

Psalm 147:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Sing unto the LORD with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the harp unto our God:

Analysis

Sing unto the LORD with thanksgiving—(שִׁירוּ לֵאמֹר בְּתִדְבָּר) The imperative shiru commands corporate worship through song, while todah refers to sacrificial thanksgiving, the offering of gratitude for answered prayer. This isn't mere emotional expression but covenantal response to God's faithfulness catalogued in the preceding verses (rebuilding Jerusalem, healing the brokenhearted, numbering the stars).

Sing praise upon the harp—(זָמְרוּ לְאֱלֹהֵינוּ בְּכָנָר) Zameru means to make music with instrumental accompaniment, specifically the kinnor (lyre/harp), David's instrument. The dual call to vocal and instrumental worship reflects Psalm 33:2-3's pattern: thanksgiving precedes petition, worship precedes request. Notice the progression: YHWH (covenant name) to Elohenu (our God)—personal relationship drives public praise.

Historical Context

Psalm 147 is likely post-exilic (after 539 BC), celebrating Jerusalem's restoration after Babylonian captivity. The harp (kinnor) was central to Temple worship from David's time (1 Chronicles 25), and Psalm 137:2 poignantly records how exiles hung their harps on Babylon's willows, unable to sing. This verse marks the resumption of joyful worship in the rebuilt Temple.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does thanksgiving function as a spiritual discipline that precedes asking God for things?
2. What role does corporate, musical worship play in reinforcing your personal relationship with God?

Interlinear Text

בְּכָפֹר: לְאֱלֹהִים יְנֹהֶן וְעַבְדָּנִים
Sing unto the LORD with thanksgiving sing praise unto our God upon the harp
H6030 H3068 H8426 H2167 H430 H3658

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 68:32 (Resurrection): Sing unto God, ye kingdoms of the earth; O sing praises unto the Lord; Selah:

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