**Psalm 148**

**1**Praise the Lord.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm+148&version=NIV#fen-NIV-16373a)]

Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
    praise him in the heights above.  
**2**Praise him, all his angels;  
    praise him, all his heavenly hosts.  
**3**Praise him, sun and moon;  
    praise him, all you shining stars.  
**4**Praise him, you highest heavens  
    and you waters above the skies.

**5**Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
    for at his command they were created,  
**6**and he established them for ever and ever—  
    he issued a decree that will never pass away.

**7**Praise the Lord from the earth,  
    you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,  
**8**lightning and hail, snow and clouds,  
    stormy winds that do his bidding,  
**9**you mountains and all hills,  
    fruit trees and all cedars,  
**10**wild animals and all cattle,  
    small creatures and flying birds,  
**11**kings of the earth and all nations,  
    you princes and all rulers on earth,  
**12**young men and women,  
    old men and children.

**13**Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
    for his name alone is exalted;  
    his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.  
**14**And he has raised up for his people a horn,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm+148&version=NIV#fen-NIV-16386b)]  
    the praise of all his faithful servants,

 of Israel, the people close to his heart.

Praise the Lord.

**New Testament Reading – Acts 11:1-18**

**Peter Explains His Actions**

**11**The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. **2**So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him **3**and said, “You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.”

**4**Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: **5**“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. **6**I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. **7**Then I heard a voice telling me, ‘Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.’

**8**“I replied, ‘Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’

**9**“The voice spoke from heaven a second time, ‘Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.’ **10**This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.

**11**“Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. **12**The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man’s house. **13**He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. **14**He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.’

**15**“As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. **16**Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+11&version=NIV#fen-NIV-27324a)] water, but you will be baptized with[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+11&version=NIV#fen-NIV-27324b)] the Holy Spirit.’ **17**So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God’s way?”

**18**When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, “So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

**Epistle Reading - Revelation 21:1-7**

**A New Heaven and a New Earth**

**21**Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=revelation+21&version=NIV#fen-NIV-31055a)] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. **2**I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. **3**And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. **4**‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=revelation+21&version=NIV#fen-NIV-31058b)] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

**5**He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

**6**He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. **7**Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

**Gospel Reading - John 16:12-22**

**12**“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. **13**But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. **14**He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. **15**All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

**The Disciples’ Grief Will Turn to Joy**

**16**Jesus went on to say, “In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.”

**17**At this, some of his disciples said to one another, “What does he mean by saying, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,’ and ‘Because I am going to the Father’?” **18**They kept asking, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We don’t understand what he is saying.”

**19**Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, “Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me’? **20**Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. **21**A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. **22**So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.

**OR**

**Gospel Reading - John 13:31-35**

**Jesus Predicts Peter’s Denial**

**31**When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. **32**If God is glorified in him,[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+13&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26663c)] God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

**33**“My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

**34**“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. **35**By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”