

The Power of Praise

2Ch 20:12-22 NIV ...For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." 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 on 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,** 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 down 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 **a very loud voice.** (20) Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the LORD your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful." (21) After consulting the people, **Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness** as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "**Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever.**" (22) **As they began to sing and praise, the LORD set ambushes** against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated.

The Presence & Power of God

- 2 Chronicles 5:13-14 The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to give praise and thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, they raised their voices in praise to the LORD and sang: "**He is good; his love endures forever.**" Then the temple of the LORD was filled with a cloud, 14 and **the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the temple of God.**
- 2 Kings 3:14-16 Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD Almighty lives, whom I serve, if I did not have respect for the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at you [*Joram, king of Israel*] or even notice you. 15 But now bring me a harpist." **While the harpist was playing, the hand of the LORD came upon Elisha** 16 and he said, "This is what the LORD says: Make this valley full of ditches.
- 1 Sam 16:23 Whenever the spirit from God came on Saul, **David would take up his lyre and play.** Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, **and the evil spirit would leave him.**

- Act 16:25-26 NIV About midnight Paul and Silas **were praying and singing hymns to God**, and the other prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose.

How We Express Praise Unto God

In the Hebrew language praise is very descriptive and multi-faceted. It gives us a glimpse into how God desires us to praise Him.

Barak to kneel and bless God as an act of adoration

- Psa 95:6 NIV Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

Yadah to worship with an extended hand

- Psa 63:4 NIV I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.

Karar to dance

- 2Sa 6:16 NIV As the ark of the LORD was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, she despised him in her heart.

Halal to rave about, to boast, to celebrate, to be clamorously foolish

- Psa 113:1-2 NIV Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, you his servants; praise the name of the LORD. (2) Let the name of the LORD be praised, both now and forevermore.

Shabach a shout or command; to address in a loud tone

- Psa 106:47 KJV Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the heathen, to give thanks unto thy holy name, **and to triumph in thy praise.**

Taqa (Taqua) to clap hands

- Psa 47:1-2 NIV For the director of music. Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm. Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. (2) For the LORD Most High is awesome, the great King over all the earth.

Todah (Towdah) same root as yadah, but literally means an extension of the hands in a adoration

- Psa 141:2 NIV May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.

Zamar to touch strings, play an instrument in worship

- Psa 33:2-3 NIV Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. (3) Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.

Tehillah to sing a spontaneous unrehearsed song - some refer to this as "singing in the spirit" - or singing a new song.

- Psa 40:3 NIV He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the LORD and put their trust in him.

God is Seeking People To Worship Him

Joh 4:23 NIV Yet a time is coming and has now come when **the true worshipers** will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for **they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks**.

He Helps Us

He creates praise on the lips

- Isaiah 57:18-19 I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will guide him and restore comfort to him, 19 **creating praise on the lips** of the mourners in Israel. Peace, peace, to those far and near," says the LORD. "And I will heal them."

He gives us a garment of praise

- Isaiah 61:3 ...to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and **a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair...**

He puts a new song in our mouths

- Psa 40:3 3 **He put a new song in my mouth**, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.

He turns our mourning into dancing

- Psa 30:11-12 ESV **You have turned for me my mourning into dancing**; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, (12) that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

His Power and Presence

Psa 22:3 KJV But thou art holy, **O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.**

Psa 100:4-5 NIV **Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise**; give thanks to him and praise his name. 5 For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.