

## HABITATIONS OF PRAISE “The Use of Posture: Stand!”

*We have talked about the use of the voice and the use of the hands in worship. Today we will begin talking about the use of posture in worship. Another word for posture is attitude. As a matter of fact, in the two dictionaries I checked, the first definition of attitude is “A position of the body or manner of carrying oneself.” It’s second definition usually refers to a state of mind or feeling (disposition). This is interesting because we tend to use the word “attitude” more often than not with regard to someone’s disposition. But it chiefly means “this [read ‘dis’] position.”*

*The fact is that our posture can determine our demeanor. I’ve heard it said that 90% of our communication is physical; how we are dressed, our body motions, facial expressions, and posture. These factors speak as much if not more than our words do. The posture we use when we communicate powerfully affects **how** we communicate. Currently, I am sitting down teaching. This is a house church. Even in a big meeting, when the speaker sits down in a chair or on a stool to communicate, what kind of feeling does that communicate? [Warmth, intimacy, casualness]. You all have seen me on numerous occasions get up on my feet to preach. How does this change the tenor of the message? [Intensity, seriousness].*

*Worship is communication. We are communicating to God how much we love and honor Him. He also speaks to us. Worship is communion with God. Our posture affects our attitude in worship. If I am standing, sitting, kneeling, bowing, lying, or dancing, all these postures are going to not only express different feelings toward God; they are also going to influence the verbal expression and heart feelings of our communication with Him.*

*The first posture or attitude of worship that we are going to examine is standing.*

Ps 134:1-2 NKJV

1 Behold, bless the LORD, All you servants of the LORD, Who by night stand<sup>1</sup> in the house of the LORD!

2 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, And bless the LORD.

*Brown-Driver-Briggs’ definition-*

OT:5975 - `amad<sup>1</sup> -- to stand, to remain, to endure, to take one's stand

a) (Qal)

- 1) to stand, to take one's stand, to be in a standing attitude, to stand forth, to take a stand, to present oneself, to attend upon, to be or to become servant of
- 2) to stand still, to stop (moving or doing), to cease
- 3) to tarry, to delay, to remain, to continue, to abide, to endure, to persist, to be steadfast
- 4) to make a stand, to hold one's ground
- 5) to stand upright, to remain standing, to stand up, to rise, to be erect, to be upright
- 6) to arise, to appear, to come on the scene, to stand forth, to appear, to rise up or against
- 7) to stand with, to take one's stand, to be appointed, to grow flat, to grow insipid

b) (Hiphil)

- 1) to station, to set
- 2) to cause to stand firm, to maintain

- 3) to cause to stand up, to cause to set up, to erect
- 4) to present (one) before (king)
- 5) to appoint, to ordain, to establish

c) (Hophal) to be presented, to be caused to stand, to be stood before

Ps 135:1-5 NKJV

- 1 Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD; Praise Him, O you servants of the LORD!
- 2 You who stand in the house of the LORD, In the courts of the house of our God,
- 3 Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; Sing praises to His name, for it is pleasant.
- 4 For the LORD has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel for His special treasure.
- 5 For I know that the LORD is great, And our Lord is above all gods.

*The Levites stood to minister before the Lord. When we did our series on the Tabernacle of Moses, we talked a lot about the different furniture that was in it. What were some of these articles? [altars, laver, lampstand, table - - ark of the covenant]. Notice that no chairs were mentioned. The only seat in the Tabernacle of Moses and David was the mercy seat on the ark of the covenant. God sits, we stand and attend.*

### **Levites stand to minister-**

Deut 10:8

At that time the LORD set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to **stand**<sup>1</sup> before the LORD to minister and to pronounce blessings in his name, as they still do today. NIV

1 Kings 8:10-11 KJV

- 10 And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD,
- 11 So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.

Heb 10:11

Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. NIV

Heb 8:5

They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." NIV

### **Angels stand to minister-**

2 Chron 3:13

The wings of these cherubim extended twenty cubits. They stood on their feet, facing the main hall. NIV

Zech 6:5

The angel answered me, "These are the four spirits of heaven, going out from **standing**<sup>1</sup> in the presence of the Lord of the whole world. NIV

1 Kings 22:19

Micaiah continued, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne with all the host of heaven **standing**<sup>1</sup> around him on his right and on his left. NIV

Luke 1:19

The angel answered, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. NIV

### 1) Standing to serve-

*Standing communicates many things. One of the primary things that I think it communicates, though, is **readiness to serve**. The angels of God stand in the presence of the Lord. Priests stood to minister. Our physical comfort is not a consideration when it comes to worship. We are serving Him. It's about Him, not us.*

Luke 17:7-10

7 "Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'?

8 Would he not rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'?

9 Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do?

10 So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'" NIV

*Do we desire to "eat and drink" of the Lord's goodness? Then we should gird ourselves and stand and serve **first**. Jesus said that He didn't come to be served, but to serve. Serve He did. He gave His life. Now He sits in heaven and we serve Him. The promise is that as we serve Him, He will feed us [John 6:53-58; Rev. 3:20].*

### 2) Standing in honor-

*The people are sitting, talking in animated but hushed tones. A door opens and a man in uniform steps out. "All rise," he says, "the honorable Judge so-and-so is now presiding." The robed figure appears out of another door and takes the high seat. Once the judge is seated, those in the courtroom are allowed to take their seats. Why do we stand in the presence of the judge? It shows respect for his authority to interpret and administer the law. It is a display of honor.*

Lev 19:32 NKJV

'You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, and fear your God: I am the LORD.

Job 29:7-8 NIV

7 "When I went to the gate of the city and took my seat in the public square,

8 the young men saw me and stepped aside and the old men rose to their feet;

*Honor is not only shown to people, but to concepts and things as well. Out of respect for our nation and the principles upon which it was founded, we stand to declare the pledge of allegiance while facing the symbol of our nation, the American flag. Is this idolatry? No, it is a show of respect for godly governmental authority (“one nation, under God”).*

*In Jesus’ day, and even today in certain Jewish and Christian denominations, respect for the Word of God was shown by standing when it was read.*

Neh 8:1-8

- 1 all the people assembled as one man in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel.
- 2 So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand.
- 3 He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.
- 4 Ezra the scribe stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion. Beside him on his right stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah and Maaseiah; and on his left were Pedaiah, Mishael, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam.
- 5 Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up.
- 6 Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.
- 7 The Levites-Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah-instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there.
- 8 They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read. NIV

Luke 4:16-21

- 16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read.
- 17 The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:
- 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,
- 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."
- 20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him,
- 21 and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." NIV

### 3) Standing in awe-

*A concept relative to respect is awe. Respect is usually an act of the will. Awe is generally a reaction to an astounding person, event, place, or thing. Awe is a bit more raw than respect. Awe can catch our breaths away, cause our eyes to widen, and even propel us to our feet.*

Ex 20:18-21 NKJV

- 18 Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off.  
19 Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die."  
20 And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin."  
21 So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.

Ex 33:8-11

- 8 And whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose and stood at the entrances to their tents, watching Moses until he entered the tent.  
9 As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the LORD spoke with Moses.  
10 Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, they all stood and worshiped, each at the entrance to his tent.  
11 The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent. NIV

### 4) Standing in covenant-

Ps 105:8-10

- 8 He remembers his covenant forever, the word he commanded, for a thousand generations,  
9 the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac.  
10 He **confirmed**<sup>1</sup> it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as an everlasting covenant: NIV

*God confirmed His covenant. He causes it to stand for eternity. Standing can be symbolic of entering into commitment, agreement, and covenant. We have phrases like, "who will stand with me on this?" that give this sense. Also, the best man "stands with" the groom as an attendant at the covenant.*

Deut 27:11-14, 26b

- 11 On the same day Moses commanded the people:  
12 When you have crossed the Jordan, these tribes shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph and Benjamin.  
13 And these tribes shall stand on Mount Ebal to pronounce curses: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan and Naphtali.  
14 The Levites shall recite to all the people of Israel in a loud voice:  
26b Then all the people shall say, "Amen!" NIV

2 Chron 34:31-32 NKJV

31 Then the king stood in his place and made a covenant before the LORD, to follow the LORD, and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant that were written in this book.

32 And he made all who were present in Jerusalem and Benjamin take a stand [NIV - *pledge themselves to it*]. So the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers.

### **5) Standing in confession and repentance-**

Neh 9:1-5, 17

1 On the twenty-fourth day of the same month, the Israelites gathered together, fasting and wearing sackcloth and having dust on their heads.

2 Those of Israelite descent had separated themselves from all foreigners. They stood in their places and confessed their sins and the wickedness of their fathers.

3 They stood where they were and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in worshiping the LORD their God.

4 Standing on the stairs were the Levites-Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani and Kenani-who called with loud voices to the LORD their God.

5 And the Levites-Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah and Pethahiah-said: "Stand up and praise the LORD your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting." "Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise. NIV

17 They refused to listen and failed to remember the miracles you performed among them. They became stiff-necked and in their rebellion appointed a leader in order to return to their slavery. But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Therefore you did not desert them, NIV

### **6) Standing in prayer and intercession-**

Mark 11:24-25

24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins." NIV

2 Chron 20:9, 13-19

9'If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us.'

13 All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the LORD.

14 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite and descendant of Asaph, as he stood in the assembly.

15 He said: "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's.

16 Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel.

17 You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you."

18 Jehoshaphat bowed with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the LORD.

19 Then some Levites from the Kohathites and Korahites stood up and praised the LORD, the God of Israel, with very loud voice. NIV

*They went out to the enemy praising God. They found only dead bodies. It took them three days to retrieve the plunder!*

Ps 106:23

So he said he would destroy them-- had not Moses, his chosen one, stood in the breach before him to keep his wrath from destroying them. NIV

Ezek 22:30

30 "I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none. NIV

*As we praise and pray, we need to stand in the gap, the breach in people's lives, and intercede for them in the presence of the Lord. When it comes to our salvation, Jesus Christ is seated at the right hand of the majesty on high. When it comes to our protection, He stands in intercession for us before the Father continually.*

Heb 7:25

Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. NIV

Heb 9:24

For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. NIV

Acts 7:55-56 NIV

55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

56 "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

Rev 8:1-6

1 When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.

- 3 Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne.
- 4 The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand.
- 5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.
- 6 Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them. NIV

### **7) Standing in resurrection-**

*Ernest Gentile, in his book Worship God!, quotes distinguished French Catholic theologian, Theodor Filthaut with regard to the practice of standing in worship:*

“Standing expresses primarily the redemption, the fundamental reality of Christian existence. By standing erect the believer affirms that he is no longer a bound slave, but a redeemed and free man, a son or daughter of God, one who has risen to eternal life with God. In the early church for a time it was forbidden to pray kneeling during the season of Easter. In those days Christians took the standing position very seriously as a witness to belief in Resurrection.”<sup>1</sup>

*This makes obvious sense when we think about it. I don't know of too many people who are "laid to rest" standing up. Dead people are buried lying down.*

Matt 28:5-7

- 5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.
- 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.
- 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." NIV

*The Lord has risen! He lies no longer. They went in and saw an empty slab. Resurrected to life, the Lord was standing alive!*

Dan 10:7-11

- 7 I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; the men with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves.
- 8 So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless.
- 9 Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground.
- 10 A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.
- 11 He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling. NIV

Ezek 37:9-10

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<sup>1</sup> Earnest Gentile, *Worship God!*, BT Publishing, Portland, Oregon, 1994, p. 190

9 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live."

10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet-a vast army. NIV

*Of all of God's earthly creatures, only man is designed to stand upright. We were created to worship. Let us stand in the presence of our Lord in reverence and awe, worshipping Him in acknowledgment of His covenant with us. If we have sinned, let us confess. If we have been offended, let us forgive. In grace, let us stand in the gap for others and intercede. Let our stand be a reminder and declaration of His resurrection and the promise of eternal life!*

Ps 111:10 NKJV

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise **endures**<sup>1</sup> [stands] forever.

*Amen!*