

RE-DIG THE WELL!

INTRODUCTION

Last week Cheryl and I watched a message of Jentezen franklin titled "Dig it". He spoke about the wells that Abraham had dug which the Philistines filled after his death, and how it was necessary for Isaac to come and re-dig those wells.

Jentezen reminded us that there are some spiritual wells dug by those who came before us, which the enemy has clogged up, and it's time to re-open these wells. For us at Christian Heritage Church, praise and worship is one of those wells. For as long as I can remember, this church has had an amazing music ministry. Whether it was the choir in the 1970's or the worship teams we have had over the years, we have been blessed with powerful praise and worship in this church.

We still have an amazing worship team. In fact, I believe the current team has the potential to take us to levels of worship and the presence and manifest glory of God in ways that we've never experienced before.

Why would I say praise and worship in our church is a well that needs to be re-dug? I have noticed over the past while that we are not entering into the Lord's presence the way we used to. We no longer clap the way we used to, we no longer dance the way we used to, we don't cry out to God in the midst of His presence the way we used to. Some people prefer to sit down when it seems a bit longer. I'm now not referring to those who sit down because of health reasons, but rather those who simply "switch off".

There is a real risk of losing out on the blessings of God that are found in His manifest presence when His people enter into corporate worship so I want to spend some time speaking about praise and worship this morning to challenge us to go from glory to glory and reach new heights of worship together as a church.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP NEEDS TO BE RESTORED

David is known as the "Sweet Psalmist of Israel". He established praise that ran 24/7. He was a man after God's own heart!

The prophet Amos spoke of the Church in **Amos 9:11**" On that day I will raise up The tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, And repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, And rebuild it as in the days of old;

This prophecy was interpreted by the leaders of the first century Church as being fulfilled in their day:

Acts 15:16-17' After this I will return And will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, And I will set it up; 17 So

that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, Says the LORD who does all these things.'

The Church is the restored Tabernacle of David, the place where Christ is worshiped, speaks prophetically and exercises His authority. The church must therefore flow in Davidic worship. If this happens, there will be a great harvest of souls!

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF PRAISE & WORSHIP?

We know that for Christians, worship is a lifestyle. It is part of our everyday walk with the LORD. It includes studying the Word, prayer, praise & worship and many other aspects, but today I am only focusing on corporate music & singing (praise & worship) and its significance.

If we want to restore Davidic praise and worship, we need to read what David wrote about it so we look in the Psalms. We actually need to look to 3 words, **Thanksgiving, Praise & Worship.**

Psalm 100:4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise.

THANKSGIVING – Towdah – means a **sacrifice** of thanksgiving – it means crucifying the flesh! Ps 107:1 & 22.

PRAISE

Psalm 150:1-6 Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. 2 Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. 3 Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, 4 praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute, 5 praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. 6 Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.

Hebrew verbs used by David to describe PRAISE:

- **Hallah** – to shine, boast, celebrate, confess the Word.
 - **Psa 35:18** I will give You thanks in the great assembly; I will praise You among many people.
- **Tehillah** – to sing or laud – high praises
 - **Psa 96:2 Sing** to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.
- **Shabach** – Shout.
 - **Psalm 33:3** Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy.
- **Yadah** – lifted hands, reverence.
 - **Psa 134:2 Lift up your hands** in the sanctuary, And bless the LORD.
- **Barak**– to kneel, bless, salute.

- **Psa 96:2** Sing to the LORD, **bleſs** His name; Proclaim the good news of His ſalvation from day to day.
- **Zamar** – To make music in praise – literally, pick the ſtrings.
 - **Pſalm 92:3** On an instrument of ten ſtrings, On the lute, And on the harp, With harmonious ſound.

Praise is a ſign of life - A church that does not praise is dead!

Isaiah 38:18-19 For the grave cannot praise you, death cannot ſing your praise; thoſe who go down to the pit cannot hope for your faithfulness. 19 The living, the living—they praise you, as I am doing today;

Church, is this life evident in our corporate praise and worship? Do we ſtill boast about God, ſing our lungs out, ſhout, lift hands, kneel, revere and bleſs God with every fiber of our being? Or is it poſſible that once again the Tabernacle of David has fallen down and needs to be rebuilt at Christian Heritage?

David danced with all his might before the Ark as they brought it back to Jeruſalem. His wife Michal watched and deſpised him. Here is his reſponse:

2 Samuel 6:21-22 So David ſaid to Michal, “It was before the Lord, who choſe me inſtead of your father and all his houſe, to appoint me ruler over the people of the Lord, over Iſrael. Therefore I will play music before the Lord. 22 And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own ſight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have ſpoken, by them I will be held in honor.”

Do we dance before the Lord or are we too dignified for that? Michal became barren because ſhe deſpised David for praising – having a negative attitude toward praise can reſult in ſpiritual barrenneſs!

God will honour the man, woman and child that chooſes to loſe themſelves in worſhip of the King of Kings.

WORSHIP

The word worſhip comes from combining the words: **worth & ſhip**. The beſt word to deſcribe worſhip is “proſkuneo” which means:

- “proſ” – kiſſ
- “kuneo” – towards

John 4:23 (NKJV). But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worſhipers will worſhip the Father in ſpirit and truth; for the Father is ſeeking ſuch to worſhip Him.

Worſhiping in ſpirit & in truth – it involves our entire being:

- Spirit – pneuma – ſpirit man.

- Truth – aletheia – correct or what is seen – in other words our physical man

Psalm 42:7 - deep calls to deep – it involves a depth of intimacy between us & the LORD.

I challenge us this morning to re-discover the Worth-Ship of the Living God and enter into INTIMATE worship with Him.

WHY IS PRAISE & WORSHIP REALLY SO IMPORTANT TO US?

1. Singing was involved in creating the earth!

Job 38:4-7"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. 5 Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? 6 To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, 7 When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?"

- The stars and angels sing.

2. All creation sings – singing is built into the blueprint of creation

- Psalm 148:3 – Praise Him: sun & moon, stars, heavens and waters above the heavens
- Psalm 98:7 – Sea roars praise, rivers clap their hands, hills are joyful together.
- 1 Chronicles 16:33 Heavens rejoice, sea roars, fields rejoice, trees rejoice.
- Isaiah 55:12 – "For you shall go out with joy, And be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills Shall break forth into singing before you, And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
- **Psalm 150:6 tells everything that has breath to praise the LORD!**

3. God is involved in our praise and worship!

Jesus sang hymns with his disciples: **Mat 26:30** And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Zepheniah 3:17 The LORD your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

Psalm 22:3 (AMP) But You are holy, O You who are enthroned in [the holy place where] the praises of Israel [are offered].

God dances over us with singing! We build a throne for Him when we praise and worship Him, and He inhabits our praises.

God would not inhabit our praises, nor sing and dance over us if our praise and worship were not important!

PRAISE & WORSHIP IS STRUCTURED LIKE THE TABERNACLE

The gates and the courts

Psalm 100:4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise.

- We enter the spiritual temple's gates with thanksgiving, then I come to:
 - The altar of sacrifice – sometimes it is not easy to praise.
 - The laver - repentance – clean hands & a pure heart – Psalm 24vs4.

The Holy Place

Once we have brought thanksgiving and praise, we move into the high praises and we enter the Holy Place.

- **Psalm 149:6** Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand,
- **This is a place of spiritual warfare.**
- We praise Jesus – represented by the showbread.
- We offer up our praise – it is a type of prayer and is represented by the altar of incense.

The Holy of Holies

This is when we come into that place where we know and experience the tangible presence of God – His shekinah glory.

- Only the priest is allowed to enter and we, 1 Peter 2 tells us as New Testament believers, are kings & priests so we have right to enter boldly into the LORD's presence.
- This is when worship becomes intimate – proskuneo – we kiss-toward our LORD.
- If the priest's heart was not right, he would not come out alive. If we want to be in the intimate tangible Holy Place in the Father's presence, our heart must be right.
- When we are here, spiritual gifts are manifest – tongues, interpretation, prophecy, word of wisdom & knowledge & discernment, healings & miracles.

CONCLUSION

Praise & worship is God ordained – not only did God create worship & music but He has also aligned the order of our worship with the tabernacle which was His initial place of having fellowship with His people.

The old chorus went like this, "Praise is the power of heaven".

Psalm 148:14 And He has exalted the horn of His people, the praise of all His saints-- Of the children of Israel, A people near to Him.

Church, I challenge you today, unstop the ancient well of corporate praise and worship. Let us re-energise ourselves in praise and worship. If necessary, bring it as a sacrifice! Set aside your dignity and praise the God that made you with every fibre of your being.

Let us be the people that Jesus our Saviour spoke of who "worship in spirit and in truth".

As we follow God's ordained pattern and come with open hearts, we will experience His presence and blessing in our lives and in our church in an amazing way.

THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID *by Bob Johnson, ZionSong Ministries*

What is the Tabernacle of David?

The Tabernacle of David is the name given to the tent that King David set up on Mount Zion in Jerusalem to house the Ark of the Covenant. It was the center of a new order of joyful worship which stood in sharp contrast to the solemn worship of Moses' Tabernacle.

- **Instead of the sacrifices of animals, the sacrifices offered at David's Tabernacle were the sacrifices of praise, joy and thanksgiving** (Psalm 95:2, 100:4, 141:2).
- The Tabernacle of David is a type of the worship of the Church.
- Jesus fulfilled the sacrificial system of the Old Covenant by His death on the cross (Hebrews 1:3, 7:27, 9:12, 9:24-28). The sacrifices of the Church, the New Covenant priesthood, are the sacrifices of praise, joy and thanksgiving (Hebrews 13:15, 1 Peter 2:9).
- In addition to the worship of the Church, the Tabernacle of David points to the proclamation and authority of Christ through His Church, thus foreshadowing the priestly, kingly and prophetic ministries of the Church (Revelation 1:6, 5:10, 19:10, Acts 2:17, 1 Corinthians 14:1,3-5, 24-25, 29, 39).

Wasn't the Ark of the Covenant housed in the Temple?

Not always. The Ark of the Covenant was originally housed in the Tabernacle of Moses (also called the Tabernacle of the Congregation). In the year 1050 B.C., David brought the Ark to Jerusalem and placed it in a tent, the Tabernacle of David (2 Samuel 6, 1 Chronicles 13-16). The Ark stayed in David's Tabernacle for 40 years until it was moved into the Temple built and dedicated by David's son Solomon in 1010 B.C. (2 Chronicles 5-7).

What is meant by Davidic Worship?

The phrase "Davidic worship" simply means worship in the spirit of the Tabernacle of David, that is, worship that is an act of the whole person, not just the intellect. The worship of David's Tabernacle included singing, instrumental music, standing, kneeling, bowing, upraised hands, clapping and dancing. Davidic worship fulfills the command of Jesus to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength" (Mark 12:30).

What are the Key Scriptures concerning the Tabernacle of David?

The establishment of David's Tabernacle is described in 2 Samuel 6 and 1 Chronicles 13-16. From these passages we see that David prepared a place for the Ark (1 Chr. 15:1), the Levites sanctified themselves for their ministry (1 Chr. 15:14) which was to carry the Ark and minister to the Lord (1 Chr.

15:2). All Israel joined in the procession (1 Chr. 15:3) which was marked by joyful instrumental and vocal music (1 Chr. 15:16-21) and dancing (2 Sam. 6:14, 1 Chr. 15:29). Despite all of this, the celebration was not without its detractors (2 Sam. 6:16, 1 Chr. 15:29).

The majority of the Psalms were originally sung as prophetic songs in David's Tabernacle. They account in detail the expressions of worship offered by the Israelites before the Ark of the Covenant. In addition, they describe the full range of human emotions revealed in the presence of God, from deepest despair to highest joy.

The righteous kings of Israel that followed David reestablished Davidic worship within the context of Temple worship. These revivals of Davidic worship paved the way for spiritual renewal and military victory. These times of revival and victory were under Solomon (2 Chr. 5-7) - 101 B.C., Jehoshaphat (2 Chr. 20) - 896 B.C., Joash (2 Chr. 23-24) - 835 B.c., Hezekiah (2 Chr. 29-30) - 726 B.C., Josiah (2 Chr. 35) - 623 B.C., Ezra (Ezra 3:10-13) - 536 B.C. and Nehemiah (Neh. 12:28-47) - 446 B.C.

The Old Testament prophecies that specifically mention the Tabernacle of David are Isaiah 16:5 and Amos 9:11-12. There are numerous additional prophecies concerning the coming of Messiah and His kingdom that refer to Zion, the mountain of the Lord, the glory of the Lord and other images that are obvious references to the Tabernacle of David. See especially Isaiah 2:2-5, Isaiah 9:2-7, Isaiah 35, Isaiah 40:1-5, Isaiah 60:1-3, Isaiah 61, Isaiah 62, Jeremiah 33:10-22, Micah 4:1-2, and Haggai 2:6-7.

The New Testament contains many quotes by Jesus and the Apostles of passages from the Psalms and Prophets. Several of these quotes contain prophecies concerning the coming of Messiah to reign on David's throne. In speaking of the incarnation, John writes that Jesus tabernacled among us (John 1:14). The Church is referred to as the temple of God (1 Cor. 3:16, Eph. 2:19-22). The Tabernacle of David is specifically mentioned in Acts 15:16-17 as being fulfilled by the Church. Scriptures referring to Davidic worship are not limited to the Old Testament. The New Testament tells us to sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Eph. 5:19, Col. 3:16), to sing in the spirit (1 Cor. 14:15), to lift holy hands in prayer (1 Tim. 2:8) and to offer to God the sacrifice of praise (Heb. 13:15). The book of Revelation records scene after scene of heavenly worship that includes shouting (Rev. 19:1), "Hallelujahs" (Rev. 19:7), singing the new song (Rev. 5:9), and bowing (Rev. 4:10).

Is the restoration of the Tabernacle of David a sign that we are in the Last Days?

According to the Bible definition of the last days, yes. The Bible refers to the time of the Old Covenant as the former days and the time of Messiah, the New Covenant era, as the latter days. The First century Christians understood that they were living in the last days, the age of Messiah's kingdom. Jesus came to build His Church, to gather a people out of every nation to worship

and serve Him. Jesus continues to build His Church, the restored Tabernacle of David, and we continue to live in the last days.

While it is true the the restoration of David's Tabernacle has received renewed emphasis during the second half of the 20th century, we must remember that there have been those throughout Church history who have embraced the principles of Davidic worship, proclaimed the word of the Lord and worked to advance His kingdom. God has always had a people who ministered as prophets, kings and priests.

Is this restoration something all Christians can participate in?

Absolutely! The restoration of David's Tabernacle is not the exclusive property of Charismatics, Pentecostals or Messianic Jews. It is for ALL churches. It is for Jews and Gentiles - Christians from every race. Davidic worship is not for only one culture or ethnic group - Jesus has redeemed us from "every tribe and language and people and nation" (Rev. 5:9) to be a kingdom of priests to serve Him and minister to Him in worship. Raising hands in worship is not a Charismatic style of worship, it is a Bible style of worship (Ps. 134:2). Spirit-filled worship is not a Pentecostal way of worship, it is a Christian way of worship (Eph. 5:18-20). The Father seeks worshipers who will worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24). **The restoration of the Tabernacle of David is a restoration of worship in spirit and truth.**