my eyes to the beauty around me.

Thursday, May 6:

Scripture: Psalm 148:7-9: “7 Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, 8 lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, 9 you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,”

Questions: Doesn't the idea of objects praising the Lord remind you of Luke 19:40 “I tell you, he replied, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”? Do you believe it is possible that if we don't praise the Lord, God will get objects to do it instead? If the writer of this Psalm thinks that objects should appreciate their creation, don't you think we should too? Isn't this a great reason to Praise Him for what we get to observe?

Prayer: Lord this day I desire to Praise You for the things You have created on this earth that I appreciate. I love to watch the ocean and see some of the creatures You have created there for us to observe. I love the mountains as well and the beauty of them when I climb them and look out at all that is below. I praise Your holy name for the beauty that You have allowed me to see and appreciate. Thank You God for all that You have created.

Friday, May 7:

Scripture: Psalm 148:10-12: “10 wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, 11 kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, 12 young men and women, old men and children.”

Questions: Do you see we are getting closer to home with rulers on earth? How many of our rulers do you think Praise the Lord? Do we have the right to criticize them if we aren't Praising God as well? Will you express this day who you are thankful for in this group?

Prayer: Lord, I give you praise for the rulers, kings and princes on this earth. I pray that they would be obedient to Your word and rule with Your authority and guidance. In a world where people are not looked at equally, guide our rulers on the correct path so that we can be people who not only praise You and one another but come to love them as You desire for us to love them.

Saturday, May 8:

Scripture: Psalm 148:13-14: “13 Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens. 14 And he has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart. Praise the Lord.”

Questions: Do you see that the reason is given why we should praise the name of the Lord? Do you see that we should praise Him for His name alone and that His splendor is above the earth and the heavens? Have you known with certainty that you are a person close to His heart? Isn't that a good reason to Praise the Lord?

Prayer: Lord God, I do praise You for Your name is wonderful, You have shown Your splendor above the heavens and the earth. But most of all I praise You that You keep me close to Your heart. Let me express my gratitude to You for who You created me to be and for the love that You have for me and constantly remind me of that so I will naturally want to Praise and thank You for who You are.