

## International Conversation Cafe

Bible Topic: The Psalmist Describes Creation

Psalm 148 is written about the creation of the earth and all creatures in it. Read the psalm together, discuss words that are unclear, then have one person summarize the passage in their own words.

### **Psalm 148 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens!

Praise him from the skies!

<sup>2</sup> Praise him, all his angels!

Praise him, all the armies of heaven!

<sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon!

Praise him, all you twinkling stars!

<sup>4</sup> Praise him, skies above!

Praise him, vapors high above the clouds!

<sup>5</sup> Let every created thing give praise to the LORD,  
for he issued his command, and they came into being.

<sup>6</sup> He set them in place forever and ever.

His decree will never be revoked.

<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you creatures of the ocean depths,

<sup>8</sup> fire and hail, snow and clouds,  
wind and weather that obey him,

<sup>9</sup> mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars,

<sup>10</sup> wild animals and all livestock,  
small scurrying animals and birds,

<sup>11</sup> kings of the earth and all people,  
rulers and judges of the earth,

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

<sup>13</sup> Let them all praise the name of the LORD.

For his name is very great;  
his glory towers over the earth and heaven!

<sup>14</sup> He has made his people strong,  
honoring his faithful ones—  
the people of Israel who are close to him.

Praise the LORD!

## Discussion

1. *A psalm is a poetic form of writing that uses repetition and descriptive language to make a strong point. What phrases or words are repeated in the psalm? What descriptions do you like?*
2. *What does it mean to “praise” someone or something? Give an example of people you praise. Whom does society as a whole praise, such as national heroes, philanthropists, scientists?*
3. *What do verses 5, 8, and 13 tell us about God and his character?*
4. *According to this passage, what is the role of people in relationship to God?*
5. *What questions do you have about the passage?*
6. *How does the passage affect your attitude toward God and people?*
7. *Take a look at the painting below. What do you notice about it? What questions does it bring up? How do you think it relates to the topic of “Creation?”*



Katsushika Hokusai. Mount Fuji in Clear Weather, c. 1831. Polychrome woodblock print on paper, 25.1 x 37.5 cm. Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut