

SING PRAISE

PSALM 108:1-5

Psalms 108:1 A Song or Psalm of David. O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory. 2 Awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early. 3 I will praise thee, O LORD, among the people: and I will sing praises unto thee among the nations. 4 For thy mercy is great above the heavens: and thy truth reacheth unto the clouds. 5 Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: and thy glory above all the earth;

January 31, 2016

Introduction

This psalm is ascribed to David. The first part of this psalm, vv. 1-5, is also seen, with little variance in Psalm 57:7-11.

Psalm 108:1-4

Psalms 108:1 O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory. 2 Awake, psaltery and harp: I *myself* will awake early. 3 I will praise thee, O LORD, among the people: and I will sing praises unto thee among the nations. 4 For thy mercy *is* great above the heavens: and thy truth *reacheth* unto the clouds. 5 Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: and thy glory above all the earth;

Psalm 57:7-11

Psalms 57:7 My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise. 8 Awake up, my glory; awake, psaltery and harp: I *myself* will awake early. 9 I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations. 10 For thy mercy *is* great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds. 11 Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: *let* thy glory *be* above all the earth.

In both of these Psalms, we see the writer praising God's unwavering, resolute, and dedicated love. Hal David and Burt Bacharach wrote a song and Jackie DeShannon made it famous in 1965. "What the World Needs Now" and you would echo with "is love, sweet love. That's the only thing that there is just too little of."

As the cowardly lion in the Wizard of Oz would say "Ain't it the truth; ain't it the truth." The world is badly in need of the love of God. They need to hear that the creator of all the cosmos is infinitely interested in them. Actually, there may be some in our attendance today that needs to hear these words; "Thy mercy is great above the heavens: and they truth reacheth unto the clouds."

70 times in the Psalms we find the word sing. Our society today considers sing as "to produce musical tones by means of the voice."¹ However the Hebrew word carries the idea of "striking with the fingers as in stringed instruments; as well as celebration in song and music."

Some Old Testament examples would be:

Moses sang to the Lord

¹ Merriam-Webster

Exodus 15:1 Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

Deborah the Judge of Israel sang to the Lord

Judges 5:1 Then sang Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam on that day, saying, 2 Praise ye the LORD for the avenging of Israel, when the people willingly offered themselves. 3 Hear, O ye kings; give ear, O ye princes; I, even I, will sing unto the LORD; I will sing praise to the LORD God of Israel.

The history book of 1 Chronicles captures a psalm of David

1 Chronicles 16:7 Then on that day David delivered first this psalm to thank the LORD into the hand of Asaph and his brethren. 8 Give thanks unto the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people. 9 Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works. 10 Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD.

Let us look at the first part of Psalm 108 today with “praise, joy and singing.”

You Don't Need A Beautiful Voice

As we have seen in the text, and the three passages mentioned, when the LORD moves in our lives, the outcome from man is to sing and make music to the LORD. Some have a great ability to sing or play an instrument that strike the chords of our hearts. David had such an effect on King Saul: “...*David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him.*” (Samuel 16:23).

Some singers move us to tears or great joy with their voices. But what about the other 99% of us? God is not looking for great melody or harmonies, He is looking “...*unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.*” (Psalm 34:18). We are told to “...*make a joyful noise to the Rock of our Salvation.*” (Psalm 95:1)

You don't need a beautiful voice to praise God; you only need melody in your heart.

O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory.

O God – David does not use God's name of Jehovah (personal, covenant keeper) in this instance. Instead he uses *Elohim* – the Supreme God.

...*my heart is fixed* – prepared, arranged. David sings, my heart is prepared and ready. Ready for what?

... *I will sing* – has the idea of a strolling, singing minstrel

...*and give praise* – There are three Hebrew words associated with praise: *hālāl*, the making of noise in praise; *yādā*, is associated with the bodily actions and gestures which accompany praising; and *zāmar*, which is associated plucking or hammering, as in the striking of stringed instruments or singing of music.

In this case David uses *zāmar*, singing with a stringed instrument.

...*even with my glory* – Since the object has been singing, some understand the glory to be David's tongue, while others take it to mean the “soul.” It can also literally be translated as “even with my liver.” The thought was that all love, joy and praise came from the bowels. However, today we don't say “I love

you with all my bowels.” Or “I love you with all my liver.” Yuck. No we say “I love you with all my heart.”

Strike Up the Band

2 Awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early.

Awake – means to “arouse yourself, open the eyes” whether from a long nap or sleep, or through open eyes. The message of John the Baptist was “*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*” (Matthew 3:2). “Open your eyes.” His message was to open your eyes on your faith and actions and repent.

Psaltery and harp – psaltery is from a “skin-bag for liquids; hence the musical instrument shaped like a vase.” We would call it a lyre today. The harp is like our harp of today only they were mobile.

David is saying “Arouse the psaltery and harp. Arouse you sleepyhead.”

The World Needs to Hear

3 I will praise thee, O LORD, among the people: and I will sing praises unto thee among the nations.

I will praise thee, O LORD – The subtle change from Psalm 57 is the exchange the name of Adonai for Jehovah. Adonai is a reference to the Lord in a general sense. David is making his praise personal. The word for praise is *yada*, the physical side of praise and singing.

Among the people: and I will sing praises unto thee among the nations – David is going to make his praise unto the LORD unto *the people*, Jews, and among the nations, *the Gentiles*.

Why Praise the LORD?

4 For thy mercy is great above the heavens: and thy truth reacheth unto the clouds.

For thy mercy is great above the heavens – The kindness and pity of the LORD comes down from heaven and is greater than any mercy found below the heavens.

...and thy truth reacheth unto the clouds – *There is no containing the mercy of the LORD throughout all of creation even to the heavens themselves.*

Exalt the LORD Almighty

5 Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: and thy glory above all the earth;

Be thou exalted – simply means to “to raise, extol, hold up, take up.”

When Rob was a senior in a small Christian high school in Arlington, Texas, they had their annual Homecoming Game which they had lost for years. Rob was the quarterback

of this very small team and they were playing a rival that had beaten them for years. They had played very hard, but in the last few minutes of the game they found themselves down by 3 points. They were close to mid-field on a fourth down with less than a minute to go. The coaches called a run play by their star running back, but that back told Rob he could get open if he could just throw it down field. All the guys in the huddle agreed and a plan was put into place. To make a long story short, Rob threw the ball with all his might and the back caught the ball scoring a touchdown with the clock running out. Two players were hoisted on the shoulders of the team that night...the back who caught the pass and Rob. They carried them on the field to the sidelines and along the stands. The crowd erupted with praise for these two players. They players lifted them up. This is the meaning of exaltation.

Conclusion

As we finish this series on “Worship”, I pray this will carry us through 2016.

You don't need a beautiful voice to sing praises to the LORD

Strike up the band. Praise and sing to God in the beauty of His Holiness

The World needs to hear our worship

So therefore, Exalt the LORD, today and every day.