



PRAISE

Chad Cogburn
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Prayer and Praise – God’s Great Provisions

- There are 2 basic, fundamental provisions to communicate to God:
 - 1. Prayer (petition); often associated with supplication, intercession and thanksgiving*
 - 2. Praise (worship, thanksgiving, expression of joy)*
- Both praise and prayer equally important and normative for God’s people
- Prayer mentioned over 300 times in NKJV/ESV (#1 Psalms, #2 Acts)
- Praise mentioned over 250 times in NJKV/ESV (#1 Psalms)
 - *Psalms is THE praise book of the bible*
 - *Praise is good, pleasant and fitting!*

Psalms 147:1 Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

- Bible speaks of prayer and praise so often, that it was assumed to the common practice among God’s people.
- We don’t fully appreciate the importance of prayer and praise.
- “I feel far from God or where is God”; symptoms of forsaken praise/prayer
- Praise takes 2 forms in the bible: Singing and speech

What does it mean to praise God?

- Biblically, there are 4 elements of praise:
 1. Acknowledge God's name
 2. Recount God's attributes
 3. Recount God's works
 4. Thanksgiving
- These 4 elements can be seen in many scriptures:

Psalms 9:1 I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. 2 I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Psalms 92:1 It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; 2 to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, 3 to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. 4 For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy. 5 How great are your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!

Attitude of Praise

- What is the general demeanor or attitude of praise?

Psalms 68:3 But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult before God; they shall be jubilant with joy! 4 Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts; his name is the LORD; exult before him!

- Gladness
- Exult (Heb. *alats*: rejoice, be jubilant, jump for joy)
- Jubilant with joy
- Sing, lift a song

James 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.

- Cheerful? Praise!
- Biblical praise can often change my attitude to cheerfulness

Psalms 94:19 When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.

David prayed after sin with Bathsheba: **Psalms 51:15** O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

Reasons to Praise God's Name

1 Chronicles 16:10 Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! 11 Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!

Hebrews 13:15 Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. 16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Psalms 8:1 To the choirmaster: according to The Gittith. A Psalm of David. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

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Reasons to Praise God - Attributes

- Too many to list them all!

Psalms 145:3 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

8 The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. 9 The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

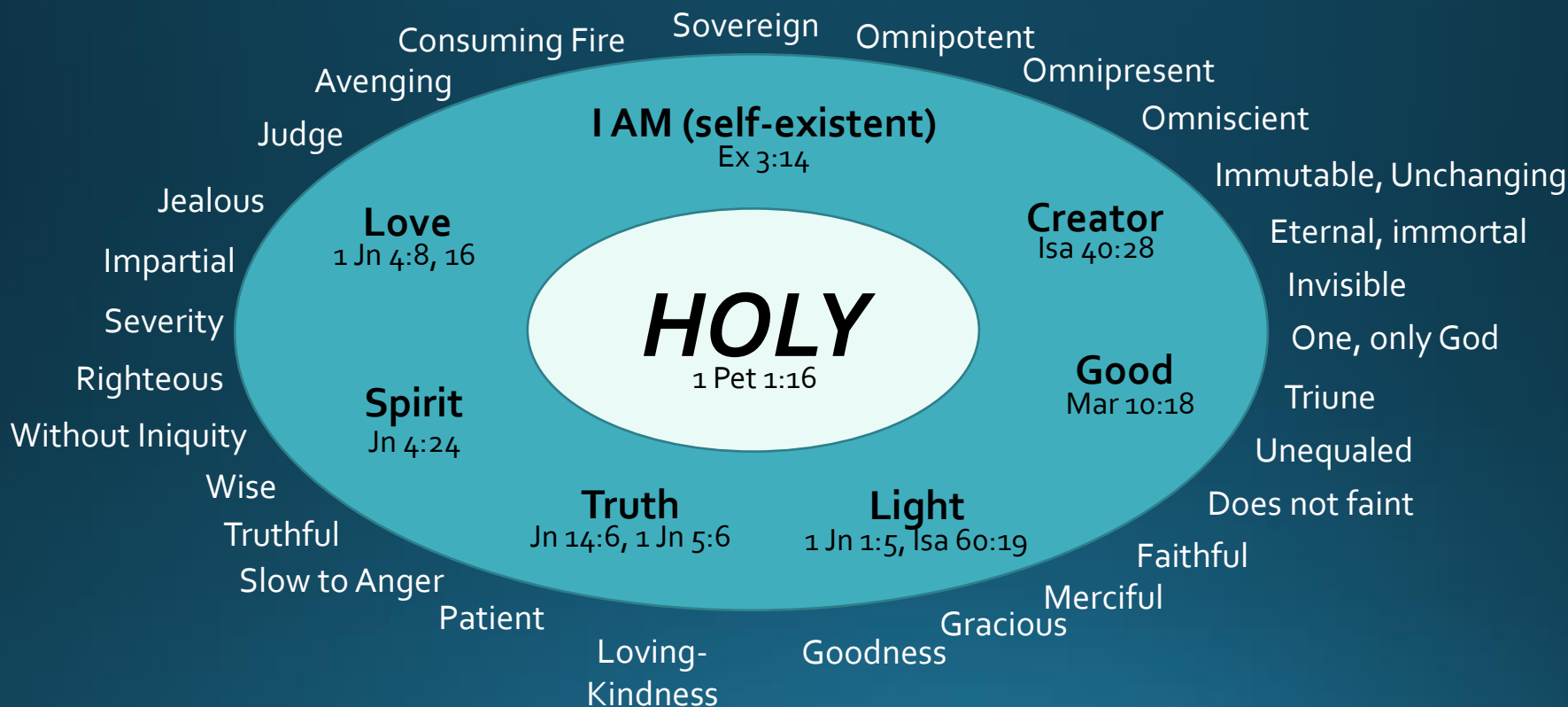
Psalms 136:26 Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Psalms 138:4 All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth, 5 and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

Psalms 89:1 I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

[Recall the Nature of God sermon...](#)

Attributes + Essence + Nature of God



Reasons to Praise God - Works

First song recorded in scripture: Ex 15 - Song of Moses after crossing the Red Sea

1 Chronicles 16:8 Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! 9 Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!

Psalms 139:14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

Psalms 18:46 The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be the God of my salvation (#866)

Psalms 103:1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, 3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, 5 who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalms 111:1 Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. 2 Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

Peter's Praise for Salvation: God's Greatest Work!

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice...

Peter's writes about praise for several specific things:

1. God's great mercy
2. Born again
 - living hope
 - Resurrection of Jesus
3. Inheritance
 - imperishable,
 - Undefiled
 - Unfading
 - Reserved
4. Salvation guarded through faith

Reasons to Praise God - Thanksgiving

Psalms 111:1 Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. 2 Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

Psalms 50:23 The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!”

(NKJV - Praise)

- Thank God for his attributes and works!

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Pray & Praise “through” scripture

- One method of prayer and praise is to let the scripture guide us through, verse by verse.
- Praise example:

Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

- Verse by verse or thought by thought; spend time in praise for each one
- Prayer Example - Rom 12:9-21

Romans 12:9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. 10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer....

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

- Mediate on praiseworthy things, so that I will actually PRAISE God for them!

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

Forms of Praise

Psalms 63:3 Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. 4 So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. 5 My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, 6 when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; 7 for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy. 8 My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

Psalms 51:15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

- Prayer: Open my lips...Purpose: praise!

Hebrews 13:15 Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

- Praise can be both speech and singing, but always verbalized (and sometimes written down)
- Quiet praise is probably better categorized as meditation

Luke 19:40 He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

Instrumental Praise

Psalms 150:1 Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! 2 Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! 3 Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! 4 Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! 5 Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! 6 Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

- Do playing instruments alone praise God?

Psalms 33:1 Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright. 2 Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings! 3 Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

Psalms 71:22 I will also praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, O my God; I will sing praises to you with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel.

Psalms 144:9 I will sing a new song to you, O God; upon a ten-stringed harp I will play to you,

- Instruments were used along side vocal praise, not in leu of.

Most Direct NT Teaching on Singing

Ephesians 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

- Primary emphasis of singing is “thankfulness in your hearts to God”

What is Hallelujah?

Hallelujah only appears in Rev 19:1, 3, 4, 6

Revelation 19:1 After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, 2 for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants.” 3 Once more they cried out, “Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever.” 4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, “Amen. Hallelujah!” 5 And from the throne came a voice saying, “Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great.” 6 Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

- Hallelujah means God be praised (literally Praise Yah); transliteration
- Several old testament occurrences are simply translated “Praise the Lord”
- Is “Hallelujah” an acceptable form of worship and praise?
 - *It appears to have been acceptable in John’s vision*

Where Does Praise Come From? Bubbling over

Spiritual Overflow

Psalms 45:1 To the choirmaster: according to Lilies. A Maskil of the Sons of Korah; a love song. My heart overflows with a pleasing theme; I address my verses to the king; my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.

Psalms 23:5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Romans 12:11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

○ fervent – zeo: to be hot, to boil, to bubble, to seethe

2 Corinthians 7:4 I am acting with great boldness toward you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with comfort. In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy.

Ephesians 3:20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,

Bubbling over

2 Corinthians 8:1 We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, 2 for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.

2 Corinthians 9:12 For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.

1 Timothy 1:12 I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, 13 though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, 14 and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

- Spiritual fervor is best described as bubbling over.
- The Christian life is a spiritually abundant life!
- Remember what Jesus taught on this topic:

Luke 6:45 The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

God Covets Our Praise

Triumphant Entry (also Matt 21:7-11)

Luke 19:36 And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. 37 As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, 38 saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” 39 And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” 40 He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

After clearing the temple

Matthew 21:15 But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” they were indignant, 16 and they said to him, “Do you hear what these are saying?” And Jesus said to them, “Yes; have you never read, “‘Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise’?” (quoted from Psa 8:2)

Summary

- Praise has always been normative and expected of God's people
- Praise is commanded by God
- Four elements of praise:
 1. *Acknowledge God's name*
 2. *Recount God's attributes*
 3. *Recount God's works*
 4. *Thanksgiving*
- Praise is given in either song or speech
- Prerequisite: "thankfulness in your hearts to God"; genuine
- Praise is a nature response to an overflowing, boiling, fervent, abundant life in Jesus.

Psalms 86:9 All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. 10 For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God. 11 Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name. 12 I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever. 13 For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.