

“The Lord has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his saints, of Israel, the people close to his heart. Praise the Lord!”

This section contains a *word* not heard very often in the Bible. It’s an interesting word. The word is “**horn**.” Its meaning here may be unclear at first, so let’s take some time to explain it. Use the context of the Bible to gather more information.

Psalm 89 opens our eyes to more details:

¹⁵ *Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, LORD.*

¹⁷ *For you are their glory and strength, and by your favor you exalt our **horn**.*

[Now, the LORD is speaking]

²⁴ *My faithful love will be with him [David], and through my name his **horn** [no longer a reference to David] will be exalted. I will set his hand over the sea, his right hand over the rivers. ²⁶ He [the horn] will call out to me, ‘You are my Father...’ ²⁷ I will also appoint him my firstborn, the most exalted of the kings of the earth... ²⁹ I will establish his line forever, his throne as long as the heavens endure.*

Let’s briefly work through our clues:

#1: The **horn** is a person. *How do I know that?* The horn is “he” (see Psalm 89:26). “Who is he then?”, we ask. Set Psalm 89 beside an important clue from the opening of the New Testament where Zechariah says:

*“Praise be to the Lord... He has raised up **a horn** of salvation for us in the house of his servant David...”*
(Luke 1:68-69).

#2: Again, this is a person. He is in a family. He is a descendant of David. He has royalty in his blood. But he is above all other kings. He has a throne – a rule – that will last forever (see Psalm 89:29-26).

#3: You may very well have in mind now an answer, but to make the ID 100% certain: Think about the only one who could have a conversation like in Psalm 89: He says to God, “*You are my Father,*” and God responds: “*I appoint you my firstborn... the most exalted of the kings of the earth*” (see Psalm 89:26-27)?

Answer? Jesus is our horn. Now that we’ve got him identified, let’s talk about why.

Kids, let’s get you to help us answer a few questions. Names you often hear for Jesus during this season of Christmas include:

- Child of Bethlehem. Why? **Answer:** That’s the place he was born. Earlier today we heard that this birthplace was told ahead of time by Micah (ch.5).
- Immanuel. Why? **Answer:** That explains who he is & what happened while he lived his life here on earth: God with us, here living among us.
- Savior. Why? **Answer:** That’s what he came to do: save us from our sins. (Earlier today we heard him called “the author of our salvation” in Hebrews.)

Now in Psalm 148 we just heard a lesser-known-name for Jesus. Remember? Jesus is “a horn for the LORD’s people.”

This is not talking about the musical kind of horn, like a trumpet.
This is speaking of this type of horn.

• **Show pictures:**



How do such animals use their horns?

• **Show pictures:**



The horn is used in battle. It is strength to the animal. It is relied upon for victory over enemies. Battle – strength – victory: remember those, and listen in the today’s sermon for why Jesus is called “a horn” for us – his people.

Quick review of the rest of this chapter in the Bible: Psalm 148 parades God’s great power and strength before our eyes (Vs.1-13). The Lord’s invisible qualities – His divine power and wisdom - are made clear by what he has made. We see mention of:

- The Lord’s angels, the holy armies of heaven.
- The sun & moon & stars precisely placed throughout the universe.
- The wonders of the earth: mountains, oceans & creatures.



Awesome to behold! And yet what are they all pictured doing? The most majestic and awesome of God’s creatures & wonders are still only creations – summoned to praise their Creator.



Now the most awesome of all the Lord’s deeds arrives: “*The Lord has raised up for his people a horn.*” He possesses all the power in the world. He is the one through whom the world and everything in it was made. He to whom mighty angels rightly kneel and sing lowered himself. He lived as one of us, as our Substitute. He lived how we could never live – perfectly meeting God’s expectations. His perfect life was first viewed when he allowed himself to be placed in a manger by the young, inexperienced hands of a first-time mother. His perfect work was completed when he allowed himself to be nailed to a cross by the harsh, experienced hands of Roman soldiers.

Jesus, the Maker of all, lowered himself. Hebrews ch.2 says:

“... we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone... Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus...” (2:7-3:1)

Everyday give yourself time to ponder what he has done, and why. Jesus allowed himself to be born into our broken world, to become our brother, to be broken himself in order to fight for us and to save us. And he won the victory over sin, death and hell! He rose from the dead, proving his victory. And he gives all who believe in him victory over all these foes.

What is more, our Strongman/Champion controls the universe and everything in it for the eternal good of all of us who hope in him.

Think of how much application this has for each day: Jesus is our horn. To make that point...

I want you to see another place where the picture of “horns” is used. This is from the last book of the Bible. In this case, ten horns are used to depict ten kings. Ten is used to represent all the earthly rulers opposed to God. We are told:

“They will make war against the Lamb...”

You know who else is at war against the Lamb, right? The Bible pictures the devil as a roaring lion, seeking to devour us. If I’m face to face with this lion without any source of protection, I’m in trouble. If I’m up against all the earthly forces opposed to God and us – his people, I’m in trouble again. Ah, but there is the relief & joy of knowing: Jesus is our horn. The verses go on to say:

“...but the Lamb will overcome them because he is the Lord of lords and King of kings...” (Rev. 17:12-14)

“- and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers” (Rev. 17:14).

Having him, trusting in not our own strength, but in Him – we have strength and protection. We have the victory!

But it may not always seem that way. When we get up in the morning and look in the mirror, day after day, after day, we see a sinner. We know the ways we’ve failed our God and others. One may wonder how he or she can be loved at all by God.

The question to ask at such times is: how does God view you? He gives us - his people - a name which holds tremendous meaning. *“His saints”* is the way the NIV translates it in vs.14. More literally, this one Hebrew word is: *“his mercy-ed ones”* – *“recipients of his mercy.”*

Think about what that says about who you are. Who are you as a Christian? You are the Lord’s mercied one. I am the Lord’s mercied one. It was nothing in you or me that caused this. In fact, we’ve earned just the opposite. In spite of this... in mercy the Lord brings us this assurance: *“Jesus is our horn of salvation.”*

The Holy Spirit opened your eyes to see the Lord’s mercy in Jesus.

- Ephesians 1:4-6 *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us ...to be holy and blameless in his sight... to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ... to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.”*

There is actually a second name for Jesus found here in Psalm 148:14. Listen: *“He has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his saints (mercy-ed ones).”* He is: the praise of all his mercy-ed ones.

Think about that. Praise is heard here in this building – in song & prayer, in often-repeated confessions of faith & in impromptu words of confidence about our God.

Praise is given also as we carry our Christian hope into our homes and into the schools and work places of our weekday lives as we interact with people and share what we know. Praise is given as time is dedicated to hear him speak to us – to learn more – to grow – to let the word of Christ dwell in us richly. Praise is given as a song is on our heart as we go about our tasks – thankful to the Lord for our abilities. Praise is offered as a prayer is silently spoken or shared with one another.

Let me bring back up, then, the name we talked about first. Let's see together the two names for Jesus from Psalm 148:14.

Kids, you were listening for reasons Jesus is called our "horn." Did you hear why? He went to battle for us. He won the victory for us against our enemies: the devil, sin, and death. Because he won, we – and all who believe in Jesus – have the forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God in Heaven.

So let's praise Jesus in the language believers have used since the time this Psalm was written. Ready: "Hallelujah!"

That's the way our Psalm this morning begins and ends. That's the page on which we are starting out our New Year. Oh people close to His heart, praise the Lord! Amen!