

Psalms of Descriptive Praise
8, 48, 103, 117, 135, 147 [136]

Psalm 8:1 <To the leader: according to The Gittith. A Psalm of David.>

O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

² Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

³ When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

⁴ what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

⁵ Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.

⁶ You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,

⁷ all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

⁸ the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

⁹ O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

^{NRS} **Psalm 48:1** <A Song. A Psalm of the Korahites.>

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God. His holy mountain,

² beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King.

³ Within its citadels God has shown himself a sure defense.

⁴ Then the kings assembled, they came on together.

⁵ As soon as they saw it, they were astounded; they were in panic, they took to flight;

⁶ trembling took hold of them there, pains as of a woman in labor,

⁷ as when an east wind shatters the ships of Tarshish.

⁸ As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God, which God establishes forever. Selah

⁹ We ponder your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple.

¹⁰ Your name, O God, like your praise, reaches to the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with victory.

¹¹ Let Mount Zion be glad, let the towns of Judah rejoice because of your judgments.

¹² Walk about Zion, go all around it, count its towers,

¹³ consider well its ramparts; go through its citadels, that you may tell the next generation

¹⁴ that this is God, our God forever and ever. He will be our guide forever.

Psalm 103 <Of David.>

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. ² Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits--

³ who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,
⁴ who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
⁵ who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

⁶ The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. ⁷ He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

⁸ The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. ¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him. ¹⁴ For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.

¹⁵ As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field;

¹⁶ for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

¹⁷ But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, ¹⁸ to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

¹⁹ The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

²⁰ Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, obedient to his spoken word.

²¹ Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will. ²² Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul.

Psalm 117

¹ Praise the LORD, all you nations! Extol him, all you peoples!

² For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Praise the LORD!

Psalm 135

¹ Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD; give praise, O servants of the LORD, ² you that stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God.

³ Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing to his name, for he is gracious. ⁴ For the LORD has chosen Jacob for himself, Israel as his own possession.

⁵ For I know that the LORD is great; our Lord is above all gods.

⁶ Whatever the LORD pleases he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps. ⁷ He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth; he makes lightnings for the rain and brings out the wind from his storehouses.

⁸ He it was who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, both human beings and animals; ⁹ he sent signs and wonders into your midst, O Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants.

¹⁰ He struck down many nations and killed mighty kings--

¹¹ Sihon, king of the Amorites, and Og, king of Bashan, and all the kingdoms of Canaan--

¹² and gave their land as a heritage, a heritage to his people Israel.

¹³ Your name, O LORD, endures forever, your renown, O LORD, throughout all ages.

¹⁴ For the LORD will vindicate his people, and have compassion on his servants.

¹⁵ The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of human hands. ¹⁶ They have mouths, but they do not speak; they have eyes, but they do not see; ¹⁷ they have ears, but they do not hear, and there is no breath in their mouths. ¹⁸ Those who make them and all who trust them shall become like them.

¹⁹ O house of Israel, bless the LORD! O house of Aaron, bless the LORD! ²⁰ O house of Levi, bless the LORD! You that fear the LORD, bless the LORD!

²¹ Blessed be the LORD from Zion, he who resides in Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

Psalm 147 [Intermingles greatness and goodness]

¹ Praise the LORD! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

² The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel. ³ He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

⁴ He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.

⁵ Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

⁶ The LORD lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground.

⁷ Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.

⁸ He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills.

⁹ He gives to the animals their food, and to the young ravens when they cry.

¹⁰ His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;

¹¹ but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

¹² Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

¹³ For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you.

¹⁴ He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat. ¹⁵ He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly. ¹⁶ He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes. ¹⁷ He hurls down hail like crumbs-- who can stand before his cold? ¹⁸ He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.

¹⁹ He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel. ²⁰ He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances. Praise the LORD!

Psalm 136 [the refrain ‘his steadfast love endures forever’ marks the reason for each theme of praise]

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

² O give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

³ O give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁴ who alone does great wonders,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁵ who by understanding made the heavens,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁶ who spread out the earth on the waters,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁷ who made the great lights,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁸ the sun to rule over the day,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁹ the moon and stars to rule over the night,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹⁰ who struck Egypt through their firstborn,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹¹ and brought Israel out from among them,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹² with a strong hand and an outstretched arm,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹³ who divided the Red Sea in two,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹⁴ and made Israel pass through the midst of it,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹⁵ but overthrew Pharaoh and army in the Red Sea,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹⁶ who led his people through the wilderness,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹⁷ who struck down great kings,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹⁸ and killed famous kings,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹⁹ Sihon, king of the Amorites,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

²⁰ and Og, king of Bashan,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

²¹ and gave their land as a heritage,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

²² a heritage to his servant Israel,

for his steadfast love endures forever.

²³ It is he who remembered us in our low estate,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

²⁴ and rescued us from our foes,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

²⁵ who gives food to all flesh,

for his steadfast love endures forever.

²⁶ O give thanks to the God of heaven,

for his steadfast love endures forever.