

Praise and Worship

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Praise and Worship

Lesson 1

A. Man is created with an ability and a desire to worship God

Read Isaiah 43:21

Fallen man has perverted this desire, and turned to the worship of things rather than the Triune God. Romans 1:21-25

Worshipping idols of any kind is actually Satan-worship (worship of demons).

Read 1 Corinthians 10:19-21. It is an abomination to God.

B. When there is restoration between man and God, God requires man's full attention, worship and love

Throughout Scripture, God compares our relationship with Him to the relationship between a bride and her bridegroom – between a husband and his wife. Ephesians 5:22-33; Revelation 19:7.

The driving force behind this kind of relationship is not doctrine, laws or routine, but rather love, total dedication, adoration and excitement.

This is what God expects and longs for!!

C. Israel, God's people of old, are an example for God's people today

Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-11

And what an example!

1. They were delivered from slavery by the blood of the lamb.
2. They were baptized in the sea and in the cloud of fire.
3. God's very first requirement (commandment) of them was: "you must not worship any other god or make idols of any kind". Deuteronomy 5:6-10. "You shall love the Lord your God with **all your heart**, with **all your soul**, with **all your mind** and with **all your strength**". Deuteronomy 6:5.

Israel failed on this very point and became a bad example. They did not worship God and Him alone. They turned and worshipped all the foreign gods of the nations around them.

D. God's requirement and expectation are still the same

We should love and worship Him with all our **heart, soul, mind** and **strength**. Mark 12:30. Jesus told us that **God wants worshippers** who will worship in spirit and in truth. John 4:23.

We are also told that we should **declare His praise** – the praise of Him who called us from darkness into His marvellous light. 1 Peter 2:9.

E. The Bible gives us three words regarding our approach to, and adoration of, our Triune God

1. Thanksgiving
2. Praise
3. Worship

Some look upon these three activities as necessary and progressive steps into God's presence, according to Psalm 100.

F. The tabernacle of Moses is a wonderful illustration

1. **Read** Psalm 100:4.

“Enter His gates with **thanksgiving**”.

“Enter His courts with **praise**”.

The Most Holy Place, God's presence, is the place where we should **worship**.

2. The old Tabernacle of Moses illustrates (foreshadows) God's wonderful plan of redemption – the way back to the Father heart of God:
 - a) When you enter, you first encounter the altar, where blood was shed for the remission of sin.
 - b) After this you encounter the water-basin, for washing (Baptism).
 - c) Past the first curtain, on the left-hand side, you find the lamp stand, continually burning with fresh oil (the Holy Spirit).
 - d) On the right is the table of shewbread (the fresh Word of God, illuminated by the lamp stand (the Spirit) standing opposite it).
 - e) In front, at the entrance to the Most Holy Place, is the altar of incense (prayer and praises rising up to God).
 - f) Past the second curtain is the glory and presence of God.

This wonderful journey can be taken in **Thanksgiving, Praise and Worship** to God.

It is clear from Revelation 4:8-11 that all three of these activities are constantly resounding around the Throne of God. But let us not be religiously bound, insisting that these three activities must follow as steps in this particular order. Be free to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, to do whatever He directs at any given time.

Thanksgiving, praise and worship are not like steps on a ladder that we have to climb

in that order to get into God's presence. Yet, each one of them has a wonderful and different effect – producing gratitude, joy, excitement, awe, trembling and holy fear within those who exercise them in Spirit and truth.

G. God's presence

1. A common misunderstanding is: "God is far away. We need to work very hard to get Him into our midst, or for us to come into His presence".

Read Romans 10:6-8

2. **Read** Psalms 139:1-12 & 23:1-6.

God is always present, even when we feel nothing or are down in the darkest valley.

He promised: "I will never leave you or forsake you". Hebrews 13:5.

"Where two or three are gathered in My name, I am in their midst". Matthew 18:20.

3. **The manifest presence of God.**

Read Luke 24:31; 2 Kings 6:17; Revelation 2:11

Closed spiritual eyes and ears: People can stand next to you and have a wonderful time with God, experiencing His glorious presence, but you personally experience absolutely nothing. Why?

The problem could be that our spiritual eyes and ears are closed, like Elisha's servant, or the two on the road to Emmaus.

4. **God's greatness and glory is beyond measure.**

Read 2 Chronicles 5:13-14; Revelation 1:17.

If God revealed Himself in all His glory and splendour, we would be unable to bear it. Consider Daniel, who saw a mere angel and fell as dead to the ground, with his companions fleeing in great terror. Daniel 10:7-9.

The same happened to the beloved disciple, John. John fell as dead to the ground when he met Jesus again in His glory.

Yet, there is nothing more wonderful, exciting, and marvellous than experiencing the manifest glorious presence of God in an ever increasing measure. We can continue forever and ever and we will never reach the end of this glorious fullness.

H. How do we experience an ever-increasing presence of God?

1. Thanksgiving, praise and worship play a major role.

Psalm 95:2 "Let us come before His presence with **thanksgiving**, let us **shout** joyfully

to Him with **psalms**".

2. Psalm 100:1-2, 4. "Make a **joyful shout** to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with **gladness**; come before His presence with singing".

"Enter into His gates with **thanksgiving**, and into His courts with **praise**, be **thankful** to Him and **bless His name**".

I. An eternal activity

Read Revelation 7:12

Preaching and teaching will stop, the spiritual gifts will not be needed in eternity, but **thanksgiving, praise and worship will continue throughout all eternity.**

We had better learn these principles here, in all their variety. Otherwise we may be surprised to see, when we arrive in glory, that the style of praise and worship that we rejected here on earth, is very common there. Revelation 4:10 & 14:2.

We will now look at these three activities separately, although, in reality, they are intertwined in our adoration of God.

Teacher's notes

Man is created to live in the presence of, and in deep communion with, God.

Genesis 3:8 indicates the glorious fellowship that man had with God before the fall: "In the cool of the day, God walked with them in the garden". We don't know what they talked about, but surely Adam and Eve thanked and worshipped God in the most perfect way.

This is the environment that man was created for and nothing, except returning to the presence of God, can fill this void.

The church father Augustin has said it like this: "*God has created the heart of man too big to find rest in itself, it can only rest when it rests in God*".

God's invitation in Christ is to return to this wonderful fellowship with Him, where we can rest. "*Come to Me all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest*". Matthew 11:28-29.

When we truly return to His presence, thanksgiving, praise and worship will spontaneously well up in our hearts.

Just look at the praise in eternity, where we are constantly in His presence.

Thanksgiving

Lesson 2

A. Introduction

1. Thanksgiving is an integral part of praise and worship. Revelation 4:9.

Thanksgiving is thanking God for what He has done and is doing for us, whereas praise and worship magnify and adore God for whom He is.

The first concentrates on us, the second on Him alone. In spite of this, the Bible still tells us that our thanksgiving glorifies God. 2 Corinthians 4:15.

2. **Read** 2 Corinthians 9:15.

Our reaction to God's mercy, grace and countless blessings, should be natural and spontaneous thanksgiving.

3. **Read** 2 Corinthians 4:15.

The word "thanksgiving" has its root in God's grace. The Greek word for grace is "charis" and the word for thanksgiving is "ev-charis-tia".

4. **Read** Psalm 100:4.

We saw how the tabernacle of Moses so wonderfully illustrated God's plan of salvation. Psalm 100 tells us to enter into all these gifts of grace with thanksgiving.

B. Thanksgiving magnifies God (Makes Him great)

Read Psalm 69:30

God is immeasurably great and we cannot add to or subtract from His greatness.

But many people have a perception (an understanding) of God that is far too small. When we offer up thanksgiving we magnify God in our own understanding. We come to love Him and appreciate Him more and more.

Illustration: This applies to all things: A grey and rainy day can be a miserable thing. Yet, if you are thankful for it, it can turn into a wonderful blessing, which brings life and refreshing.

C. Give thanks always

1. **Read** Ephesians 5:4,20.

The Word tells us to let no bad talk come out of our mouths, but rather thanksgiving. We can honour God continually by thanking Him instead of joining in the negative talk

around us.

2. The Word says: “**give thanks always**”. This could be a completely new lifestyle, which could transform your life. M.R. Carothers has written a book called “Answers to Praise”, full of testimonies to this powerful truth.

D. In everything give thanks; this is the will of God

1. **Read:** 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

“**In everything**” means that, regardless of the circumstance you are in, you can thank God in the same way that Paul and Silas did while in chains, deep down in the dungeon. Acts 16:24-25.

Remember that “all things work together for good for those who love God”. Romans 8:28.

2. **It is God’s will for us** to live in this attitude of thankfulness.

Read Colossians 3:17

“Whatever you do in **word** or **deed** do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks to God**”.

Thanksgiving should be in all our words, in all our deeds, in everything.

Teacher’s notes

You may ask: “How is it possible to thank God in all circumstances?” Only by faith and by trusting God for His Fatherly love and care, as Paul expresses in Romans 8:28, 31-39.

Paul says:

“**All things** work together for good for those who love God”.

“If God is for us, **who** can be against us”.

“Through all these things, (7 very difficult things v.35.) we are more than conquerors, through Him who loves us”.

“**I am persuaded** that **nothing** shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”.

With such a conviction, it is possible to thank and praise God in all circumstances.

Praise

Lesson 3

A. What is praise?

Read Mark 12:30

1. God expects us to praise Him from our spirit and our soul, through our body.

When God says **all** that we are and **all** that we have should love and praise Him, He really literally means everything!

It should be like a spring of adoration and gratitude welling up from our inner man.

To do only the outward actions of singing, clapping, dancing, etc., is not the kind of praise that touches the heart of God.

Even if we start with only the outward actions, we must allow these to lead us into real praise, where our spirit and soul also sing. Stir up your inner man to praise, as king David did: “why are you cast down O my soul? Trust in God, for I shall yet praise Him”. Psalm 42:5.

2. Meditation on God is not praise.

Although this is where we should begin, meditation on God is what should cause us to break forth into active and vocalised praise.

3. Praise concentrates on the following:

- a) **Who God is:** “Praise Him for His excellent greatness”. Psalm 150:2. “His greatness is unsearchable”. Psalm 145:1-3.
- b) **His mighty acts:** “Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him, talk of all His wondrous works... Remember His marvellous works which He has done, His wonders”. Psalm 105:1-5.
- c) **His mercy and grace:** “Praise the Lord! For His mercy endures for ever”. Psalm 106:1.

B. Why should we praise God?

1. He is worthy of all our praise.

Read Rev.4:11, Psalm 18:1-3

The 24 Elders cry out: “You are worthy to receive glory and honour and power... for You created all things”.

- a) Look at creation, at the universe with its millions of planets and stars, moving more precisely than any electronic watch. **Praise Him!**

- b) Look at the beauty of the lilies of the field. Not even King Solomon's splendour could measure up to their beauty. **Praise Him!**
- c) Look through a microscope and see the beauty and order in even the smallest thing, **and all you can do is to break forth into praise of the Creator.**
- d) King David cries out: "You are worthy to be praised because of salvation".

In Psalm 18 he calls his God (our God) so many wonderful names: My salvation; my deliverer; my rock; my horn; my strength; my shield; my fortress; my stronghold.

After this discovery it is little wonder that he cries out: "You are worthy to be praised". Should we not join Him?

2. **God created us to praise Him.**

Read: Isaiah 43:21; 1 Peter 2:9

"The people I formed for Myself, they shall declare My praise". This is a part of God's plan for us.

We are new creations in Christ, "that we should declare His praise who called us out of darkness into His marvellous light".

3. **It is a good thing to give praise unto the Lord.**

Read Psalm 147:1

Who is it good for? For God? God doesn't actually need your praise. He is God, and is endlessly great, whether you praise Him or not. The whole of heaven is flooded with His praise. He doesn't need your praise. Nevertheless, God delights in the praises of His people. "He inhabits the praises of His people". Psalm 22:3. That means: "He lives in" and "surrounds Himself with" our praises. Because He loves us, He knows what is good for us.

Illustration: Even we delight when we see our children doing something that benefits them.

It is good for US to praise the Lord: C.S. Lewis said: "The one who praises the most, is the one who enjoys life the most". Doctors can confirm that the happiest and healthiest people are those who have an attitude of thankfulness and are quick to praise and glorify God in any circumstances. This is confirmed by Proverbs 3:5-8.

It is also good for OTHERS.

Read Acts 16:25 and Ephesians 5:19-20

We are encouraged to sing to one another, to exhort one another in songs of praise and prophetic songs.

“The prisoners” were listening to them singing praises to the Lord. As the prison doors sprang open, the prisoners did not run away. Why? Could it be that the song of praise had so powerfully convicted them that they did not move?

It is NO good for the ENEMY.

We often see in the Word of God that the people of God singing praises to His Name defeat the enemy. Think of Gideon, Jericho, King Jehoshaphat, and Paul and Silas.

Teacher’s notes

It is important to notice that praise and worship did not originate with man (neither with King David nor any other great man of God), but that it originated in heaven. **Praise and worship is from eternity to eternity!**

When we get a brief look into heaven in the book of Revelation, we see praise and worship beyond our wildest imagination.

In chapter 4:9-11 We see the 24 Elders and the 4 living creatures praising God and casting down their crowns.

In chapter 5:11 Hundreds of millions of angels join in the praise.

In chapter 7:9 A multitude nobody could number joins in the praise of the Lamb.

In chapter 14:3 144,000 are praising the Lord. The praise is so loud that it sounds like thunder and the sound of many waters.

In chapter 19:6 The praise here is so powerful that the only description John could give was: “as the sound of many waters, and mighty thunders”.

From the heavenly visions, we see that the praise is often sung out, spoken, or even shouted, followed by different actions: standing up, lifting hands, bowing down, kneeling, falling prostrate, etc. **We have a divine pattern and example of praise directly from heaven!**

C. How should we praise the Lord?

1. God’s clear instructions show us how.

Read Psalm 150.

We cannot praise God any way we want to, because He has given us clear instructions in His Word on how to do it. The Word is full of wonderful examples of praise that has reached heaven, and moved the hand of God (one example is King Jehoshaphat, 2 Chronicles 20:21-22).

2. Praise must be active.

a) Praise God with everything you have.

Read Mark 12:30

Remember the Lord’s command concerning the outward expression of our love for Him: **“you must love Me with all your strength”.**

This indicates clearly that our body, and whatever faculties and abilities we have, should be fully involved.

b) **Standing and praising God.**

Read Revelation 7:9-12

It is good to stand when we praise, so that we are ready to respond to whatever inspiration the Holy Spirit gives us.

The standing position is a sign of honour and respect in the presence of earthly kings and presidents. How much more should we have this attitude in the presence of the King of kings? We read that in heaven the multitudes are standing around the throne praising God. Let us do likewise.

c) **Kneeling before the Lord.**

Read Psalm 95:6

When we get into worship, we may fall on our knees or even on our faces.

3. Using our voices to praise the Lord.

a) **Sing to the Lord.**

Read Psalm 149:1; Revelation 5:9

i) We are constantly encouraged to praise the Lord with song, both privately and in the congregation of the saints.

ii) King David appointed 4000 singers to lead the congregation in song before the Lord. 1 Chronicles 23:5. “Come into His presence with singing”. Psalm 100:2.

iii) We should sing a “new” song. “A new song” comes from new discoveries and experiences in God. We can constantly move forward and daily sing a new song of praise and thanksgiving for ever-increasing revelation.

“For He has done marvellous things”. The world has not got much to sing about, but we have marvellous things to sing about. Psalm 98:1.

iv) The singing of praise to God is one of the things that will never stop. It constantly surrounds the Throne of God. We will sing His praises for all eternity.

b) **Shout to the Lord.**

Read Psalm 95:1-2; Isaiah 6:3

i) “Come let us” – It was something they did together as a congregation, it was with joy and excitement.

Illustration: When Denmark won the European cup in soccer, a mighty shout of joy rose over the nation as the last whistle sounded. We have a much greater victory to shout about, but very few dare to do it.

- ii) “Shout to God with a voice of triumph”. Victory! Psalm 47:1. They shouted psalms to the Lord together.

We are free to shout “hallelujah” and many other wonderful things to God in our praises, as they did in Revelation 19:6-8 and that was indeed a loud shout. Shouting is another activity that is practised before the throne of God.

c) **Proclaiming (speaking) praises to God.**

Read Revelation 11:16-18; Luke 10:21

- i) Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said: “I praise You Father”.
- ii) In Revelation, the heavenly crowd spoke out praises to God with one voice. This is also practised in many churches today.

4. The use of our bodies in praise.

a) **The lifting of our hands.**

Read Psalms 63:4; 134:2

- i) “Lift your hands in the sanctuary”. It is a sign of total surrender to the Lord.

Illustration: When the police arrest a man at gun point, he will lift his hands in surrender.

- ii) It is also a sign of trust and a longing for deeper fellowship.

Illustration: When a little child lifts his hands and asks to be picked up by his daddy.

b) **Clapping our hands in praise.**

Read Psalm 47:1-2

- i) This scripture refers to God’s awesomeness and triumph.

Illustration: We easily know how to do this in the sports stadium, when our team triumphs over their opponent. In a concert hall, where we are overwhelmed by good music, it just happens spontaneously.

How much more, when we consider God’s triumph over evil and His awesomeness, should that not move us to spontaneous actions.

- ii) The clapping of hands occurs most often in Scripture as a spontaneous reaction to excitement. It is not just an “instrument” with which we keep the beat of the song and music in the church.

c) **Dancing in praise of the Lord.**

Read Psalm 149:3; 2 Samuel 6:14-16

- i) Again, this is a spontaneous expression of joy and excitement.
- ii) In Scripture dancing was done mainly on special occasions.

Examples:

- When Israel had crossed the Red Sea, Miriam led the women in dancing. Exodus 15:20-21.
 - When the Ark was brought up to Jerusalem, King David danced.
 - When the paralytic was healed at the gate Beautiful in Jerusalem, he danced. Acts 3:8.
- iii) In Psalm 150, when David gives a list of instruments used in praising the Lord, he names “dancing” among them. It seems that arranged dance to music is indicated here. Jesus speaks about this in Matthew 11:17.

5. The use of instruments in praise is greatly encouraged in Scripture.

Read Psalm 150:3-5

“Praise Him with... trumpets, harp, lyre, tambourine, strings, flute and clash of cymbals”.

These were all the instruments of the day. We can surely add the instruments of our day. It seems clear that even the music itself was praise to God. So a drummer can praise the Lord with his drums, etc.

6. The Biblical words for praise.

That praise is active is clearly seen both in the Old Testament Hebrew and the New Testament Greek. The words for praise show full participation of spirit, soul and body.

a) **The Hebrew words for praise:**

i) **Yadah = praise.**

The root meaning of the word is: “to throw out your hands in confession”. Psalm 63:4.

ii) **Towdah = praise.**

Using the hands to signify the offering up of a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Psalms 50:23; 63:4.

iii) **Halal = praise.**

Hallelujah is derived from this word, which actually means: “to boast, to show, to rave, to celebrate, to be clamorously foolish in excitement and praise”. Psalm 98:4-6.

iv) **Shabach = praise.**

This word means: “To address in a loud tone of voice, to command, to triumph, to glory, to shout”. Psalm 47:1.

v) **Barak = praise.**

This word means: “To bless God as an act of adoration, to kneel down, to bow down, in an attitude of gratitude”. Psalm 95:6-7.

vi) **Zamar = praise.**

This word means: “To touch the strings in joyful music”. “To sing praises on the harp to God”. Psalm 147:7.

vii) **Tehellah = praise.**

This word means: “To sing psalms”. This is not really a learned form of singing, but more a spontaneous, inspired song (a “halal” song). As Paul puts it in Ephesians 5:18-19 – “Be filled with the Spirit, singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs”.

b) **Greek words for praise.**

i) **Ainos = praise.**

This word means: “to speak highly of”. Matthew 21:16. According to this word, a kind of perfect praise can even come out of the mouths of children.

ii) **Hymneo = praise.**

This word means: “to sing praises to God”. Matthew 26:30. That was what Jesus did on the way to the Cross.

iii) **Psallo = praise.**

This means to sing with stringed instruments. James 5:13.

All these words in Hebrew and Greek clearly show that praise is **active** rejoicing, **vocal** and often **loud** and **emotional**.

Teacher’s notes

This is an outline of the many Biblical methods of praise. This is not something that should be systematically learned and enforced, since praise and worship should well up from a heart full of gratitude and adoration.

Many other ways of praise and worship could be mentioned; surely Zacchaeus “praised” and “worshipped” Jesus by climbing the tree, as did Mary with her expensive perfume.

There could be many other spontaneous expressions of gratitude and adoration which are not even mentioned, but which flow from a thankful heart and which would be acceptable to God.

A sacrifice of praise

Lesson 4

A. Introduction

Read Psalm 27:6

Many people think that praise is something you only do when you feel like it and when everything is going well. That is totally wrong! Praise has nothing to do with what we feel. It has everything to do with **who God is**.

God should be praised at any time and all the time, because of who He is – a glorious, loving, merciful, never-changing God.

King David understood this when he sang: “I will bless the Lord at **all times**, His praise shall **continually** be in my mouth”. Psalm 34:1. This means that we will sometimes have to bring a **sacrifice** of praise.

Illustration: In the presence of an earthly king people celebrate, roll out the red carpet, present flowers and music, etc. Why do they do this? Is it because they are happy and feel like it? No! It is because he is the king.

B. What is a sacrifice of praise?

Read Romans 12:1-2

A *sacrifice* speaks of **death to something**. But God no longer requires animal sacrifices. He requires that we bring our bodies as **living sacrifices**. This means that we obey Him and **die to the world**, with its many desires and temptations. Galatians 6:14.

We are asked to let our mind be renewed by the Holy Spirit, so that it comes into line with His mind. **We have to die to self**.

C. A sacrifice is costly

Read 1 Chronicles 21:24. David would not bring a sacrifice to God that did not cost him something.

The cost is not just financial, but involves many other personal costs, as we see in the following points.

1. **Sacrifice our preconceived ideas.**

Read Proverbs 3:5

- a) When it comes to praise and worship, tradition and custom play a great role and tend to limit us. Where these do not line up with God’s requirements, we need to sacrifice them.

- b) The Holy Spirit may ask us to do things we have never done or heard of before:
 - i) Think of Abraham's call to worship God by sacrificing his own son.
 - ii) Think of Peter, who was asked to eat unclean animals.
 - iii) Think of the woman anointing Jesus' feet and wiping them with her hair.
 - iv) Think of Jesus putting mud on the eyes of a blind man.

The Spirit could still inspire some unusual activities.

2. Sacrifice our pride.

Read 1 Peter 5:6

- a) When we are encouraged to clap, to dance, to spin around, etc., our pride often gets in the way. But we need to put pride on the altar, obey God, and bring a sacrifice of praise.
- b) This was one of the things that made King David "a man after God's heart".

Read 2 Samuel 6:14-16 and 21-22. "He danced with all his might, ... he was leaping and whirling before the Lord".

When his own wife criticised him, he said: "It was before the Lord I danced, and I will even be more undignified than this **and be humbled** in my own sight".

David humbled himself, like Jesus did, and this speaks to us: "Let the same mind be in you". Philippians 2:5.

3. Sacrifice our feelings and emotions.

Read Psalm 42:11

We often allow our emotions to control our actions and our entire personality. The negative emotions, which try to hinder our praise to God, should be put on the altar and be brought to **God as a sacrifice of praise**.

Like David, we should take control of our emotions, and bring them into obedience to the Word of God. "Why are you cast down, my soul? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him".

4. Circumstances can cause our praise to be a sacrifice.

Read Habakkuk 3:17-19

- a) After reporting on the disastrous circumstances, the prophet says: "Yet I will rejoice in the Lord".
- b) After Job had lost all his property, all his animals, and his sons and daughters were killed in an accident, he fell to the ground, worshipped God and said: "The Lord gave, the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord". Job 1:20-21.

- c) If we keep on praising God in adverse circumstances, it will bring great change and release, as it did for Paul and Silas in prison. Acts 16:25-26.

5. Sacrifice of time and energy.

Read Psalm 34:1

There are some people who feel that it is a sacrifice to spend so much time and energy in praise and worship. They do not feel like standing in church for an hour, lifting their hands and clapping their hands after a hard week of working. They would rather spend their time with a good book and come to church late, just in time for the sermon!

Illustration: Maintaining a good marriage relationship costs time and energy. Without these things, the relationship will crumble.

This also goes for the most important relationship – of which marriage is just a shadow or illustration – our relationship with God.

D. How can we offer up a sacrifice of praise?

Read Hebrews 13:15

“**Through Him**” (Jesus) it is possible, “to continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God”.

“**Through Him**” – If we really get hold of that truth, we can say with Paul (Romans 8:28, 31-39):

1. “We know that **all things** work together for good for those who love Him”.
2. “If God is for us, who can be against us?”
3. “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?”
4. “**Through** all these things we are more than conquerors, **through Him** who loves us”.

“**Through Him**” we can continue to praise God – throughout it all.

E. It is possible by the Spirit within you

Read John 16:14; Isaiah 12:3-4

1. “He (The Spirit) shall glorify Me”. This is one of the main tasks of the Holy Spirit. Remember that He dwells in the spirit of any born-again believer.
2. Isaiah encourages us to draw water from **the well of salvation**, and to praise and exalt the Lord. Where is that “well” that we can constantly draw from?

Read Proverbs 4:23. “Guard your heart above anything else, for it is a **wellspring** of life”.

Not just a **well**, but a wellspring. What is that? A wellspring is a well with unlimited

underground resources. You can draw, and draw, and draw, and it will never run dry, not even in the worst drought.

In your heart (spirit) is such a wellspring with unlimited resources of love, joy, peace, praise, etc., because God's Spirit dwells there.

The problem is that a well can be neglected, or used very little.

Illustration: On every old Danish farm there is a big well in the middle of the yard, from which they used to get all their water. Modern times have now brought municipal water to each of the farms, so that they hardly use their wells any more. They now drink municipal water.

In these modern days, many Christians "drink from the municipal water" – the news, TV, gossip and rumours, and they hardly use the wonderful wellspring within them any more. Then they wonder why they are worried and depressed, and why the song and praise in their lives has stopped.

Praise in spiritual warfare

Lesson 5

A. Introduction

1. Spiritual warfare is inevitable.

Read Ephesians 6:10-18

The New Testament tells us clearly that there are powerful spiritual forces opposing us.

The enemy is organised like an army, with Satan at the head, with principalities, powers and rulers under him, and demons as “foot soldiers”. **Their target for war is God’s people.**

The actual physical wars fought by the people of God in the Old Testament are vivid pictures of the spiritual war we are involved in. In those wars, praise and shouting to God played a major role and brought God’s powerful intervention.

2. The spiritual and the natural.

Read Matthew 16:19; Daniel 10:12-13

Above any nation, city, town, village and church, probably even every home, are designated evil forces, which try to disturb and destroy God’s plan.

Jesus shows us that there is a clear link between the heavenlies (where the spiritual forces reside) and what happens on earth. He wants to use His church to break the demonic strongholds, both on earth and in the heavenlies.

B. The weapons of our warfare

1. “They are mighty in God”.

Read 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

So mighty that Jesus could say: “I give you authority over all the forces of the enemy”.

2. Let us mention some of these powerful weapons.

- a) **The Word of God:** also called “The sword of the Spirit”. Ephesians 6:17. This was the weapon that Jesus Himself used to defeat Satan. Luke 4:4,8.
- b) **The Blood of Christ:** Revelation 12:11 tells us that the believers overcame Satan by the Blood of the Lamb.
- c) **The Word of our Testimony:** again Revelation 12:11 “...and the word of their testimony”.

- d) **The Name of Jesus:** “In My name, you shall cast out evil spirits”. Mark 16:17. “Even the demons are subject to us in Your name”. Luke 10:17.
- e) **Praise and Worship:** Psalm 149:6-9.

A lot could be said about these different weapons, but in this study we will concentrate on the “weapon” of praise.

C. The powerful weapon of praise

1. Spoken about prophetically.

Read Genesis 49:8; Judges 1:1-2

Jacob prophesied over each of his sons just before he died. When he came to Judah (whose name means **praise**), he said: “Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies”. This indicates that praise is a powerful weapon against the enemy.

When Joshua died, the people asked the Lord: “who shall now go in front of us against the enemy?” The Lord answered: “**Judah** (Praise) shall go up before you”.

2. Praise will silence the enemy.

Read Psalm 8:2; Matthew 21:16

“From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger”.

Illustration: When the enemy attacks a person with accusations, condemnation or temptation, and that person starts to sing praises to God, the voice of the enemy will soon be silenced and praise will drive him away.

This is not only for mature Christians. Even the babes and infants in Christ can successfully use this weapon.

3. Praise will bind the enemy.

Read Psalm 149:6-9

- a) “With high praises in their mouth and a two-edged sword in their hands”, they will bind the kings and the “nobles” i.e. the principalities and powers. With our praises, we lift up the Word (the two-edged sword) in the face of the enemy.
- b) Most praise songs are based on the Word of God. We rejoice over the wonderful truths revealed in His Word, and over the fact that it is the sharp and powerful sword that drives away the enemy.

Illustration: After a period of trouble at the College, both in the spiritual and in the natural (with theft, etc.), the Lord spoke prophetically and advised us that the staff and students should march around the property singing and praising. It was a wonderful, victorious march, and after that all trouble stopped.

- c) This Scripture also indicates that there is a beautiful relationship between high praises and the preaching of the Word.

The high praises will bind the activities of the enemy, so that the Word can do its mighty work in the heart of man.

D. How to conduct spiritual warfare

1. Under God's direction.

Read 2 Chronicles 20:14-22; Judges 7:7 & 15-22

In the Old Testament, God's clear direction always had to be followed, even to the point of the seemingly ridiculous.

We should never try to dictate to God what He should do. We should just **obey, praise Him, stand in faith**, and **watch Him** deal with the enemy.

Illustration: The authorities in a South American town decided to close a church building because of some technical details. They announced that if anyone attended the church, they would be arrested. The next Sunday morning the pastor attended church alone. With his accordion he began to sing praises to the Lord and he then felt led to preach his sermon and even to give an appeal, in the empty hall. Two men rushed in through the door, fell on their knees and gave their lives to the Lord. They were two government officials who had been hiding outside to see if they could arrest anyone. The salvation of these two key men resulted in the whole case being dropped. **Praise won the victory!** (From J. Cornwall's book "Let us Praise".)

2. Praise releases God's power.

- a) **When Israel lifted their voices in praise**, the walls of Jericho came tumbling down.
- b) **When Gideon and his 300 men shouted to the Lord**, the enemy started to destroy one another.
- c) **When David magnified God**, his stone hit right between the eyes of the giant, Goliath.
- d) **When Elijah magnified God**, fire from heaven fell on the altar and Baal's prophets were defeated.
- e) **When Jehoshaphat's singers began to praise**, God defeated the enemy.
- f) **When Paul and Silas began to sing praises**, the prison doors flew open and all the prisoners' chains fell off.

Praise – What a wonderful weapon against the enemy!!!

3. Our part is to “stand” – God will fight for us.

Read 2 Chronicles 20:17 & Ephesians 6:13-14

- a) The Apostle Paul makes it very clear that the armour designed by God for us is not for attacking, but rather for standing firm and victorious against the enemy’s attack.

“Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to **stand** against the wiles of the devil”. “That you may be able to **stand** in the day of evil, having done all to **stand**. **Stand** therefore...”

- b) How should we “stand”?

- i) Stand in faith and obedience.
- ii) Stand with high praises in your mouth, on the solid ground of God’s Word.

Gideon’s men **stood** around the enemy camp and shouted God’s praise, and the Lord fought for them.

God said to King Jehoshaphat: “You do not need to fight. **Position** yourself, **stand** and see the salvation of the Lord”.

When they began to sing praises, the Lord sent an ambush against the enemy.

- c) **The weapon of praise leaves the battle to God.**

When praising God, we no longer focus on the problem or the enemy. We **focus on Christ, confess His Lordship, and rejoice in His strength and victory**. The problem we are facing becomes small, because we hand it over to Him.

Worship

Lesson 6

A. What is worship?

1. Definition:

Read John 4:23-24

- a) It is clear that worship is the most intimate form of relationship with God, where we dwell in His presence. True worship is the highest activity that any human being is capable of.
- b) The Greek word used here for worship, means: “To prostrate oneself in homage”, “to adore”, “to kiss”.
- c) When Jesus said: “The time has now come”, did He mean that the worship God seeks is only really possible after the cross?

Before the cross the Holy Spirit came “upon” people and “rested on” them, because of imperfect sacrifices that had to be offered again and again for their sin.

But after the cross, He said: “The Spirit shall be **in you**”. When Jesus met the disciples **after** the resurrection, He breathed upon them and said: “Receive the Holy Spirit”.

2. Worship in spirit.

Read Romans 8:15 and 26

God’s Spirit in us helps our spirit to reach the Father heart of God.

Man consists of three parts: spirit, soul and body. Our soul and body are very active in praise but, when it comes to worship, it is our spirit that is in direct communication with God, through the Holy Spirit. “We received the Spirit of adoption, by whom **we cry Abba Father**”.

Jesus said: “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him **must** worship **in spirit** and truth”. Our indwelling communication link with God is our helper, **the Holy Spirit**. “He shall glorify Me”.

God is Spirit; He **must** be approached in spirit. An unsaved person can have no fellowship with God, because the Spirit does not dwell in him.

3. Worship in truth.

Read John 14:6, 16:13, 17:17

Jesus is **the truth**, the Holy Spirit is **the Spirit of truth**, the Word is **the Word of truth**.

- a) We approach the Father **through Jesus**, the Mediator. “No one comes to the Father but by Me”.
- b) We approach the Father **in the Spirit of truth**. There is no room for dead ceremonies or a hypocritical show. “He (the Spirit) shall glorify Me”. All the focus is on Him, not on us.
- c) We approach God according to His revealed truth **in the Word of truth**.

Example: Millions of people all over the earth are worshipping, but not according to the Word of truth, and God does not hear them. When the Muslims very sincerely worship Allah, they believe that they are worshipping the only true God. But the true God’s name is not Allah! They refuse to worship Him according to the truth given in God’s Word. Therefore their worship is unacceptable, regardless of how sincere it may be.

Teacher’s notes

“**God is Spirit**”. Does that mean that He has no form; that He is just like the wind? **NO!**

God is a Spirit being, so great that He is far beyond our comprehension.

Dake, in his note with regards to John 4:23, writes: “*God is a person with a personal Spirit-body, a personal soul, and a personal Spirit. His body is of spiritual substance instead of flesh and bones*”.

Psalms 145:3 “**His greatness is unsearchable**”.

B. The difference between praise and worship

1. Praise and worship are interlinked.

Read Psalm 66:1-4.

When does praise become worship? It is not easy to say, and it can differ from one person to the next. It has nothing to do with the speed, volume or vigour of our activities.

It has to do with the deepest, most intimate part of man opening up and touching and communicating with God.

2. Some known differences:

- a) **Praise is always active**, seen and heard, but worship cannot always be observed:

Sometime the worshipper can be prostrate, “as dead” before the Lord, or sitting quietly in a corner in deep worship.

Praise is always obvious to others, but only God knows whether or not we are truly worshipping.

- b) **Praise can be distant**, but true worship is always intimate.

The whole of nature; the trees, mountains, sun, moon and stars are called to praise God. But only man can worship, because it involves intimate communion with God.

- c) **Praise is marching towards a goal – the manifest presence of God.**

We encourage one another. Worship is resting in God's presence in holy adoration.

C. How should we worship?

1. **God is looking for worshippers.**

Read John 4:23 again

We see that God does not need our praise. The whole of creation; the whole heaven is full of praise to Him. **But we need to praise Him!**

When it comes to worship, Jesus said: **“The Father seeks worshippers”**. He seeks them because He wants them. This is how man can step back into the close fellowship he had with God before the fall.

Notice that God seeks **worshippers**, not just worship. Notice also that Jesus does not use the title “God”, but “Father” speaking of a “sonship” relationship.

2. **No formulae are given.**

When it comes to praise, we are given clear instruction and detailed advice on how to praise. But not so with worship, because worship is a function of the heart and the heart will find its own expression in a variety of ways.

Example: When two people fall in love, they become very creative and inventive in their “worship” of each other.

3. **The original meaning of the Greek word for worship.**

“Proskuneo” = to kiss, like a dog licking his master's hand.

No! God does not look upon us as dogs, but He longs for us to have a similar faithfulness, worship-like dedication and excitement as a good dog has towards his master.

Example: Someone wrote about his dog, named Buster: “When I come home from church he greets me at the door. Even before I open it, I hear his tail thumping against

the wall and his paws scratching at the door. When I step inside he is all over me, jumping, licking, wagging his tail. You would think that he hadn't seen me for weeks".

Then there is a time when the dog comes to sit at his master's chair. He isn't satisfied with sitting next to his master; he has to place himself on top of his master's feet. Dogs desire closeness and physical contact with their masters.

Let us not be satisfied with just being near to the Lord. Let us come close to His heart in worship, let us lean against His breast.

4. A wonderful example of true worship.

Read Luke 7:36-50

- a) She had only one focus – to bless and worship the Lord.
- b) Nothing was too good or too expensive to give to Him.
- c) She did not just pour out her ointment, she poured out her heart, her soul, her everything at the feet of the Lord.
- d) Her action of washing His feet with her tears, drying them with her hair and anointing them with fragrant oil, was very unique; even strange, **but Jesus accepted it as an act of worship.**
- e) She did not allow any circumstances or difficulties to stop her from falling at the feet of the Lord; things like the doorkeeper or the critical eyes and remarks of the people around her.
- f) She was truly blessed by the Lord. She was cleansed, saved, filled with peace, and she carried the fragrance of her worship with her for weeks to come.

D. Results of worship

1. Changed into His likeness.

Read 2 Corinthians 3:18

By spending time in His presence, beholding Him, worshipping Him, we will be changed into His likeness.

It is a process. The more time we spend in His presence, the more we are changed: "We are constantly being transformed, into His image in an ever increasing splendour, from one degree of glory to another". (Amplified Bible)

The Bible points out in 2 Corinthians 3:7-8 that this would be even more glorious than what was experienced by Moses in God's presence; when he came out with his face shining with the glory of God.

2. True worship is spiritual union with God.

Read 1 Corinthians 6:16-17

“The one who joins the Lord is one spirit with Him”. Worship is spiritual union and is the only way our spirit can unite directly with God.

The text speaks about the strongest human union we know of – that two people can become one flesh (the context in this particular passage is negative).

Our union with God is so much more awesome and wonderful. Out of that union, wonderful spiritual fruitfulness will follow.

3. Hearing the voice of God.

Read Psalm 95:1-7

The Psalm begins with an encouragement to shout joyfully, to bring thanksgiving and praise. In verse 6 it speaks of worship, bowing down, kneeling before the Lord.

In the section about bowing before the Lord in worship, the Psalm speaks about hearing the voice of God, “Today if you hear the voice of God...”

When we have done all our shouting and praising, we find ourselves quieted, in a position of reverence before God, where we can hear His voice.

Prophetic Worship

Lesson 7

Introduction

We have seen in the previous chapter that worship is the most intimate form of fellowship with God. It is the place where we can clearly hear the voice of God. Therefore true worship is a wonderful encouragement and environment in which the prophetic can function.

A. Moving prophetically in worship

1. Music and worship as an inspiration and a platform for the prophetic.

Read 2 Kings 3:14-16

- a) We see from the context of the verses that the prophet was not actually in the mood to prophesy. But the king expected him to do so.

The Prophet said: “bring a musician to play and worship the Lord”. As he worshipped together with Elisha, the anointing came over the prophet and he began to prophesy.

- b) The same will happen in our churches today, if we enter God’s presence in true worship. The prophetic anointing will come over us.

2. The praise and worship leaders should be prophetically anointed.

Read 1 Chronicles 25:1 & 2 Chronicles 29:30

- a) King David chose worship leaders who prophesied, accompanied by music.

Asaph the psalmist and chief worship-leader is called a “seer” (prophet). (He wrote several of the psalms in the Bible.)

- b) To move prophetically in worship means that the worship leader and the team discern the way the Spirit is leading, and then help the people of God to move in that direction, which could be into spiritual warfare, or into repentance, or into intimate worship and adoration of God, etc.

This could create an environment for the prophetic ministry to function in different ways and could mean that the “Spirit of prophecy” may fall on the whole congregation and all would be prophetically inspired.

Teacher's notes

The Bible gives four categories of people who prophesy:

1. People moved by the Spirit of prophecy. 1 Samuel 19:20-23 & Acts 19:6.
2. People moving in the Gift of prophecy. 1 Corinthians 12:10.
3. A prophet (one of the fivefold ministries). Ephesians 4:11 & Acts 13:1.
4. A false prophet. Matthew 24:11.

3. Even the music itself can be prophetic.

Read 1 Samuel 16:23

Here David played on his harp and as a result King Saul became refreshed and well.

Today someone can also play the piano, or the violin, or the trumpet, etc., under a prophetic anointing. The whole congregation would sit quietly before the Lord and listen to the music and be ministered to.

B. Prophetic songs

1. The song of the Lord.

Read 2 Chronicles 29:27; 1 Chronicles 25:5-7

- a) We see how King David had 288 people who were trained to be very skilful in “the song of the Lord”. The expression “the song of the Lord” can also be translated “the song **to** the Lord”.

Heman, who was a prophet, had fourteen sons and three daughters, who were led by their father, and they were all part of this wonderful worship team. No doubt their song was anointed and inspired, magnifying God.

The equivalent of this today is the praise and worship team, trained and skilled, and led by prophetically anointed people.

- b) “The song of the Lord” is also understood to be when a person breaks forth in an improvised, highly inspired song to the Lord.
- c) A whole congregation can break forth in a song to the Lord, in an unknown tongue. 1 Corinthians 14:15b.

2. Spiritual songs.

Read Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16.

Three types of song are mentioned here: **psalms**, **hymns** and **spiritual songs**. Notice that they should all come from our hearts (spirit): “Sing in your heart to the Lord”.

Notice also that they should all well up from Spirit-filled anointing: “Be filled (continually) with the Spirit, so that you speak to one another in **psalms, hymns and spiritual songs**, making melody in your heart to the Lord”.

What is the difference between these three?

- a) **Psalms:** These were psalms out of the holy Scripture (the book of Psalms and other Scriptures) that were sung. We also sing Scriptural songs today.
- b) **Hymns:** These could be songs composed by men and women, as we have today. Throughout the history of the church, mightily inspired and anointed men and women have written songs that glorify God and edify the believers.

Colossians 3:16 “Teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs”. These songs are sung under the Holy Spirit’s anointing.

- c) **Spiritual songs:** These are the songs that spontaneously arise from our spirit to the Lord.
 - i) They can be in our mother tongue, or in an unknown tongue. (One person, or the whole congregation singing together.)
 - ii) Each worshipper is able to sing his/her own unique spiritual song to the Lord.
 - iii) They can be improvised to an easy tune, or to the tune of a well-known chorus, which has just been sung.

What we today understand as “the song of (to) the Lord” is when a person or a congregation breaks forth in an improvised, highly inspired song to God. (Both lyrics and melody can be inspired.)

- iv) Another level of spiritual song is the “**prophetic song**” where the Lord, through a person, sings to His people.

This is the Bridegroom singing to His bride, bringing comfort and exhortation, edifying her for “the great day”.

The Tabernacle of David

Lesson 8

A. Introduction

1. What is the Tabernacle of David?

Read 1 Chronicles 16:1

The Tabernacle of David was a tent that King David erected on Mount Zion, to house the Ark of the Covenant. (The presence of God in the midst of His people.)

The structure and the way it functioned was very different from the old Tabernacle of Moses, which still stood up in the North, in a town called Shiloh.

The Tabernacle of David was born through revelation, which came from the deep, intimate fellowship David had with God. His complete **trust** in God, his wonderful **praise**, deep **worship**, his **love-relationship** with God and his **lavish giving** to the house of God was new and exceptional. **But God loved it!** David was a **man after God's own heart**.

2. Restoration of David's Tabernacle.

Read Amos 9:11; Acts 15:16

Both the prophet Amos and the Apostle James foretell that God will rebuild the Tabernacle of David, which has fallen down.

Jesus confirms this when He says: "It is not on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem that you will worship the Father, but the time has come, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth, **for the Father seeks such to worship Him**".
John 4:21-23.

David was ahead of his time; in intimate worship and in his love-relationship with the Father.

The Father God loved it so much that He said: That is what I am seeking among men, this is a **model** of what I will restore through the Greater David (Jesus) of whom King David was just a **shadow or a type**.

B. What did David have that God wants to restore today?

1. David's first and foremost desire was to be in the presence of God.

Read Psalm 27:4-6, 26:8

That was why he brought the Ark of the Covenant up to David's city, and placed it in the tabernacle he had erected on Mount Zion.

David said: “I want to dwell in His tabernacle all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord”. “I love the habitation of Your house, the place where Your glory dwells”.

We read how King David went in and **sat before the Lord**, in deep worship. 2 Samuel 7:18. He mentions three things that he did before the Lord:

- a) He beheld the beauty and glory of the Lord. This was a deep form of worship.
- b) He enquired in His temple. He asked questions and conversed with the Lord.
- c) He offered a sacrifice of joy. He was singing praises to God.

Can you imagine David sitting in there, in front of the Ark, lost in God’s glory, singing and talking with God? God wants us to do the same. We can boldly enter in, through the blood of Christ. **The way to His Father heart is restored.**

The Apostle Paul wonderfully confirms this when he says: “All we who with unveiled faces behold the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image, from one degree of glory to another”. 2 Cor.3:16-18. He tells us in verse 16 that this door into the presence and glory of God is restored **for anyone who has received Christ. Let us, like David, enter in!**

2. David praised and worshipped in spirit and truth.

Read Psalm 103:1

- a) “**All that is within me** bless His holy name”. “David danced before the Lord **with all his might**”. Never before in the history of man, and probably not since, was there a person who so completely and creatively gave himself to the Lord in praise and worship. **God delighted in it.**
- b) David encouraged and equipped many around him to come before the Lord in true worship. He chose four thousand musicians to sing and play on instruments, some of which **he himself had made**. 1 Chronicles 23:5. He created new instruments for his worship team, instruments suited for a worship team of four thousand, and a congregation sometimes of millions.
- c) When David spent time in the Tabernacle in the presence of God, he may have seen the tremendous, powerful worship around the throne of God. In his zeal and love for God he may have tried to reproduce it, on a smaller scale. God loved it, and said through His Prophet Amos: “**This is what I want to restore in My church**”.

3. David was a generous giver.

Read 1 Chronicles 29:2-5

Here David displayed another form of worship to God. He **gave with all his might**. If his giving were compared to today’s currency, it would run into multi-millions of US dollars that David gave to the building of the house of God.

God also wants to restore this type of worship in His church today, so that His “house” can be built all over the world.

4. **David ministered as a priest of another order.**

Read 2 Samuel 6:14-19

David was not a priest in the line of Aaron, who were the only ones allowed to enter the Tabernacle and to sacrifice to God (anyone who violated this holy duty was struck dead by God).

Yet David dressed in an ephod (the priestly garment), was sacrificing to the Lord and entering right in before the Ark of the Covenant! God did not react in anger but, instead, received his ministry with great delight. Why?

It was because David’s dedication and lifestyle was so far ahead of his time, that he became a “**type**” of something God would restore in Christ – a “**priesthood of believers**” who will worship like David worshipped, who will give like David gave, and who will glory in His presence, like David did.

C. **The result in David’s time**

1. **The house of God was built in great glory.**

Read 1 Chronicles 28:11-12

David received the plans for the Temple, its ministries and ministers, before the face of God. We read: “David gave Solomon the plans of all **the Spirit had put in his mind**, for the Temple of the Lord”. He put all the ministries in their proper place, by revelation from God.

Today, if we will enter into “the restored Tabernacle of David”, the same thing will happen. **His church will be built in glory**; there will be divine order in the ministries.

2. **The Kingdom was expanded as never before.**

Read Acts 15:16-17

The Kingdom under David was expanded right from the Brook of Egypt to the River Euphrates. The Apostle James said: “When the Tabernacle of David is restored, **the rest of mankind, even the Gentiles may seek the Lord**”.

3. **The enemies were completely defeated.**

Read 1 Chronicles 14:17. The enemies trembled and no one could stand against him.

Let us today enter into the restored “Tabernacle of David” – that is, into deep fellowship with God, into praise, worship and adoration of God, with all our might.

And we will have the same wonderful results. The Lord will be glorified in His Church and multitudes of people, all over the earth, will seek the Lord!!!

Teacher's notes

David the King, the Priest, the Prophet. (A type of Christ, "the greater David".)

David, in prophetic understanding, brought the Ark (God's glory and presence) up to Mount Zion, not back to Shiloh, where the Tabernacle of Moses stood empty. He placed it in a tent he had erected.

This has great prophetic significance. "Zion" in the New Testament stands for the Church. "Behold I lay in Zion a Chief-cornerstone, he who believes in Him, will not be put to shame". 1 Peter 2:6.

Jesus is the Chief-cornerstone in the Church (Zion).

Jesus our High Priest, not of the line of Aaron but of the line of Judah, will restore and bring God's manifest presence and glory back into the midst of His Church!!!

David didn't build a building, he arranged a people, a leadership. He equipped them and he arranged wonderful activities before the presence of God.

Solomon, his son, built the most glorious, magnificent temple that the world had ever seen. Yet God didn't say: "I will rebuild the fallen temple of Solomon". But He said, in these days "**I will rebuild the fallen Tabernacle of David**".

There is a literal fulfilment of this prophecy for the nation of Israel, but also a wonderful spiritual fulfilment for the spiritual Israel (the Church).

What time is it that God is speaking about? According to Amos 9:11-15 it is the time when the Israelites return to their land, rebuild their cities and plant vineyards and fruit gardens: "I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them, says the Lord your God".

This appears to be our time!