

The Wonder of Worship – Part 1

Introduction: We will be talking today and next week about the wonder of worship. Worship is a wonderful act of devotion.

Opening Text: Psalms 65:1-6

Praise is waiting for you, O God, in Zion

(**Amplified Bible:** *praise is due and fitting to You, O God, in Zion;*)

This is quite a unique psalm in the Bible. Verse 1 doesn't follow the normal formula by which most psalms were written. David starts this song to God with an unusual declaration: "*Praise is waiting for you God, in Zion*"

I. There are 3 thoughts implicit in this statement that make it so unique:

1. An invitation

It seems as if the Psalmist wants to attract God from the highest of His dwelling to Zion, where praise is awaiting for Him. Things are ready, the music is in place, a banquet of worship has been arranged but all will be in vain without the presence of the Honoured Guest! This statement is an invitation for God to come where a feast of praise has been prepared beforehand.

Praise always precedes God's manifest presence. Praise is the *protocol of heaven!*

Psalms 100:4 - *Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise.*

When we praise Him, He comes and inhabits the praises of His people (Psl. 22:3).

Is my devotional life inviting to God? Is there in my heart a song for Him? How much of what I do is in preparation for His presence?

2. A promise

"*Praise is waiting for you*" – here's a promise that what is waiting for God are not complaints, questions, demands – but a song of praise!

Amplified Bible: V1b - ... "*(the submissive wonder of reverence which bursts forth into praise) and praise is due and fitting to You, O God, in Zion;*"

a) A promise makes room for expectation – It is almost as if David is trying to raise God's expectations; it is almost as if he is saying, *something wonderful and pleasing to You is in store in this place, if you come and inhabit it*"

b) A promise makes room for anticipation - it is almost as if David is trying to make God look forward to this time of fellowship with the people of Zion.

The opening statement of this psalm is an **invitation**, secondly a **promise** and thirdly, a **guarantee**.

3. A guarantee

David reinforces his invitation, and his promise with a guarantee:

Verse 1b – “*and to you the vow shall be performed*”.

In other words: you can trust my promise. I vow to do it.

How is your relationship with God? Is it filled with anticipation, is there a sense of expectation? What can God expect out of your time with Him? Is your relationship inviting and attractive to God?

II – The attractiveness of the presence of God

Verses 2-5 - *O You who hear prayer, to You all flesh will come. 3 Iniquities prevail against me; as for our transgressions, You will provide atonement for them. 4 Blessed is the man You choose, and cause to approach You, that he may dwell in Your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, of Your holy temple. 5. By awesome deeds in righteousness You will answer us, O God of our salvation,*

And to you all flesh shall come

There is something powerfully attractive and magnetic about the presence of God. David was after the presence of God.

And to you all flesh shall come - why is that? What makes God’s presence so attractive to all flesh? Why do we feel drawn to His presence?

1. Because of WHO we find there

a) He is a God who hears our prayers.

V.2 - *O You who hear prayer*

V.5 – *By awesome deeds of righteousness You will answer us*

b) He provides atonement.

V.3b – *As for our transgressions you will provide atonement for them*

c) He is the God of our salvation.

V.5 -*By awesome deeds in righteousness You will answer us, O God of our salvation,*

2. Because of WHAT we find there

a) Acceptance – **John 6:37** “*all that comes to Me I will by no means cast out*”.

b) Satisfaction – **V.4** – *we shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house.*

Psalms 145:16 – *you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing*

c) Goodness (*the goodness of your house*)

Goodness in Hebrew: *twoob* – can be translated as goodness, welfare, beauty, or gladness.

Psalms 27:4-6 - *One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the **beauty** of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple ⁵For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock ⁶And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.*

Conclusion

Questions for reflection:

Is your devotional life inviting to God? Is there a song for Him in your heart?

How is your relationship with God? Is it filled with anticipation, is there a sense of expectation? What can God expect out of your time with Him? Is your relationship inviting and attractive to God?

Have you known the depths of God's presence, have you been satisfied with the goodness of His house?

Praise is the protocol of heaven and you can enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise!