

GOD'S MAGNIFICENT IDEA

Part XXII

Psalm 98:1-9

Introduction: The salubrious vibrancy of the church today is inextricably tied to the revival of Davidic worship. David discovered the joy of total-person involvement in worship. As a consequence, he summons all people to join him in ebullient, enthusiastic, *psalmic praise*. In *Psalm 14*, we have what is called "*the magnificent obsession*." David here has a consuming desire to glorify God with his whole being and to make Jerusalem the worship capital of the world. In *chapter 15*, he gives "*the order of worship*." Based on his understanding that "*God is enthroned on the praises of Israel*" (*Psalm 22:3*), David initiated a new, twenty-four hour approach to worship on mount Zion. Later, his new order of worship was incorporated into Solomon's temple and every period of revival that followed. Thank God, it appears that *psalmic* worship is occurring in many evangelical churches across the world today.

I. God's magnificent idea

- A. David's revelation of thanksgiving, praise, and worship should be compared to the three areas of the tabernacle of Moses.
 1. The outer court – represents thanksgiving; 2. The holy place – represents praise; 3. The Holy of Holies – represents worship.
 1. According to *Psalm 100*, we enter His gates with thanksgiving. Thanksgiving relates to what God has done. As we come to the outer court of the temple, preparing ourselves to come to the Holy of Holies, we begin a recounting of what God has done and we begin to thank Him.
 2. Then, we move into the holy place where we offer up praise. This inculcates the raising of the hands, praise in a loud voice, excitement, the clapping of the hands, and praise with exuberance. Praise is a function of the will, which is represented by the table of showbread in the holy place. It flows out of an enlightened mind, which is represented by the golden candlestick, a mind set on fire by the Holy Spirit, enlightened by the power of our prayer language.
 3. By thanking Him and praising Him, we find ourselves in condition to travel through the veil into the Holy of Holies and into the presence of God in worship. When we come to this final act of worship, it is the divine invitation of the Lord Himself that draws us within the veil.
 4. It is an act of *our* will to thank God, and it is also an act of *our* will to praise God. It is an act of *God's* will to invite us into His presence in the act of worship, and it is only when our relationship with God is consummated in worship that we truly feel that we are where He is and He is where we are.
 - B. The principles of praise. Praise silences the devil! Every believer needs to know how to make the devil shut up. Praise is the way to silence him. Praise will stop the oppression of his evil thoughts. Praise will bring the weapons of God to bear against the attacks of the evil one.
 1. Praise will bring the weapons of God to bear against the evil one. *Psalm 8:1-2*. In *verse 1*, notice that David says, "...How excellent is Your Name in all the earth..." The weapon David is using here is *the Name of the Lord*. The launching vehicle that sends forth the name against the strongholds is the launching rocket of praise.
 2. David is launching into spiritual warfare. Then he says, "*Out of the mouth of babes and infants You have ordained strength because of Your enemies...*" Notice "*enemies*" here is used in the plural. I believe it is referring directly to *evil spirits*, the instruments that Satan uses to come against the believer. *Ephesians 6:10-12*; *2nd Corinthians 10:3-5*. The next phrase says, "*That you may silence the enemy and the avenger.*" Here, David speaks of the enemy in the singular. He is referring directly to *Satan*. God has ordained a method for believers to quiet the enemy. A practical translation of this verse would be, "*That you might make the devil shut up.*"

Conclusion: Praise is the ordained strength of God. When we take advantage of the tools that God has made available to us, great victories will occur in our lives, and the arrows that Satan sends our way will be intercepted by the power created by our praise.