

---

# New Year's Eve Meditation

on Psalm 148

---

∴ **ZERO** ∴

---

*A New Year's Eve meditation...*

---

We have reached the end of 2023.

How did you *welcome* 2023?

Did you welcome it at all?

How will you end this year—2023?

Would you rather like to keep this year?

Not let go of it?

Or are you just relieved

that this year is now coming to an end?

Your thinking about this year may well shape  
how you approach the words of Psalm 148.

∴ **ONE** ∴

**PRAISE THE LORD  
FROM THE HEAVENS...**

<sup>1</sup> *Praise the Lord.*

*Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights above.*

<sup>2</sup> *Praise him, all his angels;  
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.*

<sup>3</sup> *Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you shining stars.*

<sup>4</sup> *Praise him, you highest heavens  
and you waters above the skies.*

<sup>5</sup> *Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for at his command they were created,*

<sup>6</sup> *and he established them for ever and ever—  
he issued a decree that will never pass away.*

*Psalms 148:1-6*

Praise the Lord!

12 times “Praise” in this Psalm

12 months,

12 tribes of Israel

12 apostles

12... wholeness

3 times “name”

4 times “Lord”

3 times 4 for 12

“The name of the Lord”

Everything is in order.

We hear about creation.

All creation praising the Lord.

The Lord created space  
in the middle of chaos waters.

The Lord protects creation  
from chaos.

All of nature  
and even chaos praises the Lord.

∴ TWO ∴

## PRAISE THE LORD FROM THE EARTH...

<sup>7</sup> *Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,  
<sup>8</sup> lightning and hail, snow and clouds,  
stormy winds that do his bidding,  
<sup>9</sup> you mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars,  
<sup>10</sup> wild animals and all cattle,  
small creatures and flying birds,*

*Psalm 148:7:10*

Praise the Lord!

All we see, all we hear,  
every bit of nature, every living thing,  
all of creation we hear, see, feel,  
praises the Lord!

Everything is in order.  
Everything praises the Lord.

For everything is created by the Most High.

**::: THREE :::**

## PRAISE THE LORD WOMEN AND MEN...

<sup>11</sup> *kings of the earth and all nations,  
you princes and all rulers on earth,*

<sup>12</sup> *young men and women,  
old men and children.*

<sup>13</sup> *Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for his name alone is exalted;  
his splendor is above the earth  
and the heavens.*

The rulers and the ruled,  
let them all praise the Lord.

All are beneath the Most High,  
nobody rules higher than the Lord.

All generations together,  
no matter who you are,  
no matter what you are,  
no matter what you would like to be,  
no matter what you would like  
not to be anymore,  
praise the Lord!

**::: FOUR :::**

**STOP!**

I **NEED TO STOP**. Give it a break.

Really? Creation in order?

Really? All in all—praising together?

Really? Rulers praising God in humility?

Really? Generations together?

Really? All nations praising together?

I **REALLY** need to stop. Please, give it a break.

I **NEED** this break.

I **NEED** a step back.

I **NEED** to think—rethink.

This is **NOT** about here and now,  
this is for a better future.

This is for hope.

This is for the upcoming days.

This is for me.

This is for who I can be.

This is for us, his people of hope.

This **IS** for here and now  
and a better, a coming, a prayed-for future.

Praise the Lord!

### ∴ FIVE ∴

## PRAISE THE LORD!

*<sup>14</sup>And he has raised up for his people a horn,  
the praise of all his faithful servants,  
of Israel, the people close to his heart.  
Praise the Lord.*

*Psalm 148:14*

Blow the horn,  
you, the people close to his heart.

Faithful servants of *Israel*...

Israel, a name given after a fight,  
a name that points to struggle,  
“Israel” – God rules?

O how we pray that  
*through* all struggles and fighting God rules.

O how we pray that God will rule the rulers...  
rule towards peace  
    rule towards justice  
        rule towards equity  
            rule towards humanity  
                rule towards love.

It is out of faith, it is out of hope,  
    that we are able to go on,  
    that we are able to walk new paths  
    that we are able to begin a new year  
    that we join in praise.

We hope and pray that you,  
o God, the Creator, the Lover, the healing Spirit,  
will bring everything to a new order...  
and we will walk with you.

Praise the Lord!

::: Amen.