

Praise to the Lord the Almighty Worksheet

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Verse 1

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration.

Verse 2

Praise to the Lord, Who over all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Verse 3

Praise to the Lord, Who hath fearfully, wondrously, made thee;
Health hath vouchsafed and, when heedlessly falling, hath stayed thee.
What need or grief ever hath failed of relief?
Wings of His mercy did shade thee.

Verse 4

Praise to the Lord, Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

Verse 5

Praise to the Lord, Who, when tempests their warfare are waging,
Who, when the elements madly around thee are raging,
Biddeth them cease, turneth their fury to peace,
Whirlwinds and waters assuaging.

Verse 6

Praise to the Lord, Who, when darkness of sin is abounding,
Who, when the godless do triumph, all virtue confounding,
Sheddeth His light, chaseth the horrors of night,
Saints with His mercy surrounding.

Verse 7

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen sound from His people again,
Gladly for all we adore Him.

Vocabulary In one or two words define the following terms from the poem.

Verse 1: creation, Thy, salvation, ye, temple, adoration

Verse 2: reigneth, thee, yea, sustaineth, hast, ordaineth

Verse 3: hath, vouchsafed, heedlessly

Verse 4: doth, prosper, ponder

Verse 5: tempests, elements, Biddeth, fury, Whirlwinds, assuaging

Verse 6: abounding, virtue, confounding, triumph

Verse 7: adore, amen

Word Pictures Word pictures is another way of saying *imagery*. *Imagery* or *figurative language* helps us form a picture of what the author is trying to present. Discuss what these word pictures mean and, perhaps, without drawing a picture of Christ, draw your idea of the *imagery* or *figurative language* the author uses!

Verse 1: glad adoration

Verse 2: wondrously reigneth

Verse 3: Wings of His mercy

Verse 4: prosper thy work and defend thee, Ponder anew

Verse 5: tempests their warfare are waging, Biddeth them cease

Verse 6: chaseth the horrors of night

Verse 7: Let the Amen sound from His people again

Mechanics Verbally discuss

Who is the speaker? (Does the speaker have a specific personality or has the author remained in the background so the message of the poem will be more clear?)

What does the poem reveal about the speaker's character? (Sometimes, poems reveal nothing about the speaker's personal thoughts, feelings, or attitudes. Yet, the poem may demonstrate those character traits that are important to the author like courage, loyalty, perseverance, etc.)

Is the speaker addressing someone in particular or is it to anyone? (Sometimes poems are not directed to anyone in particular, but to anyone that may read it.)

Does the poem have a setting? (Does the author tell where the poem occurs? Is the poem about a specific event?)

Is the poem about a particular event? (Is the event past or present? If it is about a past event, does the remembrance of the event have a particular meaning to the speaker?)

Is the theme of the poem stated directly or indirectly? (Some poems are straightforward and are meant to be taken literally. In songs, the theme may be presented in the refrain or in the last few lines. Sometimes the theme is a little bit more difficult to discern as it is made with figurative language or symbols.)

How did you respond to the poem when you read it the first time?

What point of view or perspective is the speaker? (What meaning do you think the poem has for the author?)

How did you respond to the poem when you read it the first time? (Did your thoughts and feelings change after you took time to study it?)

Comprehension Questions Verbally discuss

Verse 1: Did you notice the author's use of the terms "ye" and "thy"? Why do you think the author opted to use these terms? What does the author tell the reader to do in the first line? Why should we "Praise Him in glad adoration"?

Verse 2: Did you notice the author's use of the terms: "reigneth," "thee," "Hast," "sustaineth" and "ordaineth"? Why do you think the author used these terms? The author asserts that He "wondrously reigneth" over all things. Do you agree? Does this include math? history? science? civics? literature? recreation? music? education? etc.?

Verse 3: Why do you think the author used the term "hath"? According to the author, Who made you? Do you agree or disagree? Why? Explain and discuss: "Health hath vouchsafed and, when heedlessly falling, hath stayed thee."

Verse 4: Why do you think the author used the term "doth"? According to the author, Who prospers your work and defends you? Do you agree/disagree? Why? Explain and discuss: "Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, If with His love He befriend thee." Why does the author use the word "If"?

Verse 5: Why do you think the author used the terms "Biddeth" and "turneth"? What does the author say about tempests? What does the author say about the elements? Explain and discuss: "Biddeth them cease, turneth their fury to peace, Whirlwinds and waters assuaging."

Verse 6: What does the author imply causes darkness (in the first line)? Explain and discuss lines 2, 3 and 4 as a unit.

Verse 7: What does the author desire to do in the first line? Why do you think this is so? Explain and discuss: "Let the Amen sound from His people again, Gladly for all we adore Him."

After reading this poem, what character traits did you think of? What does the Bible have to say about these character traits?

What Does the Bible Say?

Find Scripture proofs for each of the assertions or statements made for each of the seven verses.

What does the Bible have to say about joy? What does the Bible have to say about being cheerful? What does the Bible have to say about gratitude? Give older and newer testament examples of those that experienced joy, cheerfulness and gratitude. Site historical examples of joyful, cheerful, and grateful individuals. Give current examples of joyful, cheerful, and grateful individuals. How is joy related to being cheerful? How are joy and cheerfulness related to gratefulness? What will you tell your grandchildren about being joyful, cheerful and grateful? How will you encourage your grandchildren in these character traits? Would you rather be around someone that has joy, is cheerful, and grateful or around someone that chronically says "I can't" or complains, etc.?

What does the Bible say about complainers, murmurers and those that say "I can't"? What will you tell your grandchildren about being complainers, murmurers and those that say "I can't"? How will you encourage your grandchildren not to have these non-God honoring character traits?

The Author/Poet

Based on what you have studied about this poem so far, would you guess that the author was a Christian or a humanist? How did you arrive at your decision?

The of the author for this poem or lyric is Joachim Neander (1650-1680). This grandson of a preacher was born in Bremen, Germany, and died 31 May 1680 in Bremen, Germany. Joachim also became a preacher working many years for the Lord. It is thought that he died of the plague.

Geography

Locate Germany on a globe, map and atlas.

Challenge Locate Breman (Germany) on a map or in an atlas.

Compare/contrast Germany's weather with your own for one week.

Make a German meal for your family.

Activities

1) Make your own book! Without making an image of Christ, draw pictures representing each verse. (Note: that will be seven different illustrations). With construction paper and other items readily available at home, make a title page with the name of the song and the author's name which will be your book's cover. You may want to illustrate your cover and include this poem in your book.

2) Make your own play! Re-enact with your siblings or friends the message discussed in this poem. Keep it lively, simple, and short. You may want to end your play with singing a rousing chorus of this poem or reading Scripture verses. Videotape your creation.

3) Radio Drama! With a handheld tape recorder, create your own radio show dramatizing the message of this poem.

4) Be a Reporter! Either with your family camcorder or with a handheld tape recorder, "interview" various individuals this poem could illustrate (e.g., family members, Oliver Cromwell, George Mason, etc.). In order to have the fast paced style of a reporter, watch and/or listen to the news with your parents' permission. Keep the interviews lively, quick, and to the point.

Remain objective! Being objective means just reporting the facts and not giving your opinion of the situation.

5) What is one of the things you most enjoy? Is it literature? math? science? sports? cooking? Take that area of interest and relate that to this poem. If you enjoy dance, for example, develop a dance routine that physically expresses the sentiments of this poem. If you enjoy shop, create something out of wood that helps to clarify this poem. Do you enjoy creating stories? Write a story based on any time period you desire that expresses the sentiments of this poem. Do you enjoy creating things in the kitchen? Make an ancient meal from this time or develop your own meal that symbolizes the many different points this poem makes.

6) Poster. Create a poster illustrating the the author's view of the impact of *Praise the Lord the Almighty*.

7) Scavenger Hunt. Go to the library to learn what you can about Joachim Neander (1650-1680) and share it with your family. If possible, discover the story behind this poem.