

A Preview of Praise

Praise was surrounding the world when it was born:

Job 38:1 Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm. He said:

2 “Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge? 3 Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. 4 “Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand. 5 Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? 6 On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone 7 *while the morning stars sang together and all the angels[a] shouted for joy?* (NIV).

Eternity past was characterized by an atmosphere of praise.

Praise is a law written into the structure of the universe.

It is as everything was made to praise the Lord. Ephesians 1:13-14, “And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession TO THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORY.”(NIV). Isaiah 43:21, “... the people I formed for myself THAT THEY MAY PROCLAIM MY PRAISE.” Praise is the reason for the existence of the universe, man, and all creation included. Note psalm 148.

Luke 19:37-40. Everything created in the universe has a capacity to praise God.

“...the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.” The result was that the Pharisees were violated by this and sought Jesus to correct their praise with a severe rebuke. Jesus response was, “I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.” Christ response to the Pharisees indicates a revelation that praise was a potential structured into the rocks by the roadside. If mankind, made as the prime source of praise, refuses to do what it is made to do, then inanimate rocks will take our place in praise.

Praise is where God lives.

Psalm 22:3, “But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.” In other words praise is where God lives. It is his permanent address. Praise is his home element. He is at home in praise. He is “great and greatly to be praised” (Ps 48:1).

This expresses a principle which accompanies praise. Why is it when we praise God things change so rapidly? Why does healing come on the wings of praise? Why do human emotions go through such transition when praise is the choice? How are we to

account for those things which accompany praise? Answer; while God is everywhere, he is not everywhere manifested. He is at home in praise and being at home, he manifests himself best as God! When we choose to make God at home through praise, we invite him to act “at home”. He does what He wants to do!

Praise and thanksgiving is the only access into the presence of God.

Psalm 100:4, “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise...” Just as there was a gate into the tabernacle, there is a gate into the worship experience, whether private and personal or public and corporate. It is not proper to rush into an experience of supposed worship and prayer without praise. This is like someone seeking to crash through the fence into the courtyard of the tabernacle. Thanksgiving is the gate.

Praise is a dividend God receives as a result of delivering and blessing us.

Psalm 106:47 - Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the heathen, TO GIVE THANKS UNTO THY HOLY NAME, AND TO TRIUMPH IN THY PRAISE.

Thanksgiving and praise was looked upon as the basis of and results of deliverance.

Psalm 30:11-12 You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, THAT MY HEART MAY SING YOUR PRAISES AND NOT BE SILENT. (NIV) The purpose behind deliverance is salvation and praise.

In essence, then, praise is God’s reward for saving us. It is a blessing to God. *Barak* is a Hebrew word that means “to bless”. It is used synonymously with praise. In Psalm 103 David says, “Bless the Lord O my soul.” The New International Version translates the word “bless” as “praise”. God is blessed through praise.

Praise is a God given garment to ward off the spirit of heaviness.

The Messianic declaration of Isaiah 61;1-3 we witness, “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; 3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, THE GARMENT OF PRAISE FOR THE SPIRIT OF HEAVINESS; No medicine or exercise will cure the ill of discouragement like praise. Depression and praise cannot live in the same heart. They are absolutely incompatible. The text indicates that there is a spirit of depression or despair – or many! Praise brings the consciousness of the presence of God and all that goes along with it. The liar cannot effectively market his merchandise in an atmosphere of praise. It is a garment that we can choose to wear as we do a shirt, blouse or coat.

Praise or the lack of it permits or prohibits the productivity of the earth

God desires to bless all people but cannot to his fullest desire and intention do that until the people praise his name. Praise releases God to work in his creation for maximum productivity. This is implied in Psalm 67:5-7, "Ps 67:5 Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. 6 THEN SHALL THE EARTH YIELD HER INCREASE; AND GOD, EVEN OUR OWN GOD, SHALL BLESS US. 7 GOD SHALL BLESS US; AND ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH SHALL FEAR HIM. The absence of praise permits an atmosphere in which all sorts of germs foreign to spiritual health are allowed to proliferate. Productivity is stifled. Fulfillment is limited. Man is frustrated. God is grieved. When we praise productivity is maximized, fulfillment is realized, and frustration is neutralized.

Praise glorifies God and is the preface to his miraculous deliverance

Supporting text for this claim, "Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God" (Ps 50:23).

Three illustrations:

- 2 Chronicles 20:1-29
Verse 21-The singers advanced toward the army with the sole weapon of praise, a one line chorus singing, "Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever."(NIV) The word is *yadah* in Hebrew which means to give thanks with hands extended.
- Jonah 2:9 - But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD. At this point God commanded the fish to vomit Jonah upon dry land.
- Acts 16:23-40

Praise is the believer's chief weapon against the enemy.

Psalm 8:2, "Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger."(NIV) The word for praise in the preceding verse is translated in the King James Version *strength*. When Jesus quotes this passage in Matthew 21:16 he uses the word "praise" The truth is that praise is strength and strength is praise.

The simple, toddlers and babes, God appoints praise. It stops the enemies attack. My theory, praise energizes the fact that Satan is defeated. Praise from humanity solidifies to the fallen angels that their failed revolution against God cannot be won. The demonic hosts seem to respond to biblical praise in a panic (2Chron. 20:22-24). They scream

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against the One praised and the praiser seeking to silence the adorations of a God they so hate. Appear to turn on one another in hatred. Their ranks are broken. Their influence is neutralized and their lies are exposed by praise.

Psalm 149:4-9; Praise influences nations, kings, people, and princes. When combined with the word of God it speeds justice and carries out just sentences. It mediates for God in applying divine established decrees over the masses of wickedness. Their sentences are already written and waiting to be carried out through the operation of praise. The demonic kingdom, and its evil, resulting from devious and destructive work have a divine verdict written against it (Isaiah 14:15-17). Jesus promised that included in the work of the Holy Ghost would be to convict the world of judgement. "...the prince of this world is judged."(John 16:11).