

HABITATIONS OF PRAISE

“The Use of the Voice: Shout!”

Eccl 3:1

1 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:
7b time to be silent and a time to speak, NIV

Times of quiet reflection, meditation, and worship are certainly necessary in life. It helps to bring a tranquility to our hearts and develops a quietness of spirit. The problem is that the Christian church over the centuries has majored on solemn, quiet reflection. In some of the oldest denominations, the laity are simply spectators to what the clergy are doing. And the liturgy itself has the heavy and solemn feel of a funeral march!

Our God is not one dimensional in His interaction with us. Neither does He expect us to speak with, to, or of Him in monotonous. He made the human voice to have a wide range of tones and volumes and He expects us to utilize them all in glorifying Him. We are to worship God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. When it comes to a full release of strength in worship, we are talking about dancing. When a person's hands are fully released in worship to God, they are clapping. When a person shouts, they are giving full release of their voice in worship to God.

The shout is a powerful release of the voice in worship. As we look at some of its uses, we will discover the shout involved in creation, in warfare, in intercession, in evangelism, and in prophecy.

The shout at creation:

Job 38:7 “while the morning stars sang together and all the angels **shouted**² for joy?” NIV

Sang = *ranan*, shout aloud joyfully

Shouted = *ruwa*, to split the ears with sound

The angels of God made a big noise when the earth was made. I'm not much of a believer in the big bang theory, but I do know that there was a big noise! Perhaps the star sounds that the scientists hear on their instruments today are simply the residue of that mighty shout! Their song and shout was a praise to God for His mighty working in creation. As we shall see later, heaven is still a very loud place.

The shout in worship:

2 Sam 6:14-15

14 David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the LORD with all his might,

15 while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with **shouts**¹ and the sound of trumpets. NIV

The ark of the covenant was brought into the Tabernacle of David with shouting. They didn't stop shouting on that day. The Psalms practically resound with shouting.

2 Sam 6:14-15

14 David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the LORD with all his might,

15 while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with **shouts**¹ and the sound of trumpets. NIV

Ps 47:5 “God has ascended amid **shouts**¹ of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.” NIV

Ps 89:15

Blessed are those who have learned to **acclaim you**¹, who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD. NIV

Ps 66:1 “Make a **joyful shout**² to God, all the earth!” NKJV

Ps 81:1 “Sing aloud to God our strength; Make a **joyful shout**² to the God of Jacob.” NKJV

Ps 98:4-6

4 **Shout joyfully**² to the LORD, all the earth; Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.

5 Sing to the LORD with the harp, With the harp and the sound of a psalm,

6 With trumpets and the sound of a horn; Shout joyfully before the LORD, the King. NKJV

Ps 95:1-3

1 Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us **shout joyfully**² to Him with psalms.

3 For the LORD is the great God, And the great King above all gods. NKJV

Ps 47:1-2

1 Clap your hands, all you nations; **shout**² to God with cries of joy.

2 How awesome is the LORD Most High, the great King over all the earth! NIV

One of the reasons we shout is because He is the King! I think of the Robin Hood type movies, when the rightful King Richard the Lionhearted shows up and his loyal followers shout, “Hail to the King! Long live King Richard!” His majesty and presence excites us and causes us to exclaim His praises. And His shout protects us.

The shout of a King:

Num 23:20-23

20 I have received a command to bless; he has blessed, and I cannot change it.

21 "No misfortune is seen in Jacob, no misery observed in Israel. The LORD their God is with them; the shout of the King is among them.

22 God brought them out of Egypt; they have the strength of a wild ox.

23 There is no sorcery against Jacob, no divination against Israel. It will now be said of Jacob and of Israel, 'See what God has done!' NIV

Remember that David's tabernacle is three-fold: kingship, worship, and warfare. He was established as king first, then he prepared a place for the ark. Likewise, we receive Jesus as king first and are then released into true worship of the true God. Worshipping God is a double-edged sword. With one edge we exalt the Lord, with the other His enemies are defeated.

The shout in warfare:

The nature of warfare in the shout of praise can be seen in the fact that one of the principle Hebrew words translated "shout" means a battle-cry. Most of us are familiar with the most famous use of the shout in warfare.

Josh 6:1-5

- 1 Now Jericho was tightly shut up because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in.
- 2 Then the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men.
- 3 March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days.
- 4 Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets.
- 5 When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have all the people give a **loud shout**¹; then the wall of the city will collapse and the people will go up, every man straight in." NIV

Josh 6:20

So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people **shouted**² with a **great shout**¹, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. NKJV

2 Chron 13:12-18

- 12 God is with us; he is our leader. His priests with their trumpets will **sound the battle cry**² against you. Men of Israel, do not fight against the LORD, the God of your fathers, for you will not succeed."
- 13 Now Jeroboam had sent troops around to the rear, so that while he was in front of Judah the ambush was behind them.
- 14 Judah turned and saw that they were being attacked at both front and rear. Then they cried out [Heb. shriek] to the LORD. The priests blew their trumpets
- 15 and the men of Judah raised the **battle cry**². At the sound of their **battle cry**², God routed Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah.
- 16 The Israelites fled before Judah, and God delivered them into their hands.
- 17 Abijah and his men inflicted heavy losses on them, so that there were five hundred thousand casualties among Israel's able men.
- 18 The men of Israel were subdued on that occasion, and the men of Judah were victorious because they relied on the LORD, the God of their fathers. NIV

2 Chron 20:20-22

- 20 Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the LORD your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful."
- 21 After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever."

22 As they began to sing [*rinnah* to shout] and praise, the LORD set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated. NIV

Jer 50:14-16

14 "Take up your positions around Babylon, all you who draw the bow. Shoot at her! Spare no arrows, for she has sinned against the LORD.

15 **Shout**² against her on every side! She surrenders, her towers fall, her walls are torn down. Since this is the vengeance of the LORD, take vengeance on her; do to her as she has done to others.

16 Cut off from Babylon the sower, and the reaper with his sickle at harvest. Because of the sword of the oppressor let everyone return to his own people, let everyone flee to his own land. NIV

Rev 18:1-2 NIV

1 After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor.

2 With a mighty voice he **shouted**⁶: "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird.

Isa 42:10-13

10 Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you islands, and all who live in them.

11 Let the desert and its towns raise their voices; let the settlements where Kedar lives rejoice. Let the people of Sela **sing for joy**³; let them shout from the mountaintops.

12 Let them give glory to the LORD and proclaim his praise in the islands.

13 The LORD will march out like a mighty man, like a warrior he will stir up his zeal; with a shout he will raise the battle cry and will triumph over his enemies. NIV

The shout in evangelism and intercession:

Rom 10:15

And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" NIV

Isa 52:7-9

7 How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

8 Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they **shout for joy**³. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes.

9 Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. NIV

Jer 31:7, 12

7 This is what the LORD says: "Sing with joy for Jacob; shout for the foremost of the nations. Make your praises heard, and say, 'O LORD, save your people, the remnant of Israel.'

12 They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of the LORD-- the grain, the new wine and the oil, the young of the flocks and herds. They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more. NIV

Lam 2:19

Arise, **cry out**³ in the night, as the watches of the night begin; pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord. Lift up your hands to him for the lives of your children, who faint from hunger at the head of every street. NIV

As I stated before, the Bible practically rings with shouting! Even our resurrection will be to the sound of the shout.

The shout of resurrection:

Isa 26:19

Your dead shall live; Together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and **sing**³, you who dwell in dust; For your dew is like the dew of herbs, And the earth shall cast out the dead. NKJV

1 Thess 4:16

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. NKJV

All this being said, perhaps one of the most telling things that we can do to better understand the shout is to look at the Lord's response and use of it.

Full release of the voice releases a full commitment of the heart:

Matt 15:22-28

22 And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and **cried out**⁶ to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."

23 But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she **cries out**⁶ after us."

24 But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

25 Then she came and worshipped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"

26 But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

27 And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour. NKJV

The above narrative illustrates our need to cry out or shout. The Lord can hear your whisper. But at times, it requires the full investment of the voice to release the full commitment of the heart. For another example of this principle, see the narrative below.

Matt 20:29-34

29 As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him.

- 30 Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they **shouted**⁶, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"
- 31 The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they **shouted**⁶ all the louder, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"
- 32 Jesus stopped and called them. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.
- 33 "Lord," they answered, "we want our sight."
- 34 Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him. NIV

Why didn't Jesus stop when they first shouted? I don't know. Perhaps he wanted them to get to the desperate place of faith, that place where "No!" is not an option.

The Lord's response to worship:

Luke 19:29-40

- 29 As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them,
- 30 "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here.
- 31 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it.'"
- 32 Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them.
- 33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"
- 34 They replied, "The Lord needs it."
- 35 They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it.
- 36 As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.
- 37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:
- 38 "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"
- 39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"
- 40 "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." NIV

Matt 21:4-5

- 4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:
- 5 "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" NIV

Zech 9:9

Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! **Shout**², Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. NIV

The Lord cries out for us to receive the Spirit:

John 7:37-41

- 37 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and **said in a loud voice**⁶, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.

38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

40 On hearing his words, some of the people said, "Surely this man is the Prophet."

41 Others said, "He is the Christ." NIV

His shout of triumph in death ("It is finished!" John 19:30):

Matt 27:50

And when Jesus had **cried**⁶ out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. NIV

Matt 27:50-56

1. That he cried with a loud voice, as before, v. 46. Now,

(1.) This was a sign, that, after all his pains and fatigues, his life was whole in him, and nature strong. The voice of dying men is one of the first things that fails; with a panting breath and a faltering tongue, a few broken words are hardly spoken, and more hardly heard. But Christ, just before he expired, spoke like a man in his full strength, to show that his life was not forced from him, but was freely delivered by him into his Father's hands, as his own act and deed. He that had strength to cry thus when he died, could have got loose from the arrest he was under, and have bid defiance to the powers of death; but to show that by the eternal Spirit he offered himself, being the Priest as well as the Sacrifice, he cried with a loud voice.

(2.) It was significant. This loud voice shows that he attacked our spiritual enemies with an undaunted courage, and such a bravery of resolution as bespeaks him hearty in the cause and daring in the encounter. He was now spoiling principalities and powers, and in this loud voice he did, as it were, shout for mastery, as one mighty to save, Isa 63:1. Compare with this, Isa. 62:13-14. He now bowed himself with all his might, as Samson did, when he said, Let me die with the Philistines, Judg 16:30. Animamque in vulnere ponit-And lays down his life. His crying with a loud voice when he died, signified that his death should be published and proclaimed to all the world; all mankind being concerned in it, and obliged to take notice of it. Christ's loud cry was like a trumpet blown over the sacrifices.

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Matt 27:51-54

51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split.

52 The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.

53 They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

54 When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!" NIV

The Spirit cries out in us:

Gal 4:6

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, **crying out**⁶, "Abba, Father!" NKJV

Heaven is a loud place:

Rev 7:9-10

9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,
10 and **crying out**⁶ with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" NKJV

The Lion's roar and the shout of prophecy:

Rev 10:1-4

1 Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars.
2 He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land,
3 and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke.
4 And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down." NIV

Amos 3:7-8

7 Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.
8 The lion has roared- who will not fear? The Sovereign LORD has spoken- who can but prophesy? NIV

We have not received a spirit that enslaves us to fear. We can be bold and loudly proclaim the praises of our God. As He directs us to shout against the strongholds we encounter in life, we should be obedient and lift our voices to Him and see His deliverance. We need to be sensitive in the Spirit to know what is called for, whether quietness or shouting. Our ears need to be open so that when the Lion roars, we prophecy! In closing, we are going to do some shouting.

[Hand out sheets and do declarations in a shout!]