

## **Psalm 147**

No. 274

### **Introduction.**

I. Please listen as I read the first 11 verses of Psalms 147.

**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.**

II. This is one of the great psalms. It has blessed millions of people and I am convinced a study of it will bless us. It teaches some powerful and inspirational lessons.

I. **Counts The Number Of The Stars** - The psalmist says He counts the number of the stars.

A. This statement shows the greatness of God.

1. God created **all the stars**. (Gen. 1:1; Psa. 148:2, 5).
2. God created all the stars, and He knows the number of the stars.

B. **Recently I read this interesting article about the number of the stars.**

“The total number of individual stars visible in both the northern and the southern celestial hemispheres is about 6,000. Thus, on a clear night one can see at most 3,000 stars at the same time. Is that all? with the advent of telescopes, very many previously unknown stars were discovered. Galileo (1564-1642), using his homemade telescope, saw a ten-fold increase in the number of visible stars, up to 30,000.

Today, the local Milky Way galaxy (of which our sun is a part) has been found to contain 200,000 million stars. What an astounding result! If somebody could count three stars per second, after 100 years he would have counted

less than five percent of this number. [Keep in mind the author is only talking about counting the stars in our small Galaxy - The Milky Way].

Our galaxy comprises not only an unimaginable host of stars, but the size of this bright starry band in the sky is also astounding. Its diameter is said to be 100,000 light-years.

Astronomical distances are too large to be measured in kilometers, so light-years are used instead. One light-year is the distance that a light ray travels in one year. At a speed of 300,000 kilometers (186,000 miles) per second, it amounts to 9.46 million million kilometers (5.87 million million miles).

Can we really grasp such an immense size? And this is not the only galaxy. With the naked eye we can see only three more, namely the two Clouds of Magellan near the southern celestial pole, and the Andromeda galaxy in the constellation of the same name. The Andromeda galaxy is thought to be 2.25 million light-years from us.

Its total light emission is equal to 2,500 million times that of the sun. However, at this distance stars (as opposed to galaxies) having the same luminosity (light output) as the sun can no longer be proved to exist by the use of optical telescopes. The Andromeda galaxy is the most distant object in the universe that can be seen by the naked eye, except for the occasional supernova.

Numerous other galaxies have been discovered by means of the prolonged exposure of photographic plates. The number discovered thus far is probably in the region of several hundred thousand million, and it may even amount to a few million million.

The total number of stars in the observable universe is estimated to be 10<sup>25</sup> (1 followed by 25 zeros). Nobody knows the actual number..”

### C. **Yes, God “counts the number of the stars.”**

1. Jeremiah said, “the host of heaven cannot be numbered. (Jere. 33:22).
2. Though no man knows the actual number, God knows the exact number. Not one has escaped His count.

## II. **Gives Names To All Of Them** - The psalmist also says He gives names to all of the stars.

- A. **Think about this for a moment.** The numbers of stars is beyond our comprehension. There are trillions and trillions of stars. Every year astronomers discover new stars previously unknown to man.
- B. **The psalmists tells us that God has given names to all of them.** God is not only All-powerful, but He is all-knowing. He is infinite in His knowledge. (Psa. 147:5).

C. The God who created these stars and has named them all is truly a God who can and will keep His promises.

1. **Someone** has said, “**A God who has name all the stars will not forget His promises.**”
2. **We can be double sure that God will keep His promises.** He does not forget them and He never becomes too weak to fulfill them. He will fulfill every one.

**III. Four Great Promises** - The psalmist gives four great promises of God in this chapter.

A. The psalmist says, “**He heals the brokenhearted, And binds up their wounds**” (Psa. 147:3).

1. God knows all about our sorrows and griefs and hurts. He is ever ready to bind them up and heal them.
2. **Jesus** said. (Matt. 10:29-31).
3. **Paul** wrote. (2 Cor. 1:3).
4. **Peter** said. (1 Pet. 5:7).

B. The psalmist says, “**The Lord supports the afflicted.**” (Psa. 147:6).

1. God strengthens the afflicted. He helps them in their time of need.
2. God makes the afflicted powerful and gives them victory.
3. **Paul** wrote these words to the saints at Rome who were afflicted and lived under the tyranny of Rome and to the afflicted of every age. (Rom. 8:31-39).

**31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? 33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.**

**35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 Just as it is written, "For Thy sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

C. The psalmist says, “**He brings down the wicked to the ground.**” (Psa. 147:6).

1. Wicked men get by with a lot of evil things in this world.
2. Sometimes they suffer in this world, and sometimes they do not.

3. Paul teaches that though men may brag and chuckle about their sins that they pay for their wickedness. (Gal. 6:7, 8; Rom. 14:12).

D. The psalmist says, **“The Lord favors those who fear Him, Those who wait for His lovingkindness”** (Psa. 147:11).

1. Yes, God favors those who reverence Him and keep His commandments.

2. **Peter** wrote. (1 Pet. 3:10-12).

IV. **A Lesson Of Thanksgiving** - The psalmist also in this great psalm teaches us a lesson of thanksgiving.

A. He exclaims, **“Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving.”** (Psa. 147:7).

B. **In every age God has richly blessed His children.**

1. In the Old Testament men were exhorted to sing praises to God and give thanks for His great blessings. (Psa. 95:1-7).

**1 O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. 2 Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. 3 For the Lord is a great God, And a great King above all gods, 4 In whose hand are the depths of the earth; The peaks of the mountains are His also. 5 The sea is His, for it was He who made it; And His hands formed the dry land. 6 Come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. 7 For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.**

2. In the New Testament era we have certainly been richly blessed by God and we ought to give thanks to the Great and Magnificent God of heaven for His bountiful blessings. (Phil. 4:6, 7; 1 Thess. 5:18).

### **Conclusion.**

I. I pray that each of us will read this great psalm often and meditate on its marvelous truths.

II. I pray that if you have given yourself to God that you will do so at this time. Come to God through His Son. Be baptized into Christ's death for the remission of sins and then serve and glorify God. Come to Jesus as we stand and sing

"Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®,  
© Copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation

Used by permission." ([www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org))