

GOD AT WORK

CRAIG REES

Central

Psalm 147

1. Psalm 147 belongs with Psalms 146–150
2. Psalms 146–150 all begin and end with, “Praise the Lord”
3. Psalm 147 calls us four times over (vv. 1, 7, 12 & 20) to “Praise the Lord”

At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps and lyres.

Nehemiah 12:27

“You alone are the Lord. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.”

Nehemiah 9:6

He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

Psalm 147:4

He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills. He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call.

Psalm 147:8-9

“You came down on Mount Sinai; you spoke to them from heaven. You gave them regulations and laws that are just and right, and decrees and commands that are good.”

Nehemiah 9:13

He spreads the snow like wool and scatters the frost like ashes. He hurls down his hail like pebbles. Who can withstand his icy blast? He sends his word and melts them; he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow.

Psalm 147:16-18

He spreads the snow like wool and scatters the frost like ashes. He hurls down his hail like pebbles. Who can withstand his icy blast? He sends his word and melts them; he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow.

Psalm 147:16–18

He has revealed his word to Jacob, his laws and decrees to Israel.

Psalm 147:19

Psalm 147 seems to have been written
for celebrating the rebuilding of the walls
of Jerusalem.

Under Nehemiah, the walls and gates were rebuilt in an amazing 52 days (Neh. 6:15) but the restoration of the Jews and the completion of the protective walls and gates took decades.

We're often in such a hurry that we get frustrated and discouraged by God's delay. Yet, what we read in a matter of seconds is the work of God over decades.

“The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of stars and calls them each by name. Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit. The Lord sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground.”

Psalm 147:2-6

Three Cautions:

1. Unemployment
2. Overwork
3. Need for Balance

1. Do we check out after clocking in?

We've all had times when we were physically in one place but mentally in another. Most of the time, it's not a real problem — except maybe when it comes to being fully present in Christ in our work.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Colossians 3:23-24

2. Do we reflect God in our work?

“The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of stars and calls them each by name. Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit. The Lord sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground.”

Psalm 147:2-6

**Construction is “50% showing
up and 60% math”**

How much of life is about showing up? First being, second doing. How much of discipleship is the "atrocious math" of grace? You show up; God adds the rest. Do we give God the chance to add?

3. Do we reflect God in HOW we work?

“His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of the warrior; the Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love. Extol the Lord, Jerusalem; praise your God, Zion”

Psalm 147:10-12