



SERMON NOTES

July 31, 2016

Scripture: Psalm 147:1-20 (NAS)

Topic: "A Vision of God's Grace and Greatness"

Rev. Bruce Gardner

- 1 Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; For it is pleasant and praise is becoming.
- 2 The LORD builds up Jerusalem; He gathers the outcasts of Israel.
- 3 He heals the brokenhearted And binds up their wounds.
- 4 He counts the number of the stars; He gives names to all of them.
- 5 Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.
- 6 The LORD supports the afflicted; He brings down the wicked to the ground.
- 7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; Sing praises to our God on the lyre,
- 8 Who covers the heavens with clouds, Who provides rain for the earth, Who makes grass to grow on the mountains.
- 9 He gives to the beast its food, And to the young ravens which cry.
- 10 He does not delight in the strength of the horse; He does not take pleasure in the legs of a man.
- 11 The LORD favors those who fear Him, Those who wait for His lovingkindness.
- 12 Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!
- 13 For He has strengthened the bars of your gates; He has blessed your sons within you.
- 14 He makes peace in your borders; He satisfies you with the finest of the wheat.
- 15 He sends forth His command to the earth; His word runs very swiftly.
- 16 He gives snow like wool; He scatters the frost like ashes.
- 17 He casts forth His ice as fragments; Who can stand before His cold?
- 18 He sends forth His word and melts them; He causes His wind to blow and the waters to flow.
- 19 He declares His words to Jacob, His statutes and His ordinances to Israel.
- 20 He has not dealt thus with any nation; And as for His ordinances, they have not known them. Praise the LORD!

I. WHY DO WE FAIL TO PRAISE THE GOD OF GRACE?

- A. We Choose To Complain
- B. We Fail To See Ourselves As We Are *Revelation 3:17*
- C. We Fail To See Our Dependence Upon The Lord

II. WHAT WAS THE ORIGIN OF THIS PSALM?

- A. Post-Exilic Period?
 1. The gathering of the outcasts
 2. The strengthening of the gates
 3. The musical instruments mentioned *Nehemiah 12:27; Psalm 150*
 4. References to God's law, ordinances *Nehemiah 9:13*
- B. This Period Was Long And Protracted
 1. Persistent prayers of God's people

2. Patience *Galatians 6:9*

III. PRAISE GOD FOR HIS GRACE TO HIS PEOPLE

- A. Praise Is Good
- B. Praise Is Pleasant And Becoming
- C. The Lord Builds Jerusalem And His Church *Matthew 16:18*
- D. The Lord Shows His Strength In Weakness *Luke 4:18; 1 Cor. 1:26-29*
- E. He Removes The Grounds For Boasting
- F. The Humble Will Praise Him *Luke 18:13*

IV. PRAISE THE LORD FOR HIS PROVIDENCE IN CREATION AND GRACE TO HIS PEOPLE

- A. Exclude References To Mother Nature From Your Conversation
- B. God Directs The Clouds And The Rain
- C. Take No Confidence In Military Strength
- D. If You Fear The Lord, Find Your Pleasure In Him; He Takes Pleasure In You

V. PRAISE THE LORD FOR HIS GRACE IN PROVIDING FOR PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING OF HIS PEOPLE

- A. Zion, Jerusalem, Jacob All Refer To The People Of God
- B. Gates Are Secured For Physical Well-Being
- C. He Controls The Weather
- D. Those Who Received His Law Are Protected
- E. We Are Protected Under What His Son The Keeper Of The Law Did For Us