

HABITATIONS OF PRAISE “The Order of Worship”

David was anointed by the Holy Spirit relatively early in life. One supposes he had learned to play the harp during the long, lonely stretches of time he spent tending his father's sheep. While still a young man, he witnessed the dramatic impact of his anointed music on King Saul as his playing drove the demon away that was tormenting the king. He was a musical man brought up in a musical society. It was to David that God revealed that He was enthroned in the praises of His people (Psalm 22:3).

Through David, God reformed and renewed the boundaries of Israel, the administration of the army, and the governing of the state. But the most dramatic reform of all was the change in the order and manner of worship.

Up until the time of Hophni and Phinehas, the Tabernacle of Moses had been the center of Israeli worship. But with the loss of the ark, the practices at the Tabernacle became all form and no substance. During the hundred years of the ark's absence from the holy of holies, the priests and Levites lost the skill of handling the glory of God. Their lack of knowledge resulted in the death of Uzzah who reached out to steady the ark as it was being moved on a cart and was struck dead by the Lord. This dramatic event spurred David to seek the Lord and the Lord faithfully revealed His ways to the king. God was doing a new thing in Israel!

1 Chron 16:1-6

- 1 They brought the ark of God and set it inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and they presented burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before God.
- 2 After David had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD.
- 3 Then he gave a loaf of bread, a cake of dates and a cake of raisins to each Israelite man and woman.
- 4 He appointed some of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, to make petition [*Heb., remember or record*], to give thanks [*Heb., yadah- worship with hands upraised*], and to praise [*Heb., halal- shine, boast, praise*] the LORD, the God of Israel:
- 5 Asaph was the chief, Zechariah second, then Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, Obed-Edom and Jeiel. They were to play the lyres and harps, Asaph was to sound the cymbals,
- 6 and Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests were to blow the trumpets regularly before the ark of the covenant of God.

One can find priests and Levites before the Lord in the books of Moses. One can find instances of music playing, singing, raising hands, and even dancing in the Torah; but not all together in application of worship at the Tabernacle of Moses. Where the Tabernacle of the wilderness was characterized by solemn worship and observance, the Tabernacle of David was a place of exuberant, musical celebration of God's goodness. On the day of its dedication, David, the sweet psalmist of Israel (2 Sam. 23:1), delivered a song of praise for the Levites to use in their worship of God.

What is a psalm? The Hebrew word translated “psalm” in the Old Testament is Strong’s # OT:2172, zimrah (zim-raw') which means “ a musical piece or song to be accompanied by an instrument.” It comes from the root zamar (zaw-mar') [Strong’s # OT:2167] which means “to touch the strings or parts of a musical instrument, i.e. play upon it; to make music, accompanied by the voice; hence to celebrate in song and music: KJV - give praise, sing forth praises, psalms.” (from BibleSoft’s Strong’s Concordance)

The Hebrew title for the Psalter is cephher tehillim, "book of praises." (from ISBE definition) This is why when we talk of the Tabernacle of David, we are talking about psalmic worship. At its heart, psalmic worship involves song and instrumentation. David is not the only composer of the Psalms. Only some 76 or so are credited to him. But of the 150 psalms, most are written by either contemporaries of David or after the pattern of David. David’s heart of worship beats through the Psalter.

Let’s look at some portions of this dedicatory psalm.

1 Chron 16:7-11

7 That day David first committed to Asaph and his associates this psalm of thanks to the LORD:
8 Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.
9 Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. NIV
10 Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
11 Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. NIV

1 Chron 16:23-25

23 Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day.
24 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.
25 For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. NIV

1 Chron 16:31-36

31 Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!"
32 Let the sea resound, and all that is in it; let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them!
33 Then the trees of the forest will sing, they will sing for joy before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.
34 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.
35 Cry out, "Save us, O God our Savior; gather us and deliver us from the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name, that we may glory in your praise."
36 Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Then all the people said "Amen" and "Praise the LORD." NIV

Loud praise, rejoicing, and singing were hallmarks of this psalm. One of the beauties of revival is not only the birthing of a new thing from God, but also the revitalization of older institutions.

1 Chron 16:37-42

37 David left Asaph and his associates before the ark of the covenant of the LORD to minister there regularly, according to each day's requirements.

38 He also left Obed-Edom and his sixty-eight associates to minister with them. Obed-Edom son of Jeduthun, and also Hosah, were gatekeepers.

39 David left Zadok the priest and his fellow priests before the tabernacle of the LORD at the high place in Gibeon

40 to present burnt offerings to the LORD on the altar of burnt offering regularly, morning and evening, in accordance with everything written in the Law of the LORD, which he had given Israel.

41 With them were Heman and Jeduthun and the rest of those chosen and designated by name to give thanks to the LORD, "for his love endures forever."

42 Heman and Jeduthun were responsible for the sounding of the trumpets and cymbals and for the playing of the other instruments for sacred song [NKJV and Heb., *musical instruments of God*]. The sons of Jeduthun were stationed at the gate. NIV

The new revelation of continual song and praise before the Lord wasn't just implemented at the tent in Jerusalem. David sent a delegation of priests and Levites to continue in the offering of sacrifices at the brazen altar of the Tabernacle of Moses with the addition of singers and musicians to offer thanks in praise to the Lord. The word for "give thanks" in verse 41 is the Hebrew word yadah, which means to "revere or worship with extended hands."

Stong's definition-

OT:3034- yadah (yaw-daw'); a primitive root; used only as denominative from OT:3027; literally, to use (i.e. hold out) the hand; physically, to throw (a stone, an arrow) at or away; especially to revere or worship (with extended hands); intensively, to bemoan (by wringing the hands):

Yadah is used six times in the Pentateuch. Four of those uses appear in the part of the Torah dealing with ceremonial law. In all four occurrences, it is translated "confess" [KJV], as in the confession of sins.

Lev 5:5

And it shall be, when he shall be guilty in one of these things, that he shall confess that he hath sinned in that thing: KJV

Lev 16:21

And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: KJV

Lev 26:40

If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they trespassed against me, and that also they have walked contrary unto me; KJV

Num 5:7

Then they shall confess their sin which they have done: and he shall recompense his trespass with the principal thereof, and add unto it the fifth part thereof, and give it unto him against whom he hath trespassed. KJV

The very next time the word appears in Scripture, it is uttered by David in a thanksgiving psalm to God for his deliverance from Saul.

2 Sam 22:1, 50

1 And David spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul:

50 Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto thy name. KJV

*I find it more than coincidental that the first use of this word **after** the Pentateuch is uttered by David. Let's look at the first occurrences of it in Scripture.*

Gen 29:35

35 And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah; and left bearing. KJV

Gen 49:8

8 Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee. KJV

The first use of the word in Scripture is at the naming of Judah. To praise the Lord with lifted hand [yadah] is where his name comes from. David was the commencement of the prophetic fulfillment of Jacob's word over his son Judah. Jesus, the greater Son of David, the Lion of Judah, is the one we praise with uplifted hands!

After the days of David, every revival in Judah was characterized by a return to the Davidic order of worship.

Hezekiah's revival-

2 Chron 29:25-30

25 He stationed the Levites in the temple of the LORD with cymbals, harps and lyres in the way prescribed by David and Gad the king's seer and Nathan the prophet; this was commanded by the LORD through his prophets.

26 So the Levites stood ready with David's instruments, and the priests with their trumpets.

27 Hezekiah gave the order to sacrifice the burnt offering on the altar. As the offering began, singing to the LORD began also, accompanied by trumpets and the instruments of David king of Israel.

28 The whole assembly bowed in worship, while the singers sang and the trumpeters played. All this continued until the sacrifice of the burnt offering was completed.

29 When the offerings were finished, the king and everyone present with him knelt down and worshiped.

30 King Hezekiah and his officials ordered the Levites to praise the LORD with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. So they sang praises with gladness and bowed their heads and worshiped. NIV

Note in verse 25 that this form of worship was in the way prescribed by David, Gad, and Nathan. The Lord used three prophets to establish this new revelation.

Three witnesses-

Deut 19:15b "A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses." NIV

1 John 5:5-8

5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

6 This is the one who came by water and blood-Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

7 For there are three that testify:

8 the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. NIV

The Lord's baptism and death and the Spirit's presence at both testified to the Messiahship of Jesus. All the tabernacle and temple structures were representations of Christ. "The Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (John 1:14). In the tabernacle of Moses and in the Temple of Solomon the witness of the water was there in the brazen laver, the witness of blood was on the brazen altar, and the witness of the Spirit was seen in the glory cloud and was represented by oil. Both structures had the Spirit, the water, and the blood. David's tabernacle was no exception.

1 Kings 1:25-39

25 Today he has gone down and sacrificed great numbers of cattle, fattened calves, and sheep.

He has invited all the king's sons, the commanders of the army and Abiathar the priest. Right now they are eating and drinking with him and saying, 'Long live King Adonijah!'

26 But me your servant, and Zadok the priest, and Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and your servant Solomon he did not invite.

27 Is this something my lord the king has done without letting his servants know who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?"

28 Then King David said, "Call in Bathsheba." So she came into the king's presence and stood before him.

29 The king then took an oath: "As surely as the LORD lives, who has delivered me out of every trouble,

30 I will surely carry out today what I swore to you by the LORD, the God of Israel: Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne in my place."

31 Then Bathsheba bowed low with her face to the ground and, kneeling before the king, said, "May my lord King David live forever!"

32 King David said, "Call in Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet and Benaiah son of Jehoiada." When they came before the king,

33 he said to them: "Take your lord's servants with you and set Solomon my son on my own mule and take him down to Gihon.

34 There have Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel. Blow the trumpet and shout, 'Long live King Solomon!'

35 Then you are to go up with him, and he is to come and sit on my throne and reign in my place. I have appointed him ruler over Israel and Judah."

36 Benaiah son of Jehoiada answered the king, "Amen! May the LORD, the God of my lord the king, so declare it.

37 As the LORD was with my lord the king, so may he be with Solomon to make his throne even greater than the throne of my lord King David!"

38 So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, the Kerethites and the Pelethites went down and put Solomon on King David's mule and escorted him to Gihon.
39 Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the sacred tent and anointed Solomon. Then they sounded the trumpet and all the people shouted, "Long live King Solomon!" NIV

DAVID

Archaeology has proved conclusively that the "stronghold of Zion" and subsequently "the city of David" (5:7), which the king constructed, were situated on the Eastern hill above the Gihon fountain. (From The New Unger's Bible Dictionary. Originally published by Moody Press of Chicago, Illinois. Copyright (c) 1988.)

Sacrifices were made on the day of the tabernacle's dedication. This is the blood. The sacred anointing oil was kept in the tent. This is the Spirit. The City of David, where the Tent was erected, sat above the Gihon fountain. This is the water. These three give witness to the cleansing and anointing power of Jesus the Messiah.

Josiah's revival-

2 Chron 35:15-16

15 The musicians, the descendants of Asaph, were in the places prescribed by David, Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun the king's seer. The gatekeepers at each gate did not need to leave their posts, because their fellow Levites made the preparations for them.

16 So at that time the entire service of the LORD was carried out for the celebration of the Passover and the offering of burnt offerings on the altar of the LORD, as King Josiah had ordered. NIV

Nehemiah's reconstruction-

Neh 12:45-47

45 They performed the service of their God and the service of purification, as did also the singers and gatekeepers, according to the commands of David and his son Solomon.

46 For long ago, in the days of David and Asaph, there had been directors for the singers and for the songs of praise and thanksgiving to God.

47 So in the days of Zerubbabel and of Nehemiah, all Israel contributed the daily portions for the singers and gatekeepers. They also set aside the portion for the other Levites, and the Levites set aside the portion for the descendants of Aaron. NIV

The style of praise and worship instituted by David and practiced for thirty years in the tent he pitched for the ark of the covenant was transplanted to the Temple of Solomon.

1 Chron 28:11-13; 19-21

11 Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the portico of the temple, its buildings, its storerooms, its upper parts, its inner rooms and the place of atonement.

12 He gave him the plans of all that the Spirit had put in his mind for the courts of the temple of the LORD and all the surrounding rooms, for the treasuries of the temple of God and for the treasuries for the dedicated things.

13 He gave him instructions for the divisions of the priests and Levites, and for all the work of serving in the temple of the LORD, as well as for all the articles to be used in its service.

19 "All this," David said, "I have in writing from the hand of the LORD upon me, and he gave me understanding in all the details of the plan."

20 David also said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the LORD is finished.

21 The divisions of the priests and Levites are ready for all the work on the temple of God, and every willing man skilled in any craft will help you in all the work. The officials and all the people will obey your every command." NIV

The priests and Levites were ready for the Temple ministry not only because David made sure that the Tabernacle of Moses had been tended to, but also because the twenty-four courses had been ministering in the tabernacle of David.

All this thus far speaks to form, as will much of what will follow in this series. We need to understand what forms of worship God expects in order that we do not frustrate His grace when he moves upon us.

John 4:23-24

23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." NIV

John 6:44-45

44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

45 It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. NIV

"Christian worship depends on God revealing Himself through the Lord Jesus Christ to man. Man simply responds to the revelation. Man cannot initiate suitable worship. He cannot fully comprehend his own inner workings, let alone the wonder of God."¹ In order to worship in spirit and in truth, we must be aware of the truth and allow the Spirit to lead us in it. It is God who initiates our worship of Him by the revelation Himself in Scripture and "in the Spirit."

Ps 22:25

25 From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you will I fulfill my vows. NIV

Ps 27:8

When You said, "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek." NKJV

Ps 30:11-12

11 You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,

¹ Ernest Gentile, *Worship God*, Bible Temple Publishing, Portland, OR, 1994, p. 125

12 that my heart may sing to you and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever. NIV

By organizing the public worship, David gave a framework that allowed the people to express the praise the Lord was bubbling up in their hearts. It was orchestrated praise that allowed for prophetic worship.

1 Chron 15:16-17

16 David told the leaders of the Levites to appoint their brothers as singers to sing joyful songs, accompanied by musical instruments: lyres, harps and cymbals.

17 So the Levites appointed Heman son of Joel; from his brothers, Asaph son of Berekiah; and from their brothers the Merarites, Ethan son of Kushaiah; NIV

1 Chron 15:22

22 Kenaniah the head Levite was in charge of the singing; that was his responsibility because he was skillful at it. NIV

1 Chron 23:1-5

1 When David was old and full of years, he made his son Solomon king over Israel.

2 He also gathered together all the leaders of Israel, as well as the priests and Levites.

3 The Levites thirty years old or more were counted, and the total number of men was thirty-eight thousand.

4 David said, "Of these, twenty-four thousand are to supervise the work of the temple of the LORD and six thousand are to be officials and judges.

5 Four thousand are to be gatekeepers and four thousand are to praise the LORD with the musical instruments I have provided for that purpose." NIV

1 Chron 25:1-8

1 David, together with the commanders of the army, set apart some of the sons of Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun for the ministry of prophesying, accompanied by harps, lyres and cymbals. Here is the list of the men who performed this service:

2 From the sons of Asaph: Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah and Asarelah. The sons of Asaph were under the supervision of Asaph, who prophesied under the king's supervision.

3 As for Jeduthun, from his sons: Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshaiiah, Shimei, Hashabiah and Mattithiah, six in all, under the supervision of their father Jeduthun, who prophesied, using the harp in thanking and praising the LORD.

4 As for Heman, from his sons: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shubael and Jerimoth; Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti and Romamti-Ezer; Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir and Mahazioth.

5 All these were sons of Heman the king's seer. They were given him through the promises of God to exalt him. God gave Heman fourteen sons and three daughters.

6 All these men were under the supervision of their fathers for the music of the temple of the LORD, with cymbals, lyres and harps, for the ministry at the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun and Heman were under the supervision of the king.

7 Along with their relatives-all of them trained and skilled in music for the LORD-they numbered 288.

8 Young and old alike, teacher as well as student, cast lots for their duties. NIV

Not only do we see a release of praise and worship, but prophecy as well. Those skilled and those learning were working together praising the Lord in the safe environment of supervision and mentoring relationships. We can learn how to worship and prophesy more effectively!

In the Psalms, various modes of worship are modeled, using the voice, the hands, and posture.²

I. The Use of the Voice-

- A. Speak
- B. Sing
- C. Shout

II. The Use of the Hands-

- A. Lift
- B. Play Instruments
- C. Clap

III. The Use of Posture-

- A. Stand
- B. Bow
- C. Dance

As we proceed in this series, we will look at these different aspects of expressing our praise to God.

² from *Worship God* by Ernest Gentile