

Notes for the Ekklesia Meeting

Info: (651) 283-0568 Discipleship Training Ministries, Inc www.dtmnc.org Today's Date: June 5, 2010

Laying Down a Foundation of Worship

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“Shout joyfully to Yahweh, all the earth. ² Serve Yahweh with gladness; come before Him with joyful singing. ³ Know that Yahweh Himself is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. ⁴ Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name. ⁵ For Yahweh is good; His loyal-love is everlasting and His faithfulness to all generations.” Psalm 100:1-5

One of the fundamental spiritual principles to keep in mind in any ministry effort is that we want to be sure we have the blessing of God upon us. Before anything else, we must be sure that we are in His will, following His leading, and not going off into areas of our own initiative or by our own strength. God is our Source. Without Him, we can accomplish nothing of significance. Devoting time to God in heartfelt worship serves to keep Him, His love, His provisions, and His purposes central in our thoughts. It helps us to cleanse ourselves of those ideas and agendas that are of our own imagination, and brings us to a place of submission and openness to do His will, no matter what the challenge. We are encouraged as we remember Who He is, and what He has done in the past. We celebrate His extravagant love and blessing, and we are fortified by His wonderful exploits in the past to move out confidently in obedience to His counsel to us today. Praise invites the presence of God, for He “dwells in the praises” of His people (Psa. 22:3). When we honor Him, and make Him our celebrated guest, He will meet with us.

Some Biblical Names For God:

Elohim - Creator and Possessor of Heaven and Earth – Gen. 1:1. (Generic word for “God, a god” is *El*, from a root word meaning, “power”. *El* means “god, God; mighty one; strength”. It was the most common word for the personal “God” among Semitic peoples of ancient times. *Elohim* is a plural form occurring 2602x in OT. The plural is used to signify greatness or magnificence when speaking of the true God,...and may also be a hint at the Trinity.)

Eloah – God who is to be revered and worshipped – It is related to *Elohim*, but in connection with His *will*, not His power (58x in OT - Deut. 32:15,17; Neh. 9:17; Job. 27:10; Psa. 18:31; Hab. 3:3.)

Elyon – Dispenser of His blessings over all, and in all the earth – Dividing to the nations their inheritance (From a root meaning “high, upper” - 53x in OT – Gen. 14:18 – “El Elyon” – God Most High.).

Yahweh – This is the covenant name of God. It means “He is” or “He will be”. It occurs more than *any other word* in the OT, 6828x! The thrust of the name is that **God is unchanging, a faithful, dependable, covenant-keeping God** – Ex. 3:13-15; 6:1-8.

Some Biblical Words for Worship:

Yadah (yaw-daw) – Literally, it means “to throw, cast”; in the causative stem it means “to worship, give thanks, offer praise with extended hands” (the Heb. for “hand” is “*yad*”, therefore “*yadah*” as a verbal form, meaning “to gesture, extend or throw up the hands”. [This is part of the verb itself. The passages that refer to “I lift my hands up” are *additional* examples of this well-established expression of worship in Hebrew culture.] – Occurs 114x in OT, often translated as “to give thanks” [74x], or “to confess” [17x], but translated as “to praise” some 20 times.) – I Chron. 29:13; Gen. 29:35 (the name “Judah” was derived from this verb); Lev. 5:5 (translated as “confess”); II Chron. 7:3.

Halal (haw-lawl) – Literally, it means “to shine; to flash forth; to be boastful”. In the intensive stem, it means “to praise; to clamorously, foolishly celebrate [I Chron. 16:4]; to rave; to shout for joy, cry aloud [I Chron. 23:5,30]; to be worthy of praise [II Sam. 22:4]”. This word seems to be even more physical than *yadah*. It occurs 167x in OT. It is often used in compound with the name, Yahweh – “*Hallelu-yah*”, or “praise Yahweh [Psa. 135:3].

Barak (baw-rak) – To “kneel down” as an act of adoration and submission. The word, *berek*, means “knee”. *Barak* is a related verbal form, so “kneeling” would be understood. It is usually translated as “bless” in English. Gen. 24:48; Psa. 16:7; 28:6; 95:6; 103:1,2; 134:1,2; II Chron. 6:13; Neh. 9:5. The root word and its derivatives occurs 415 times in the OT.

Shabach (shaw-bach) – To “verbally praise” God in a loud tone (Similar to *halal*, but this word focuses more on verbal and vocal praise.) – 8x in the OT. – Psa. 63:4; 117:1; 145:4; 147:12.

Shachah (shaw-khaw) – To “bow down” or “prostrate oneself” in submission, showing honor to our King. 172x in the OT, most commonly translated as “worship” in our English translations.

All are called to Praise the Lord in expression.

“I will tell of Your name to my brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise You. ²³ You who fear Yahweh, praise Him; all you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, and stand in awe of Him, all you descendants of Israel. ...From You comes my praise in the great assembly; I shall pay my vows before those who fear Him.”

Psa. 22:22,23,26

Instruments and shouts, for the Lord is good!

“Sing for joy in Yahweh, O you righteous ones; praise is becoming to the upright. ² Give thanks to Yahweh with the lyre; sing praises to Him with a harp of ten strings. ³ Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully with a shout of joy.”

Psa. 33:1-3

“Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. ⁷ For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a skillful psalm.”

Psalm 47:6-7

Women, men, old and young dancing with joy before God.

“Then the virgin will rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old, together, for I will turn their mourning into joy and will comfort them and give them joy for their sorrow.”

Jeremiah 31:13

We can actually teach and admonish each other as we creatively sing and dance to the Lord!

“Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom (skill) teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

Colossians 3:16-17

A prophetic word about our time together:

Psa. 29:2b – “Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness” (KJV)

“Worship the Lord in holy array.” (NASB)

“The holiness, the loveliness of God’s people – each carrying an array of His design and creativity – colorful!”

(Clothes denote this expression.) When we choose to *lose ourselves*, and *give full expression* in our worship to GOD, then we are “creating a culture evidenced by signs and wonders.”

Worship is a lifestyle. Praise is an expression of worship. And there is one standard – Psalm 100:

“Enter His gates *with thanksgiving* and His courts *with praise*.” (NASB).

This encompasses all other acts of expression. We are going after the joyful, exuberant expression of praise in our time together this night!

“Yahweh *is near* to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. ¹⁹ He will fulfill the desire of those who revere Him; He will also hear their cry and will save them.” Psalm 145:18-19