

## 20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning Week 47 (November 15-21, 2015)

We will continue to use Psalms as we prepare our hearts for Thanksgiving.

**Sunday**, November 15 (read Psalm 146:1-4)

*Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men, who cannot save. (Psalm 146:3)*

Today's text tells us to praise the Lord in words and songs as long as we have life (v. 1-2). As I write this devotion, the news shows are dominated by the 2016 election, even though it is still a year off. Many candidates are making promises that they have no intention of keeping (see Hosea 10:3-4). We are not to put our trust in potential leaders who say whatever we want to hear just to get our vote (v. 3). Once these candidates get to Washington, single-agenda lobbyists with a fist full of money tend to influence their decisions more than the promises they have made to us. God has warned us from the very beginning that elected officials would disappoint us and that only **He** can be trusted. Even the best of leaders eventually die and their leadership skills go into the casket with them (v. 4). What's the bottom line? You'll find it in Proverbs 3:5-6! Commit these verses to memory!

**Monday**, November 16 (read Psalm 146:5-6)

*Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—the Lord, who remains faithful forever. (Psalm 146:5-6)*

Today's text is one of the beautiful beatitudes of the Old Testament. We are blessed if our hope and help is grounded in the promises of God, not in the promises of politicians (v. 3-5). Almost all of the media, as well as many of the candidates, deny the Biblical account of creation, choosing to embrace the theory of evolution instead (v. 6). This means that their worldview is completely incorrect. They believe that mankind is basically good and that we will have peace only when a one-world government is installed. The Bible teaches that man is born with a sinful nature that will always lead him astray (see Genesis 6:5). If God is **not** the "Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them," then why not abort the too young and euthanize the too old? The entire Biblical worldview hinges on the creation story. Do not allow anyone to convince you that Genesis is not vital to the rest of Scripture!

**Tuesday**, November 17 (read Psalm 146:7-10)

*The Lord reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord. (Psalm 146:10)*

As I am writing this devotion, millions of immigrants, most of them Muslims, are fleeing Syria, looking for asylum in other countries. Many of these are in great need while others are Isis members who are trying to infiltrate other areas in order to spread their message of terror. The whole scene is completely overwhelming! What hope do we have in this seemingly impossible situation? Today's text tells us that God takes care of the oppressed, the hungry, the prisoners, the blind, those who are bowed down, the aliens, the fatherless and the widows (v. 7-9). The world's problems are too big for us to solve, so let's learn to trust Him for guidance and praise Him because He reigns forever (v. 10). Praise the Lord!

**Wednesday**, November 18 (read Psalm 147:1-6)

*He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. Great is our Lord and mighty in power; His understanding has no limit. (Psalm 147:4-5)*

How large is your God? Is He big enough for you to fall on your knees to praise and worship Him? Can you sing praises to Him (v. 1)? Do you think the world's problems are too great for Him to solve? How about today's current events as the entire world, led by Russia and Iran, surrounds Jerusalem and Israel? Can you trust Him to build up Jerusalem and to gather the exiles back to the land of Israel (v. 2)? Do you think He is able to take care of the brokenhearted and bind up their wounds (v. 3)? He who "determines the number of stars and calls them each by name" is certainly capable of handling our little challenges if we can just learn to trust Him (v. 4)! If, by this time, you have a picture of the enormity of God, you are among the humble. The Lord promises to sustain you (v. 6a). Those who reject this Creator and Sustainer will be judged with the wicked (v. 6b). You do not want to be there!

**Thursday**, November 19 (Read Psalm 147:7-9)

*Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make music to our God on the harp. (Psalm 147:7)*

As our printed verse says, we should always remember to sing our songs to the Lord with **thanksgiving**. What do you have to be thankful for? Reflect on this question for the entire week leading up to the day that is set aside to give thanks. The sky knows that the Lord is sovereign, and the earth is well aware that God sends the rain that causes the grass to grow (v. 8; see also Job 12:7-10). Even the cattle and the young ravens know instinctively to call out to an unseen "god" to provide each meal (v. 9). Of all of the Lord's creation, it seems that humans are the last to understand that everything comes from the hand of a loving God. Can you see why pride is listed among the deadly sins?

**Friday**, November 20 (read Psalm 147:10-14)

*His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor His delight in the legs of a man; the Lord delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love. (Psalm 147:10-11)*

I hear many people say, "As soon as I get my life together, I'm going to start coming to church." Even among professing Christians, many believe that God needs our strength to accomplish His work. Today's printed text is one of many that remind us that God's work is accomplished by our **availability**, not our ability. Having established this fact, God reminds Jerusalem that He will keep them safe against all outside forces (v. 12-14). We bear responsibility within this promise because God commands us in Psalms 122:6 to, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem." As I write this devotion, the destruction of Jerusalem and the elimination of the Jewish race is the top priority for much of the world. Russia and Iran are gathering a coalition of nations to accomplish this goal. I am grateful that God promises His divine protection and peace to a city that has never been without conflict. Do you trust the Lord to fulfill His Word?

**Saturday**, November 21 (read Psalm 147:16-20)

*He has revealed His Word to Jacob, His laws and decrees to Israel. He has done this for no other nation; they do not know His laws. Praise the Lord. (Psalm 147:19-20)*

I do not understand to this day why the world hates Israel. The United Nations blames all the problems in the Middle East on this tiny nation. Every resolution they pass is anti-Israel. Perhaps it is because the Word of God, given uniquely to the Jews (v. 19-20), is in direct opposition to their one-world government agenda. In the past seven years, the United States has joined the other nations of the world in denouncing the Jews. Since the world was created by His Word, sustained by His Word, and will someday be judged and destroyed by His Word, can you afford to be counted among those who place no trust in it? (v. 15-20)