

# The Unsearchable Riches of Christ in the Psalms

(5. Book (3), Psalms 135-150)

## The Consummation

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Spring Conference 2009 in Stuttgart

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What a joy that we have come to the end of the psalms and our heavenly Father has shown us so much in them. Because He loves Zion, He has revealed these mysteries in the psalms to us. Only our living God can compile them in such a wonderful way that the entire purpose of God with Christ and the church is visible in them. Jesus Himself testified to His disciples when He appeared to them as the resurrected One that *“all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me”* (Luke 24:44).

How much we should treasure being in the Lord’s house, in Zion! The Lord has called, chosen and brought us here out of so many people, out of many cities of Germany, out of Europe and out of many other countries of the whole world. We will never stop thanking the Lord that He has magnified His word according to His entire name (Ps. 138:2).

Now we come to the last five psalms, which are all songs of praise.

### **Psalm 146 – Praising the Lord God who reigns forever**

(Luke 1:31-33; Rom. 15:12; Rev. 11:15; 19:11-16)

Praise the Lord, our God reigns – He has reigned, He is still reigning, and He will reign forever. Because men do not see that, they think they could do what they want.

In Revelation 5, the Lord shows us that after His ascension, He took the scroll with seven seals from the hand of God the Father in order to open them. Since then, it is no longer only God who reigns, but a Man in the glory: Jesus Christ! He is sitting on the throne and reigns over the

whole earth, yes, over the whole creation. Because our Lord reigns, we need not worry, neither about this economic crisis and our job, nor about our future or over other problems. The Lord will take care of us in His reign, for we are so much in His heart. If the Lord thinks even of the ravens, how much more of us (Luke 12:24)! Whatever happens, we really need not worry, for Jesus our Lord reigns.

### **Psalm 146**

- 1 *Praise the LORD!<sup>1</sup>  
Praise the LORD, O my soul!*
- 2 *While I live I will praise the LORD;  
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.*
- 3 *Do not put your trust in princes,  
Nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help.*
- 4 *His spirit departs, he returns to his earth;<sup>2</sup>  
In that very day his plans perish.*
- 5 *Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help,  
Whose hope is in the LORD his God,*
- 6 *Who made heaven and earth,  
The sea, and all that is in them;  
Who keeps truth forever,*
- 7 *Who executes justice for the oppressed,  
Who gives food to the hungry.  
The LORD gives freedom to the prisoners.*
- 8 *The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;  
The LORD raises those who are bowed down;  
The LORD loves the righteous.*
- 9 *The LORD watches over the strangers;  
He relieves the fatherless and widow;  
But the way of the wicked He turns upside down.*
- 10 *The LORD shall reign forever –  
Your God, O Zion, to all generations.  
Praise the LORD!*

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<sup>1</sup> see footnote of Ps. 135:1

<sup>2</sup> see Gen. 3:19

*“While I live I will praise the LORD ...”* (v. 2). Every morning when we awake, we are still with Him (Ps. 139:18) and can start to praise Him right away so that then we can also say to people: *“Do not put your trust in princes, Nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help”* (v. 3). Real help comes from the living God and not from man. Why don't we want to hold onto our living Lord and receive help from Him alone?

Maybe some brothers and sisters think they had to be pastoral counsellors and they could solve the problems of others. Even the responsible brothers are not so capable as to be able to help all brothers and sisters. What kind of help can we give people? We can only refer them to the Mighty One of Jacob (Is. 49:26; 60:16); He alone is our help. He is the Creator of our soul and therefore also able to supply it, to heal it, to strengthen and to restore it. Come to Him! He is the real Pastoral Counsellor. A newspaper said that all pastoral counsellors need counsellors themselves because they have laid so many problems of others upon themselves. Who then is the Pastoral Counsellor of all counsellors?

*“His spirit departs, he returns to his earth; In that very day his plans perish”* (v. 4). There is no real help from man because his breath can stop anytime. We are merely of earth and when we return to the earth, our plans and good advice are also over. How often have we “knocked” someone down with our suggestions! I think of Job's friends who gave him so much advice. It was only for Job's sake that God did not deal with them all severely (Job 42:8).

*“(But) Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, ...”* (v. 5). Here it does not say “the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob”, but “the God of Jacob”. Jacob is mentioned here because he, above all, had problems over and over again. Who could help him? His mother had tried, but because of that, he had to flee. And how could he get the birthright of the firstborn? Through his mother's help? Even without her, God would have had a way in His sovereignty to fulfil His promise. Put your trust in God and not in the help of man.

*“... Whose hope is in the LORD his God, Who made heaven and earth ...”* (v. 5-6). It is written so often in the Psalms that God made heaven and earth. Shouldn't He then be capable of helping us too? He is a merciful God; His lovingkindness is for us. How can we trust other men, who are just as fallen as we are, more than our living God?

*“Who made heaven and earth, The sea, and all that is in them; Who keeps truth forever”* (v. 6). Could it be that one day God says: “I am tired; let's forget about men, they are impossible anyway.” That cannot

be, for God is faithful. In His faithfulness, He also keeps the whole creation so that we can be sure that tomorrow the sun will rise again, the earth will continue turning and the whole system will remain intact. Now and then it shakes a little here and there, but that also has to do with the Lord's lovingkindness. He wants to shake us up and remind us to think of Him, the Creator.

*"Who executes justice for the oppressed ..."* (v. 7). In Luke 18:1-8, the widow did not give the unrighteous judge any peace until he executed justice for her. How much more then will God, the righteous Judge, execute justice for you!

*"...Who gives food to the hungry."* The Lord will give food to all who love and trust Him, and not only spiritual food. Didn't the Lord feed thousands with five loaves and two fish (Luke 9:13)? Our Lord is so capable!

*"The LORD gives freedom to the prisoners"* (v. 7). We are often so imprisoned: in ourselves, by our flesh, by the world, by thoughts. Who can free us from them? For example, a brother said he could not get free from certain thoughts. Who can help him? The pastoral counsellor? He would have to first make himself free, and he cannot do that. How then could he make you free? Hallelujah for our God of Jacob! He can free us from the slavery of sin, from every imprisonment or bondage. We must entrust ourselves to Him and put all our hope in Him.

*"The LORD opens the eyes of the blind"* (v. 8). Weren't we all blind, and yet we see so much today? We must thank the Lord for that. He has enlightened the eyes of our heart and allowed us to look into things that were hidden in Him. Many people cannot see that. If you try to explain it to them, maybe they think something is wrong with you. Whatever you want to show a blind person, he cannot see it – not because he doesn't want to, but because he is blind. We were also blind spiritually, and only the Lord was able to open our inner eyes. Do not be proud about what you have seen. It is the God of Jacob who has opened your eyes out of pure mercy and lovingkindness.

*"The LORD raises those who are bowed down"* (v. 8). That is wonderful, for sometimes we are really pressed down under the burden of worries and problems. The Lord said over and over again: *"Do not worry!"* (Matt. 6:25, 28, 34; 10:19) But who among us does not worry? We worry about our children, about our work, our future, our family, our future spouse ... The more worries we have, the more subdued we are. You can be a young man and yet you droop down like an old man through many worries and burdens. When you learn to cast all your wor-

- 8 *To bind their kings with chains,  
And their nobles with fetters of iron;*  
9 *To execute on them the written judgement –  
This honour have all His saints.  
Praise the LORD!*

*"This honour have all His saints"* (v. 9). Paul already knew this long ago. He said to the Corinthians: *"Do you not know that we shall judge angels ...?"* (1 Cor. 6:3) and also the nations (Ps. 149:9)? Isn't that wonderful? Here it is confirmed to us that we will have this honour. We will rule with Christ – not only in the millennial kingdom, but also in eternity. Praise the Lord!

### **Psalm 150 – Let everything that has breath praise the LORD**

- 1 *Praise the LORD!  
Praise God in His sanctuary;  
Praise Him in His mighty firmament<sup>1</sup>!*  
2 *Praise Him for His mighty acts;  
Praise Him according to His excellent greatness!*  
3 *Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet;  
Praise Him with the lute and harp!*  
4 *Praise Him with the timbrel and dance;  
Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes<sup>2</sup>!*  
5 *Praise Him with loud cymbals;  
Praise Him with clashing cymbals!*  
6 *Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.  
Praise the LORD!*

What a praise for our Lord!

J.S.

*(Message has not been reviewed by the speaker.)*

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<sup>1</sup> or: in the heavenly sphere

<sup>2</sup> or: pipes

*The praise of all His saints –  
Of the children of Israel,  
A people near to Him.  
Praise the LORD!*

We don't need to say much about this psalm. The whole creation, heaven and earth, eagerly waits for the manifestation of the sons of God (Rom. 8:19). When the church is built up, then the whole of creation will praise God. All the angels in heaven and all peoples on the earth will praise God, for *His glory is above the earth and heaven* (v. 13). God's wonderful work with His people, with His church, will be so gloriously completed in the New Jerusalem that the whole of creation will rejoice over that and praise Him, for it will finally also be freed "*from the bondage of corruption*" (Rom. 8:21), from this corruption that came into creation through the fall of man.

Praise the Lord for this psalm! It is for *beasts, cattle, creeping things, flying fowl, sea creatures, kings of the earth, princes and all in heaven, the sun, the stars, the angels, fire, hail, snow, clouds, stormy wind, even mountains, hills ...* – they will all praise the Lord.

### **Psalm 149 – The praises of the saints who reign with the LORD over the nations** (Rev. 5:10; 20:4)

- 1 *Praise the LORD!  
Sing to the LORD a new song,  
And His praise in the assembly of saints.*
- 2 *Let Israel rejoice in their Maker;  
Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.*
- 3 *Let them praise His name with the dance;  
Let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp.*
- 4 *For the LORD takes pleasure in His people;  
He will beautify the humble with salvation.*
- 5 *Let the saints be joyful in glory;  
Let them sing aloud on their beds.*
- 6 *Let the high praises of God be in their mouth,  
And a two-edged sword in their hand,*
- 7 *To execute vengeance on the nations,  
And punishments on the peoples;*

ries upon Him, then you will be free and burdenless again. We must praise the Lord for this experience too.

*"Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden..."* (Matt. 11:28-30). The Lord does not want that in His house

all are so heavy laden. Rather, all should be so light-hearted – not because we don't have problems, but because we have the mighty God of Jacob. We can come to Him and cast all our worries upon Him. He wants to help us and He can help us.

Paul learnt that. He said: *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God"* (Phil. 4:6). Peter had also learnt this lesson when he wrote: *"... casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you"* (1 Pet. 5:7). Could a man ever take over your worries? And if so, would he also be willing to? Everyone already has enough worries of his own to bear. But the Lord says: *"Come to Me!"*

*"The LORD loves the righteous"* (v. 8). The more we know and experience the Lord, the more we can testify how much He loves us. He not only takes care of us, but He does everything for us because He loves us

We are all like Jacob of whom the Lord said: *"Jacob I have loved"* (Rom. 9:13). Even if you think you are so impossible or have offended someone or done something wrong, the Lord will say to you: *"Jacob I have loved."*

*"The LORD watches over the strangers ..."* (v. 9). The Lord will watch over us who are strangers on this earth. Think of Psalm 139! We are in Him. Even if you have forgotten it, you are still in Him. You cannot run away from Him. Even when you are sleeping or not thinking of it, He is still embracing you. He is everywhere and with you all the time.

*"... He relieves the fatherless and widow ..."* (v. 9). When we think we are so weak, it is just right for the Lord, for He has come to help us. The Lord could not help the scribes and Pharisees who thought themselves good and righteous. He had to say to them: *"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick"* (Luke 5:31). If you think you are neither fatherless nor a widow, then you also don't need any support from the Lord; then you are so capable yourself and can take good care of yourself alone. But the Lord knows that we are all fatherless. He has promised that He will not forget us: *"I will not leave you orphans"* (John 14:18). He looks after us all the time.

*"...But the way of the wicked He turns upside down"* (v. 9). The way of the wicked is already crooked (or: turned upside down), but the Lord

makes it even more crooked. Sometimes you must tell the Lord: “Lord, look at these wicked people. They try everything to destroy Your house. Their way is so crooked, make it even more crooked so that the measure of their unrighteousness will be full and God’s judgement will come soon.” If the Lord does not judge now, it is only because the way is not crooked enough. That’s why you must tell Him: “Lord, make it more crooked!”

All that we have seen here is so wonderful because great help comes from the God of Jacob. Our God reigns and rules, He has everything in His hand. He decides everything, and He allows some things. But He also sets a limit – as with Job: He did not allow Satan to touch Job’s life (Job 2:6).

The Lord rules in all things. When He comes back, He will also reign over all nations and the whole universe. Today He rules in secret, but when He comes, it will be publicly before all eyes. And from where will He then rule? From Zion! We see that in Psalm 147.

### **Psalm 147 – Praising God for building up Jerusalem, the city of God**

(Gal. 4:25-31; Heb. 11:8-10; 12:22-24; Rev. 3:12)

Praise the Lord, He builds up Zion, He builds up Jerusalem. We praise our wonderful God not only that He rules, but also that we know how and where He will rule.

And where will it be? In Zion! And where is Zion? In the church! Everyone knows where the seat of government in Germany is. And why do many not know where God’s seat of government is? Today what are we doing here? We are preparing our God’s seat of government, for He shall reign in Zion. Today His throne is still in heaven, but later it will be in the heavenly New Jerusalem which we are building today. Do we see how important the building up of the church is? That’s why Jerusalem is also a part of the highest praise in these last five psalms. We praise God who is building the New Jerusalem with us.

A long time ago, Abraham had looked out for this city, which is not built by the hands of man, but whose Architect and Builder is God, a city with solid foundations. Our father Abraham saw this and was waiting for it (Heb. 11:10). Today we are not only waiting for this city, but we are even building it up together. I have the confidence that we are quite at the end, the building will be completed soon. We are in the last phase of the building.

Abraham already saw that from afar, and we are right in the middle of this building today. We must treasure that. How else could we praise! He

But here is God’s kingdom and we hold onto His statutes and judgements. This psalm is very important for us because it is about Jerusalem.

### **Psalm 148 – The whole creation praising God for the manifestation of the glory of the sons of God**

(Rom. 8:19-21)

- 1 *Praise the LORD!*  
*Praise the LORD from the heavens;*  
*Praise Him in the heights!*
- 2 *Praise Him, all His angels;*  
*Praise Him, all His hosts!*
- 3 *Praise Him, sun and moon;*  
*Praise Him, all you stars of light!*
- 4 *Praise Him, you heavens of heavens,*  
*And you waters above the heavens!*
- 5 *Let them praise the name of the LORD,*  
*For He commanded and they were created.*
- 6 *He also established them forever and ever;*  
*He made a decree which shall not pass away.*
- 7 *Praise the LORD from the earth,*  
*You great sea creatures and all the depths;*
- 8 *Fire and hail, snow and clouds;*  
*Stormy wind, fulfilling His word;*
- 9 *Mountains and all hills;*  
*Fruitful trees and all cedars;*
- 10 *Beasts and all cattle;*  
*Creeping things and flying fowl;*
- 11 *Kings of the earth and all peoples;*  
*Princes and all judges of the earth;*
- 12 *Both young men and maidens;*  
*Old men and children.*
- 13 *Let them praise the name of the LORD,*  
*For His name alone is exalted;*  
*His glory is above the earth and heaven.*
- 14 *And He has exalted the horn of His people,*

ability. We have only one hope: our wonderful God. He alone receives all the praise in the building up of the church.

*“Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion! For He has strengthened the bars of your gates; He has blessed your children within you”* (v. 12-13). The Lord does that too. He will strengthen the bars of our gates and also bless our children in His house.

*“He makes peace in your borders, And fills you with the finest wheat”* (v. 14). Of course, the Lord provides for all His children, but the finest fruits, the firstfruits, belong to the Lord and should be brought to His house. And there the Lord gives them to His priests for their enjoyment (Num. 18:12-13). That which we enjoy in the Lord’s house today is not available in Babylon and also not where you live alone. We say that not because we are proud. But it is our testimony that we receive the best portion only in the house of the living God.

*“He sends out His command to the earth; His word runs very swiftly. He gives snow like wool; He scatters the frost like ashes; He casts out His hail like morsels; Who can stand before His cold? He sends out His word and melts them; He causes His wind to blow, and the waters flow”* (v. 15-18). Nature also obeys the Lord’s word. The scientists can explain much, but when the Lord speaks to the hail (or: ice) that it should melt, then it will melt. And when He speaks to the winds and to the water, then these must also obey Him (Matt. 8:26-27). When the Lord allows only a small earthquake to come, men are already helpless. God only needs to say a word and it happens. And His word runs very swiftly, everything happens in seconds.

However, we have another word, a word of life and of righteousness. We have a word which is the Lord Himself, which gives us His life in order to build up Jerusalem. We have such a living word in the church today. We must really treasure that.

*“He declares His word to Jacob, His statutes and His judgements to Israel”* (v. 19). Christ is the reality of all these wonderful words that we have received. He is all that we need to build up His house, and set up His kingdom, so that He obtains His glorious, built up church. We need such a word in the church, an effective word, a clear guideline. Hallelujah for the living and effective word of God here in His house!

*“He has not dealt thus with any nation; And as for His judgements, they have not known them. Praise the LORD!”* (v. 20). Not only has He not dealt thus with any of the nations, but also not with any denomination. Everywhere they go their own ways and do what seems right to them

who does not see the New Jerusalem and the church today cannot praise God with Psalm 147:

### **Psalm 147**

- 1 *Praise the LORD!*  
*For it is good to sing praises to our God;*  
*For it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful.*
- 2 *The LORD builds up Jerusalem;*  
*He gathers together the outcasts<sup>1</sup> of Israel.*
- 3 *He heals the brokenhearted*  
*And binds up their wounds.*
- 4 *He counts the number of the stars;*  
*He calls them all by name.<sup>2</sup>*
- 5 *Great is our Lord, and mighty in power;*  
*His understanding<sup>3</sup> is infinite.*
- 6 *The LORD lifts up the humble;*  
*He casts the wicked down to the ground.*
- 7 *Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;*  
*Sing praises on the harp to our God,*
- 8 *Who covers the heavens with clouds,*  
*Who prepares 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 that cry.*
- 10 *He does not delight in the strength of the horse;*  
*He takes no pleasure in the legs of a man.*
- 11 *The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,*  
*In those who hope in His mercy.*
- 12 *Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!*  
*Praise your God, O Zion!*
- 13 *For He has strengthened the bars of your gates;*  
*He has blessed your children within you.*

<sup>1</sup> or: scattered ones; see 1 Cor. 4:13

<sup>2</sup> see Is. 40:26-28

<sup>3</sup> or: His insight, His intelligence

- 14 *He makes peace in your borders,  
And fills you with the finest wheat.*
- 15 *He sends out His command to the earth;  
His word runs very swiftly.*
- 16 *He gives snow like wool;  
He scatters the frost like ashes;*
- 17 *He casts out His hail like morsels;  
Who can stand before His cold?*
- 18 *He sends out His word and melts them;  
He causes His wind to blow, and the waters flow.*
- 19 *He declares His word to Jacob,  
His statutes and His judgements to Israel.*
- 20 *He has not dealt thus with any nation;  
And as for His judgements, they have not known them.  
Praise the LORD!*

Now what can we still say? We can only praise the Lord that He has enlightened our eyes and brought us through many experiences. Praise the Lord who has built up Jerusalem! With what kind of people has He done that? With pastors, theologians, professors? No, with the scattered ones of Israel (v. 2).

I thank the Lord that He has chosen us – not because we were so good or better than others, but because we are precious before His eyes. He brought us, the scattered ones of Israel, here to Jerusalem and heals us. God looks especially at the brokenhearted and not at the proud. All who are proud may remain here for a while because they hear a rich word. But because they are so proud, eventually they go away again.

God looks at *“the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds”* (v. 3). The church life has a strong healing effect on us. We are healed, day by day, year after year. But not only that, we are also transformed and changed. Praise the Lord!

*“He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name”* (v. 4). The Lord is so great; He has created so many stars. Can you count them? The Lord not only counted every star, He also gave each a name, as written in Isaiah 40:26-28: *“Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of His power; Not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, And speak, O Israel: ‘My way is hidden from the LORD, And my just claim is passed*

*over by my God’? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.”* Do not think that God just somehow created everything. He determined the place for every star. Today He is building His church, the heavenly Jerusalem. Isn't she more important to Him than the whole universe that He has created? And if He is so mighty, having created, numbered and named every star with great power and all care, will He then build Jerusalem just anyhow? Will He not build it with even more care and power?

However, with us, it is more complicated than with the creation of the universe. The stars do not run away, but men can run away. The stars do not say: “No, I do not want to be in this place, I have my own mind, I want to be somewhere else.” They do not argue, they stay where God said they should be. But how about you and me?

*“Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite”* (v. 5). The more we listen to Him and learn obedience, the faster the work will be completed. For the building up of the church, we need His mind. Therefore our mind must be renewed.

*“The LORD lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked down to the ground”* (v. 6). The more we humble ourselves before the Lord, the more grace we receive (James 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:5). Don't be so proud! We are really nothing. The Lord says: *“Without Me you can do nothing”* (John 15:5).

Then we see from verses 7 to 9 that the Lord covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the mountains and gives the animals their food. You must thank the Lord for that too. Do you know why nature has still survived? Because the building of the church is not yet finished. But when the Great Tribulation begins with the last 3½ years, a third of the earth will be burnt (Rev. 8:7). God will judge the earth; but today there are still clouds, rain, grass and food for all the animals. We must treasure that and thank the Lord that He still gives us time – not only to enjoy it, but to redeem it so that we are perfected (Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5).

*“He does not delight in the strength of the horse; He takes no pleasure in the legs of a man”* (v. 10). For the building up of Jerusalem, the building up of the church, we cannot just apply any power we like; especially not our natural power and ability, for God will take no pleasure in them.

*“The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, In those who hope in His mercy”* (v. 11). That is the way we build up the church today. Because we fear the Lord, we trust neither human power nor our natural