

## Let us Praise and Worship the LORD

The Aaronic Priests entered daily into the Tabernacle of Moses and later into the Temple of Solomon as a pre-requisite of their call and service unto the LORD. Today we as part of HIS Royal Priesthood must not neglect our call and service by putting other interests and responsibilities ahead of meeting HIM daily just to praise and worship Who HE is in our lives.

The Tabernacle of Moses had gates which led into the courts – believers could enter into through these gates and into the courts. The priests could move through the courts to minister to the LORD in the Holy Place. Once a year, the High Priest entered into the Holy of Holies which contained the Ark of the Covenant.

The Holy of Holies was the earthly type of the Heavenly Throne Room of GOD. The Ark, covered with the Mercy Seat was the type of the Throne of GOD.

To be in the Holy of Holies was to be in the very Presence of GOD.

At the very moment JESUS died on the Cross, the veil which separated man from GOD was SUPERNATURALLY torn from top to bottom. Man no longer needed to be separated from GOD because of sin – now men and women (as believer-priests) could be forgiven and boldly enter into the Presence of GOD.

In the same way as the Old Testament priests progressed from the courts to the Holy Place and then into the Holy of Holies, there is a progression of entering into the Presence of GOD for us today. We know we need to enter into this awesome Presence of GOD daily in our own private time of praise – when we don't we feel the emptiness in our hearts as our CREATOR calls us to draw near to HIM. We are to enter in corporately with fellow believers (as we are part of the Body of CHRIST), but must never neglect finding time to spend with HIM on our own. To enter in requires an act of obedience on our part. GOD desires that we enter into HIS Presence, but we must take the initiative to do so.

David instructs us to:

<p><b>Psa 100:4</b> Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, <i>and</i> into His courts with praise; be thankful to Him, <i>and</i> bless His name.</p>
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We cannot enter HIS gates with ungrateful hearts. Our first songs as we are entering into Praising our LORD should be ones that express our heartfelt thanksgiving for Who HE is to us.

We come through the gates into the courts as we progress into HIS Presence. We cannot go charging into the Holy of Holies. We cannot enter into this most intimate time of awesome Worship before we have first spend time in the court (of thanksgiving) on the way to the Holy of Holies.

In the courts we praise – we enter into joyful singing, music, clapping and raising of hands and dancing before the LORD as we express our praise.

As we spend time in the courts, we can feel a drawing within our spirits to come closer to GOD. Overcome by Who He is, we enter into a higher form of Praise, we enter into the inner courts, into the Holy Place in Worship.

Dancing and clapping make way for a deeper awareness of HIS Presence and we raise our hands to HIM in awesome reverence. The pace of the music slows down and the Presence of GOD is almost overwhelming.

As we stay in HIS Presence, pressing in, sometimes all we can do is to become completely silent in HIS Holy Presence, the focus now completely off ourselves or those around us and completely set on HIM alone – standing in HIS Presence and lost in HIS love.

Now we are in the Holy of Holies – in the closest and most intimate Presence of GOD – the anointing and power is beyond description. Many bow themselves or lay prostrate before HIM.

1 Kings 8:10 - 11 is a beautiful description of the time when the Ark of the Covenant was brought into Solomon's Temple.

**1Ki 8:10** And it happened when the priests had come out of the Holy of Holies, the cloud filled the house of Jehovah.

**1Ki 8:11** And the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of Jehovah had filled the house of Jehovah.

How sad that so many believers today have never experienced this. We should prepare our hearts and enter into HIS Presence according to HIS instructions and pattern. This is only possible when we consecrate ourselves to the LORD, releasing our bodies, souls and spirits into a free and prolonged expression of unrestricted praise while we are in the courts.

We should continue to draw closer to GOD. HE desires an intimate relationship with each of HIS children. These close moments can only be embraced unless we press in, closer and closer, until we are totally at one with HIM. GOD desires these moments of intimacy with each of one of us. Our hearts must be committed and continually longing for these precious, holy, indescribable moments of true Worship.

Once we have entered in, we must not shrink back from HIS awesome Presence. We must hold on and remain – as we do our lives will be changed. In this intimate closeness, an “impossible-to-remove” impression of HIS character is made upon our spirits. The more time we spend totally in HIS Presence, totally intimate with HIM, the more our spirits are conformed to HIS image, the more our lives will be changed into the image of HIS SON JESUS, the more we will become like HIM.

It is in the Throne Room that the highest level of communion takes place. It is here that we can clearly hear from the LORD. Our heart cry should agree with that of David when he wrote the following in Psalms 42:1-2

**Psa 42:1** ...As the hart pants after the water brooks, so my soul pants after You, O God.  
**Psa 42:2** My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; when shall I come and appear before God?

Think of King David, it was he who brought the Ark back to Jerusalem after it had been captured. David was a man who had a heart after GOD and who sought continually after HIS Presence. For forty years, until the building of the Temple of Solomon, the Ark representing the Presence of GOD, dwelt in the Tabernacle of David. There was no veil which separated man from GOD. The Ark was in full view of all the worshippers. The only sacrifices in the Tabernacle of David were the continued sacrifices of Praise to the LORD. The Tabernacle of David has become the pattern of Worship for the Church today.

**Amo 9:11** In that day I will raise up the booth of David that has fallen, and close up its breaks; and I will raise up its ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old;  
**Amo 9:12** so that they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the nations *on* whom My name is called, says Jehovah who is doing this.

Today, we have the awesome privilege of experiencing the fulfilment of these prophecies as GOD is restoring true praise and worship to HIS Church. Like David, let each of us desire streams of living water during these times of refreshing. Let us move into HIS Presence and release our spirits in fresh, new and powerful expressions of praise to GOD.

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