



International Bible Lessons Commentary

Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series

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Psalms 148:1-14

New International Version

January 29, 2017

The [International Bible Lesson](#) (*Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series*) for **Sunday, January 29, 2017**, is from **Psalms 148:1-14**. **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** follow the verse-by-verse *International Bible Lesson Commentary*. **Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further** will help with class preparation and in conducting class discussion: these hints are available on the [International Bible Lessons Commentary](#) website along with the *International Bible Lesson* that you may want to read to your class as part of your Bible study. You can discuss each week's commentary and lesson at the [International Bible Lesson Forum](#).

(Psalms 148:1) Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.

The Psalm calls all of God's creation and every person to praise the LORD. We offer praise to the LORD when we obey God; especially when God calls us to serve the LORD and others in ways particular to our special creation and His purposes. To praise God from the heavens involves

every heavenly being and object doing exactly what God planned for them according to their capacity. Praise means more than empty words.

(Psalms 148:2) Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

The Psalm calls every individual angel to praise the LORD, and in the Bible the angels sing hymns of praise to God and serve as God's messengers and servants for us. A heavenly host is an angelic army or a multitude angels; such as those who saved Israel in battle and some of the prophets and kings from time to time. Individual angels and groups of angels will declare God's marvelous qualities for others to hear and appreciate in addition to bringing joy to the LORD. A heavenly host announced the birth of Jesus to shepherds and sang praises to God.

(Psalms 148:3) Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.

The Psalm calls the sun, moon, and shining stars to praise God according to their capacity. Apart from human words and sounds, these celestial bodies may make music for the Lord alone to hear, appreciate, and understand. Their songs of praise may be part of their essential creation, and they obey and praise God when they maintain their orbits, give light, make life possible on the earth, guide people when they walk in the dark of night, or help ships at sea that navigate by the stars (as in the past).

(Psalms 148:4) Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.

As in many hymns, the Psalm repeats some truths and adds a new emphasis with the repetition. Make no mistake, God crafted the beauty and wonder of the highest heavens, with only a few solar systems having been discovered among the untold numbers of them. By experience, the psalmist knew about storms, lightning, and rain. He called the rain that was stored and fell from the skies above to praise the LORD at all times for being ready to meet the needs of the earth below.

(Psalms 148:5) Let them praise the name of the LORD, for at his command they were created,

All the heavens and all the beings and objects in the heavens praise the Lord by their obedience to God and affirmation of the glories of God. The psalmist says they have this obligation because they were created by God's command, by God's spoken word, to fulfill God's purposes. They reflect and point to the greatness of God and inspire our praise of the LORD.

(Psalms 148:6) and he established them for ever and ever — he issued a decree that will never pass away.

When God created the heavens and the earth, God intended them to last for ever and ever, and God may change their form to suit His purposes. When God creates

new heavens and a new earth, the heavens and earth will be changed and nothing evil will exist on the earth or in the heavens again. God creates and changes His creation by a decree, by the spoken word, and there will be beautiful places in heaven and on earth for God's children to praise the LORD forever.

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

When the psalmist turns his attention to the earth, he wants to include all the marvelous creatures that come before his memory when he calls all of God's creation to praise the LORD. We only know slightly our capacity to praise the LORD; therefore, we have little or no understanding of how a sea creature can praise the LORD. No doubt as we see the wonderful creatures that God has created, they inspire us to praise and thank God for their beauty and unique qualities.

(Psalms 148:8) lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding,

The seasons of the year, that include various ways for God to meet the needs of all those that live upon the earth, offer praise to the LORD and lead people to fear or reference God in seasons with lightning and hail and stormy winds. Snow, clouds, and rain inspire us to praise and thank God for God's life-giving water.

(Psalms 148:9) you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,

When we see the grandeur of the mountains, taste the various fruits that bring delight and nourishment, and look up at the cedar-covered hills that provide building materials for homes and boats, they lead us to praise God for His daily, loving, care for us.

(Psalms 148:10) wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,

Wild animals can sometimes inspire fear and always inspire wonder at their qualities that point to God as the Master Creator and Designer. More than what we need to survive physically, God has met our needs for beauty and mental development that lead us to praise God for His marvelous works. In these and other ways, all God's creatures praise and lead others to praise the LORD.

(Psalms 148:11) kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth,

The Psalm invites all kings and nations to praise God. All creation points to the LORD who is worthy to be praised. Until Jesus Christ returns, many princes, rulers, nations, and people will not join with the rest of creation in praising the true God. Lightning and hail will not move them to fall on their knees in fear and reverence before God, but God's people along with all of creation invite them to sing the praises of God.

(Psalms 148:12) young men and women, old men and children.

Young and old, men and women, rich and poor, strong and weak are all invited to praise the LORD. God invites all and never excludes anyone when God invites all to praise Him for creating them, for creating a beautiful world that meets their needs, for speaking to them truly through the Scriptures and supremely through His Son Jesus Christ.

(Psalms 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.

The psalmist gives reasonable people good and sufficient reasons to praise God in addition to the fact that God created them and sustains them in existence moment-by-moment. The “Name” of the LORD is the sum quality of who God is and all His attributes. The LORD is so far above all He has created and so far above all the idols created by those who have turned from God that He deserves the praise of all creation.

(Psalms 148:14) 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.

As Psalm 148 closes, the psalmist invites us to praise God for what God has done for His people. God raised up Israel and gave them power over their enemies. God gave them

the opportunity to be His faithful servants and teach all the nations about God and lead them to faith in the true God. God has brought His people close to His heart and expressed His love for them – surely the LORD is worthy to be praised.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. What are some of the ways we can praise the LORD?
2. What in the heavens does the psalmist call to praise God?
3. What on the earth does the psalmist call to praise God?
4. What is the first reason the psalmist gives for praising God?
5. Why should all God's people, especially Israel, praise the LORD?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly
International Bible Lesson.

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