Praise From the Heavens

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

So, this Psalm also begins with the phrase "*praise ye the Lord*", as did the last two (Ps 146-147) and many others used it as well (104-106, 111-113, 116-117, 135). And, the meaning of this phrase (praise ye the Lord) is *the same* here, as it was in the other Psalms. So, the word '**praise**' here is *still* the Hebrew word ***halal*** (#1984), a primitive root that means ***to be clear*** (orig. of sound, but usually of color); ***to shine***; hence, ***to make a show***, or ***to boast***; and thus, *to be* (clamorously) *foolish* or, ***to rave***; and, causatively, can mean ***to celebrate*** or ***to stultify***. So, in the context of this verse, to ***celebrate*** (all that the Lord, YHVH, has done for us) is what the word 'praise' means. And then, the word '**Lord**' is **Yahh,** or **Yah** (#3050), which a contraction (i.e. shortened version) for God's sacred name ***Yehovah***, #3068, but it means the same thing (***self-existent*** and ***eternal***). Thus, *Yah is Yehovah in a special sense and relation*, i.e. it **reveals Yehovah as having BECOME our Salvation** (first occurrence Ex 15:2). So, the Hebrew words in this phrase are: **halal** (#1984) **Yah** (#3050), which is a Hebrew phrase most Christians are actually familiar with, i.e. "*Hallelujah*".

But then, the Psalmist *goes on* to say "Praise ye the Lord" *again*! However, in the Hebrew, the word '**Lord**' here is *not* the same. It actually is God's sacred (and covenantal) name ***Yehovah*** which means (the) ***self-Existent*** or ***Eternal*** (#3068) [https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/946]. And, the use of His Sacred Name points to the fact that *only* our Heavenly Father (Yehovah) is eternal *because* He's the *only* one who has *always* existed and *always* will (Rev 1:8, 4:9, 11:17, 16:5, 22:13). Therefore, the Psalmist is calling to 'praise' (celebrate) Yehovah for His *Salvation* **and** for His being *Eternal*! But notice *who* the Psalmist is 'calling' to 'praise' the Lord (Yehovah), i.e. the 'heavens' and 'the heights'. As the outline in the *Companion Bible* points out, the first part of the Psalm calls for praise to be given Yehovah *from the heavens* and then, the latter portion calls for praise *from the earth*. And, while the word '**heavens**' does mean ***the sky***, as well as what we call "***outer space***" (#8064), it *also* includes the *spiritual* (heavenly) *dimension* we cannot see, where He abides (Ps 11:4, 113:4-6; 2 Kings 6:17), which you can learn more about in the special study on **Spiritual and Material Dimensions** [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/263]. That's why the word '**heights**' means ***altitude***, i.e. (concretely) an ***elevated place*** or, (abstractly) ***elevation***, and (adverbially) can even mean ***aloft*** (#4791). So, the Psalmist is calling on all those who are in the heavens, even those in the *spiritual* dimension that *we can't see*, to "praise ye the Lord" …

Psalm 148
2 Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts.
3 Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.

So, after calling on *all* who are in the 'heavens', and in the 'heights' (sky, outer space, and the spiritual dimension we cannot see), to praise the Lord (Yehovah, our Savior *and,* the *only* Eternal One), he now begins to *specify* who he's calling to "praise the Lord". Now, the word '**praise**' in these verses is *still* the Hebrew word ***halal*** (#1984) which, in the context of these verses, still means to ***celebrate*** the Lord (Yehovah, i.e. YHVH). And the word '**angels**' simply means ***a messenger*** - *specifically*, of God, i.e. ***an angel*** but, it can also refer to ***a prophet, priest*** or ***teacher*** (#4397). And it comes from an unused root meaning ***to despatch as a deputy***. So, the base meaning of the word 'angel' simply means a servant but, in this Psalm, it specifically refers to someone who *serves the Lord* (YHVH). And further, since this part of the Psalm is speaking of those things in the sky, outer space, and in the *spiritual* dimension *we cannot see* (which many call 'heaven'), the word 'angels' is referring to people who love, and serve, our Heavenly Father yet, are *not* on earth in a flesh body. Rather, live in that spiritual dimension *with* our Heavenly Father. Yet, because they serve the Lord (YHVH) sometimes they *do* come to earth - such as when Gabriel was sent to Daniel (Dan 8:16, 9:21), Zacharias (Lk 1:19), and Mary (Lk 1:26). To learn more about this, check out the study on **Was Christ Here On Earth Before His Birth** [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/485].

But, the Psalmist also calls the Lord's (YHVH) 'hosts' to praise Him. The word '**hosts**' here means ***a mass of persons*** (or figuratively, ***things***), especially reg. ***organized for war*** (an army); and, by implication, it can also mean ***a campaign***, literally or figuratively (specifically, hardship, worship) (#6635). In the context of this verse, it's referring to the Lord's (YHVH) 'angelic' army, i.e. those who abide in the 'heavenly' (spiritual) dimension *and serve* in God's military! And the fact that the Lord (YHVH) has *many* 'angels' in heaven who serve him **is** *documented* in God's Word. So well, in fact, that the term "The Lord of Hosts" is actually one of Yehovah's 'titles' (apx 4 II), which denotes the God of Israel as *the Lord of all the hosts* (armies) *of heaven and earth*. And, if you look up the phrase "Lord of Hosts" (in the PC Bible Study program) you'll find *many* Scriptures that use this phrase. But, there's *also* many New Testament Scriptures that speak of Jesus' army too (Matt 24:30-31; 2 Thess 1:7-8; Jude 14-15, etc.), and they *will* be returning, *with* Jesus Christ, to gather all people for *judgement* (2 Cor 5:10)!

Further, this 'army' *includes* people (who are faithful to the Lord, YHVH) that have either *not yet* lived in a flesh body or, *have* lived in a flesh body, passed away, and went back to the heavenly dimension, as the study [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/323] **Where Are All of the People That Have Died** documents. Ecc 12:6-7 also tells us that when our flesh body dies, our spirit goes back to God who gave it; and Paul documents this too in 2 Cor 5. And, another Scripture that documents this is found in Rev 22:8-9 - where John fell down and worshiped the 'angel' who showed him the Revelations. Yet, the angel said, "*See thou do it not: **for I am thy fellowservant**, and **of thy brethren the prophets**, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God*". So, after John mistook the 'angel' for the Almighty God, the angel told him

to get up and *stop it* because he was *not* the Lord (YHVH)! But note *what else* he said, i.e. he was John's *fellow servant*, i.e. he *had been* a prophet *when* he lived in a flesh body! And, just *which* one he was we were not told, unfortunately. But this also proves that those who depart this flesh body *go back to* the 'heavenly' dimension *and serve the Lord* (YHVH) *there*!

Yet, we know the 'angels' *also* fight for the Lord (YHVH) in 'heaven' (i.e. the spiritual dimension we cannot see), as Rev 12:7-8 tells us, "***And there was war in heaven**: **Michael and his angels fought against the dragon**; and **the dragon fought and his angels**, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven*". Of course, after this they will be kicked out of heaven… earth (vs 9). But, that event is still future to us (to date). And it's one we *should* be preparing for because, when this does happen, *that* is when the 'great tribulation' *will begin*, as the study on **The Appearance** documents [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/440]. So clearly, the 'hosts' here (in Ps 147:2) are speaking of those who are in Yehovah's army *in heaven*. But, they can (do, and will) also come to earth at times too. In fact, the Lord (YHVH) *Himself* has led His angelic army to fight on the earth at times, as the special study on **You Will See Clouds and Wheels, Part 1** [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/392] so very well documents. And, **Part 2** of this same study [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/393] also documents *how* Satan and his fallen angels will arrive to earth, after they are kicked out of heaven. And, of course (as noted before), this 'angelic' army is also going return with Jesus Christ, as Jesus Himself stated (Matt 13:40-42, 47-50, Matt 24:29-31, 25:31-46; Mark 13:24-27).

So, while the Psalmist *first* called all of God's 'angels' (messengers, i.e. servants) to praise (celebrate) the Lord (YHVH), he *then* called His 'hosts' (i.e. those 'angels' who are in His army) to praise (celebrate) Him as well. So, this is an 'all encompassing' call to praise (celebrate) the Lord (YHVH) in 'the heights' of heaven, which means the spiritual dimension we cannot see. But then, the Psalmist *goes on to call* the sun, moon and 'stars of light' to praise (celebrate) the Lord (YHVH). Now, the Hebrew words for 'sun' (#8121), the 'moon' (#3994), and the 'stars' (#3556) *do indeed* mean the sun, moon, and stars in this verse, even though they can be used figuratively too. And the word '**light**' means ***illumination*** or, (concrete) ***luminary***, in every sense, including *lightning, happiness*, etc. (#216). The *Companion Bible* has an interesting note on this, explaining that this means "*stars that give light*", i.e. light bearers, as in Gen 1:14-18. So, this possibly excludes all the 'stars' that do *not* give off light, i.e. black (or dead) stars… an interesting thought to ponder on! But, the point to our study is that, the Psalmist is now calling even the sun, moon and stars of light (i.e. stars that give light) to praise (celebrate) the Lord (YHVH). And these are things that are indeed, in the 'heavens', i.e. the sky and outer space. And, as we've learned in past studies in the Psalms, when parts of God's creation that are *non*-human are said to 'praise the Lord' this often means they will *abundantly flourish*, as in Ps 96:11-12, Ps 98:7-8, and Isa 55:12. So, *possibly* this means the Psalmist is calling the sun, moon and 'stars of light' to 'praise the Lord' **by shining *brightly***, which truly has quite a spiritual, and prophetical,

'tone' to it (Prov 4:18; 2 Cor 4:6; Matt 5:16, 13:41-43; Phil 2:15; Isa 4:5, 9:2; Luke 11:36; Ps 50:2; Rev 21:23-24, etc.).

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

So, after calling all of God's 'angels' (messengers), 'hosts' (angelic army), the sun, moon, and 'stars of light' to 'praise' (celebrate) the Lord (YHVH), the Psalmist now calls the '*heavens of heavens*' and the '*waters that be above the heavens*' to do so as well. Now, the word '**praise**' here *still* means (in the context of this verse) ***to celebrate*** (#1984). And the word '**heavens**' (each time it's used) *still* means ***the sky*** or, what we call '***outer space***' (#8064) where the sun, moon and stars orbit. And, it can also refer to the *spiritual* (heavenly) *dimension* we cannot see, where Yehovah abides (Ps 11:4, 113:4-6; 2 Kings 6:17). And the word '**waters**' does mean ***water*** (#4325) while the word '**above**' here is the same word rendered as 'heights' in verse 4. So, it means ***altitude***, i.e. (concretely) ***an elevated place***, (abstractly) ***elevation***, (figuratively) ***elation***, or (adverbially) ***aloft*** (#4791). And the phrase 'waters above the heavens' is possibly a reference to Gen 1:6-7, when God made a 'firmament' (#7549, expanse) to separate the waters. So again, he's calling *all* things in what we call 'outer space', *and* the spiritual dimension we cannot see, to 'praise the Lord' as well…

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

So, after calling the '*heavens of heavens'* and, the '*waters that be above the heavens*' (outer space and the spiritual dimension we cannot see) to '*praise the Lord*', the Psalmist tells us *why* they should do so. And, yet again, the word '**praise**' here means (in the context of this verse) ***to celebrate*** (#1984) the '**name**' (***honor, authority, character***, #8034) of the '**Lord**', which is God's sacred (and covenantal) name **Yehovah** (i.e. YHVH) and means He (the) ***self-Existent*** or ***Eternal*** (#3068). So, those in the 'heavenly' spiritual dimension we can't see, the sky, and outer space should *all* celebrate the honor, authority, and holy character of the Eternal one. And that's *because* He '**commanded**' (which means ***to constitute***, or ***to enjoin***, #6680), and they were '**created**', which does mean ***to create*** but, also to ***select, feed*** (as formative processes), and even ***to cut down*** (as wood) (#1254).

As our Heavenly Father said in the great 'Song of Moses', "*See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand*" (Deut 32:39). So, our Heavenly Father (YHVH) **is** *the only* Creator. And that means He *alone* has the power, the intelligence (wisdom), and authority to create *and* to destroy! This *also* includes powerful nations (Jer 1:10) and the wicked works of the Devil (1 John 3:8) as the studies on **God's Purpose** explain, [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/584]. And

this even includes *this* 'earth age' as well (2 Peter 3:10; 1 John 2:17; Isa 65:17, 66:22; Rev 21:1, etc.), as the study on **The 3 World Ages** explains too [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/488]. So again, this verse is explaining *why* those in outer space, and the spiritual dimension (that we cannot see), should 'praise the Lord', i.e. *because* he has absolute sovereignty over **all** realms (both seen, *and* unseen) since He is our Creator (Rev 4:11; Isa 45:12, 18, etc.). As Paul so well pointed out, "*For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, **visible and invisible**, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all** things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him **all things consist***" (Col 1:16-17) …

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

So, after telling us why even the 'heavens of heavens', and 'waters above the heavens' should praise the Lord (YHVH) (i.e. because He created all things), the Psalmist now points out what will *not* change. And note, He's *not yet* speaking about the earth but rather, the sky, outer space, and the spiritual dimension we cannot see. Now, the word '**stablished**' here simply means ***to stand*** and, it's *used in various relations* (literal and figurative, intransitive and transitive, #5975). And the words '**for ever**' mean a (peremptory) ***terminus***, i.e. (by implication) ***duration***, in the sense of *advance* or *perpetuity* (#5769). And then the word '**ever**' means (properly) ***concealed***, i.e. the ***vanishing point***, and (generally) ***time out of mind*** (past or future), i.e. (practically) ***eternity***; and, (frequentatively, adverbial - especially with prepositional prefix) ***always*** (#5769).

So, the Lord (YHVH) has made the sky, outer space, and the spiritual dimension (we cannot see) to stand for the duration of eternity (always). And then the Psalmist goes on to state that the Lord (YHVH) has "*he hath made a decree which shall not pass*". The word '**made**' here means ***to give, put,*** or ***make*** (#5414) while the word '**decree**' means ***an enactment***; hence, ***an appointment*** *of time, space, quantity, labor or usage* (#2706). And the word '**not**' means ***not*** or ***no*** (#3808) while the word '**pass**' means ***to cross over***, and is used *very widely of any transition* (5674). So, our Heavenly Father, not only created the sky, outer space, and the heavenly dimension (which we cannot see) but ***all things therein***. And, He's *also* appointed them *to exist forever*, i.e. not 'cross over' (be changed). As the special study on **Already there** well documents [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/191?single], these things have existed since the *first* earth age.

And the destruction of **The World That Then Was** [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/496] didn't change that! Nor will the creation (i.e. rejuvenation) of the 'new' (rejuvenated) heaven, and earth' (Isa 65:17, 66:22; 2 Peter 3:10-13; Rev 21:1) change that either. So, when Rev 21:23 tells us that, "*And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof*", it's simply saying that New Jerusalem *won't need* the sun, moon or stars to lighten it. And that's *because* the 'glory of God' (and the

Lamb, Jesus Christ) will *be dwelling there*; and He will, therefore, lighten the city - *always*. But, the sky, sun, moon, stars (that give light) and the heavenly dimension (we cannot see) will *always* exist because our Heavenly Father *has appointed them to exist forever*, i.e. not 'cross over' (be changed). That's why Hezekiah wrote that, "***For ever**, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth. They **continue this day according to thine ordinances**: for all are thy servants*" (Ps 119:89-91). The word '**settled**' here means ***to station*** (#5324) - so God's Word is fixed in heaven, which means the sky, sun, moon, stars (that give light) and the spiritual dimension (we cannot see) will *always* exist, *forever and always* (into eternity)! And that's also *why* the Lord (YHVH) used the 'ordinances' of heaven to promise that the children would *not cease* to be a nation before Him (Jer 31:35-36). And that's *also* why He used those very same ordinances to *swear* that He would *not* 'cast away' the children of Israel (nor David's throne) forever, i.e. He will gather them back and rule with Israel (and those of all races who love, and serve, Him faithfully) when Jesus Christ returns… forevermore!

So, the *reason* that those in the 'heavens' (sky, outer space) and the 'heights' (the spiritual dimension we cannot see) - which verses 1-4 spoke of - *should* praise the Lord (YHVH) is, *not only* because He who created them, *but also* because He's stablished (caused them to stand) 'forever and ever', which means *always and forever*. So, whenever you hear people talk about how 'climate change' is going to cause the earth to 'explode', you now know what *utter rubbish* (garbage) that is! For our Creator (YHVH) is *not* going to let *anyone* destroy the earth, nor the sky, nor outer space, let alone the dimension that He dwells in! And that's also *why* Satan (and his fallen angels) will *never* succeed in de-throning the *Almighty* God, as *many* Scriptures declare (Isa 14:12-16; Ezek 28:17-19; Rev 20:7-15, etc.). For, of a truth, "*the word of the Lord endureth for ever*" (1 Peter 1:18-25; Isa 40:6-8). And, **if** we want to live *forever* with Him, we should be *diligent* to listen, and obey, Him *wholeheartedly*…

15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.
17 And the world [age] *passeth away, and the lust thereof:* ***but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.***
1 John 2:15-17

AMEN.