

CONTINUOUS PRAISE

by Jeff Wright

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(Unless otherwise noted, all scripture  
quotations are from the King James  
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## CONTINUOUS PRAISE

### 1. Continuous Praise--God's Will for the Earth

In Matthew 6:9-10, Jesus said:

. . . Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. (10) Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

What did Jesus mean when he said, "Thy kingdom come?"

He meant, in plain terms, that he wanted the kingdom of God to come, or be shown forth, in the earth. The next sentence makes that clear: "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

In other words, "Thy kingdom come and thy will be done in earth, just as thy kingdom is, and thy will is being done, in heaven." According to Jesus, God's will for the earth is exactly the same as his will for heaven.

The logical question at this point is, "What does God have going on in heaven?" One description is found in Isaiah 6:1-3:

In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. (2) Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. (3) And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

In Revelation Chapter Four, John saw the throne of God, and again it was surrounded by worship and praise:

(1) After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. (2) And immediately I was in the spirit; and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. (3) And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. (4) And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. (5) And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. (6) And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. (7) And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. (8) And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. (9) And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, (10) The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, (11) Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Both John and Isaiah saw beasts with six wings who were saying, "Holy, holy, holy." Revelation 4:8, above, says, ". . . and they rest not day and night." The praise goes on continuously. That is God's will that is being done in heaven. Therefore, since Matthew 6:10, above, shows that God's will is the same, both for heaven and for earth, continuous praise must be God's will for the earth as well.

When King David ruled Israel, he understood that continuous praise is God's will for the earth, and in his kingdom he instituted continuous praise to God, as the following scriptures reveal:

1st Chronicles 16:4:

And he appointed certain of the Levites to minister before the ark of the Lord, and to record, and to thank and praise the Lord God of Israel. . . .

1st Chronicles 16:6:

Benaiah also and Jahaziel the priests with trumpets continually before the ark of the covenant of God.

1st Chronicles 9:33:

And these are the singers, chief of the Levites, who remaining in their chambers were free: for they were employed in that work day and night.

Psalms 134:1-2:

Behold, bless ye the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord, which by night stand in the house of the Lord. (2) Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord.

Psalms 135:1-3:

Praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the name of the Lord; praise him, O ye servants of the Lord. (2) ye that stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God, (3) Praise the Lord; for the Lord is good: sing praises unto his name; for it is pleasant.

Psalms 84:4:

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah.

The above scriptures give evidence that praise went on continually, day and night. 1st Chronicles 16:6 says that the priests with trumpets were continually before the ark of the covenant. 1st Chronicles 9:33 shows that the singers of praise were employed in that work day and night. Psalm 134:1 says, which by night stand in the house of the Lord. Psalm 84:4 says, "Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee." In other words, any time of the day or night, praise was being given to God.

The fact that continuous praise was going on seems even more likely when considered with the following scriptures, which further display David's commitment to praise:

Psalm 34:1:

I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Psalm 115:17-18:

The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence. (18) But we will bless the Lord from this time forth and for evermore. Praise the Lord.

Psalm 145:21:

My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.

Psalm 146:2:

While I live will I praise the Lord: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.

Psalm 150:1-6:

Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. (2) Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. (3) Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. (4) Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. (5) Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. (6) Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.

Under David's leadership, as a result of the high priority put on praise, supernatural protection and prosperity were manifested throughout all of Israel. In 1st Chronicles 17:8-9, through the prophet Nathan, God described these blessings to David:

And I have been with thee whithersoever thou hast walked, and have cut off all thine enemies from before thee, and have made thee a name like the name of the great men that are in the earth. (9) Also I will ordain a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, and they shall dwell in their place, and shall be moved no more; neither shall the children of wickedness waste them any more, as at the beginning, (10) And since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel. Moreover I will subdue all thine enemies. Furthermore I tell thee that the Lord will build thee an house.

In verse 10 above, God said, "I will subdue all thine enemies."

A comparison of Psalm 8:2 and Matthew 21:16 reveals the role of praise in bringing about this protection. Psalm 8:2 says:

Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

Matthew 21:15-16 say:

And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the son of David; they were sore displeased, (16) And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?

In Matthew 21:16, when Jesus quoted from Psalm 8:2 he substituted the word "praise" for the word "strength." He was referring to the people in the temple who were saying, "Hosanna to the son of David." (Verse 15) Jesus was not changing the intent of the Bible when he quoted Psalm 8:2 the way he did. The following scriptures show that strength and praise are equivalent to one another and can be thought of as interchangeable terms:

Psalm 29:1-2:

Give unto the Lord, O ye mighty, give unto the Lord glory and strength. (2) Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Psalm 68:32-35:

Sing unto God, ye kingdoms of the earth; O sing praises unto the Lord; Selah: (33) To him that rideth upon the heavens of heavens, which were of old; lo, he doth send out his voice, and that a mighty voice. (34) Ascribe ye strength unto God: his excellency is over Israel, and his strength is in the clouds. (35) O God, thou art terrible out of thy holy places: the God of Israel is he that giveth strength and power unto his people. Blessed be God.

Psalm 89:15-18:

Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance. (16) In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted. (17) For thou art the glory of their strength: and in thy favour our horn shall be exalted. (18) For the Lord is our defence; and the Holy One of Israel is our king.

The Hebrew word that was translated "strength" in all the above scriptures is the same word translated as "strength" in Psalm 8:2. A related word is used in Nehemiah 8:10, which says that the joy of the Lord is your strength. Therefore, from his knowledge of the Word of God, Jesus knew that praise is the strength that God has ordained, or established, as the means to still his enemy.

The enemy, of course, is the devil. 1st John 3:8 says Jesus was made manifest to destroy the works of the devil. In John 10:10, Jesus called the devil a "thief," who comes only to steal, kill and destroy. So, anything having to do with the devil, anything having to do with stealing, killing or destroying, can be stopped by praise. Praise is strength that God has ordained for the protection of his people.

This pattern appears over and over again in the Word of God: 1) the people praise the Lord, and 2) their enemies are destroyed. 2nd Chronicles 20:1-24 record that three nations united to come against the kingdom of Judah, but at the direction of God's prophet, the people sang praises and their enemies were eliminated. In

Joshua Chapter Six, the walls of Jericho fell when the priests blew on trumpets and the people shouted. Psalm 47:1-3 say:

O Clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph. (2) For the Lord most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth. (3) He shall subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet.

Psalm 68:1-4 is another example:

Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before him. (2) As smoke is driven away, so drive them away: as wax melteth before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God. (3) But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God: yea, let them exceedingly rejoice. (4) Sing unto God, sing praises to his name: extol him that rideth upon the heavens by his name JAH, and rejoice before him.

Psalm 81:1-7 say:

Sing aloud unto God our strength: make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob. (2) Take a psalm, and bring hither the timbrel, the pleasant harp with the psaltery. (3) Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day. (4) For this was a statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob. (5) This he ordained in Joseph for a testimony, when he went out through the land of Egypt: where I heard a language that I understood not. (6) I removed his shoulder from the burden: his hands were delivered from the pots. (7) Thou calledst in trouble, and I delivered thee. . . .

The above scriptures show that praise is repeatedly associated with protection, or deliverance, from harm. A New Testament example is in Acts 16:25-26, where praise sung by Paul and Silas immediately preceded their release from jail.

In the first few verses of Psalm 81, quoted above, the people were exhorted to praise the Lord. The last verse in that psalm shows what God intended as a result:

He should have fed them also with the finest of the wheat: and with honey out of the rock should I have satisfied thee.



Therefore, material prosperity is another benefit resulting from praise. This is also made clear by Psalm 67:5-6:

Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. (6) Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us.

In Psalm 147:12-14, praise is again linked with protection, and with prosperity:

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise thy God, O Zion. (13) For he hath strengthened the bars of thy gates; he hath blessed thy children within thee. (14) He maketh peace in thy borders, and filleth thee with the finest of wheat.

As shown above, praise is frequently associated with receiving the blessings of God. Elsewhere the Bible teaches that faith is necessary to receive the blessings of God. For example, Ephesians 2:8 says that by grace we are saved through faith. Therefore, faith and praise must be closely related. The following comparison of scriptures reveals that praise is faith in action.

Hebrews 11:6 says that without faith it is impossible to please God. In Matthew 17:20, Jesus said that with faith nothing is impossible. A comparison of Matthew 7:24-27, Hebrews 4:2 and James 2:26 yields the following definition for faith: faith is acting on the Word of God. In Mark 11:22-23, Jesus taught that faith is first of all released by speaking words.

In comparison, Psalm 149:3-4 affirm that praise is pleasing to God; therefore, praise must involve faith, because without faith it is impossible to please God. Psalm 22:3 says God inhabits the praises of his people, and Luke 1:37 says that nothing is impossible with God; therefore, nothing is impossible

with praise, just as nothing is impossible with faith, because God inhabits praise and nothing is impossible with God. Over and over again, throughout the whole Bible, the Word of God says to praise the Lord; therefore, praise is acting on the Word, which is the definition for faith. Obviously, praise involves speaking words, which is the first way faith is released. In Philippians 4:6, Paul said, ". . . with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." According to Mark 11:24, the request is made once, and received at that time by faith. From that point on, thanksgiving, or praise, is offered, and that praise keeps the faith applied. Praise is faith in action.

In Matthew 9:29, Jesus said, "According to your faith be it unto you." Because praise is faith in action, Matthew 9:29 leads to the statement that according to our praise it will be done unto us, or, according to our praise God can move on our behalf. Thus, it can be seen that David did more to promote the peace and prosperity of his kingdom by putting a high priority on praise than he could have done by any political or military means. Through praise David enabled God to prosper and protect Israel.

There is a further manifestation in which the blessings that result from praise reach their highest form. The Messiah, Jesus, was brought into the earth through praise. With praise the Holy Spirit arrived on the Day of Pentecost. Through praise Jesus shall return to reign on this earth as king of kings and lord of lords. When the people of God fully recognize the importance of praise, we will come to the same conclusion that David reached: that praise to God should go on continuously, day and night, without interruption or cessation.