



International Bible Lesson

Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Why God Gives Power to His People

January 29, 2017
Psalms 148:1-14

“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” (Psalms 148:14).

The poetic imagery of the Psalms sometimes leads to more than one interpretation, with some interpretations leading to a prophetic understanding. “A horn” in this Psalm is not a musical instrument, but a symbol of power or strength. Think of the horns on a powerful charging bull in an open pasture. The LORD gave Israel the strength and power to defeat their enemies as a victorious bull in an arena. God gave Israel powerful kings and prophets; such as David, because David was a man after God’s own heart, and Elijah, who defeated pagan priests. The LORD also promised to send the Messiah into the world, and He would bring righteousness and peace with the defeat of God’s enemies. Because God has such power to give to His faithful servants, God deserves “the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel.” Why does God give such power and strength to His faithful servants? The Psalmist answers, because they are “close to His heart.” God loves His people, and God’s people love the LORD because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). God expressed His love supremely by sending the Messiah Jesus into the world so all God’s people could defeat their spiritual enemies through faith in Him. The Bible labels our spiritual enemies “the world, the flesh, and the devil.” Now that the Messiah has come, He can give His followers the spiritual power to defeat their spiritual enemies and enjoy righteousness and peace through prayer and trust in Him. Someday, Jesus will return and bring righteousness and peace throughout the world.

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?

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