

## GOD'S MAGNIFICENT IDEA

### Part XX

#### *Ephesians 2:13-22*

Introduction: The sincere act of praise and worship produces healing and deliverance to us. As rudimental as this concept seems, most believers have never apprehended the profound impact of this truth. Because God has a capacious appetite, thanksgiving, praise, and worship emanating from us not only bring pleasure to Him, but they also arm us for spiritual warfare. It is absolutely imperative that we retrofit ourselves into vessels of praise. The devil will use extreme measures in order to stop us from praising God. Though dissembled, we are not ignorant of his devices, so in spite of all his contrived deceptions and hindrances, we are resolute to please God by giving Him what He desires and deserves. The opposition that we face in life goes beyond the realm of the natural – it is spiritual. Our weapons to fight against our enemy are not carnal but supernatural. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:3-5.

#### I. God's magnificent idea

- A. The second part of our worship should involve praise. In the Psalms of declarative praise, the emphasis is on what God has done for His people. A relationship with God cannot exist without praise. The English word psalm is a transliteration of the Greek title of the book. The Greek word *psalmoi* was translated into the Latin as *psalmi* and then into the English as *psalms*. The Greek literally meant, "a striking of the fingers on the string of a guitar, or a musical instrument." Then the word took on the extended meaning of "a song with string accompaniment." The book of Psalms is a book of music. The Hebrew term for psalm is *tehillim*, a term of music. Webster says that praise means, "the act of glorifying or extolling God."
  1. The first word for praise in the Hebrew is *halal*. The transliteration into the English is *hallelujah*. It simply means praise the Lord or praise Yah, the shortened form of *Yahweh*, or *Jehovah*. It means to be boastful, to be excited, and to enjoy. The word connotes a tremendous explosion of enthusiasm in the act of praising. We are to boast of God's exploits and extol His greatness with enthusiasm and excitement.
  2. The next word in the Hebrew is *yadah*. This word means to acknowledge in public as in Psalm 138:1. A better translation of the verb to thank or praise is to give public acknowledgement to. It is telling others what God has done. The root meaning is "the extended hand," or "to throw out the hand." It implies worshiping with raised hands. In 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 20:19, the Levites go out before the army with boisterous praise. 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2:8.
  3. Another word in the Hebrew is *barak*. The word means to bless. We have been blessed by God, but how do we bless Him? Psalm 103:1-2. We bless Him by not forgetting Him. The chapter goes on to enumerate those blessings: loving kindness, satisfaction, redemption, honor, and renewal. We bless the Lord by remembering these things. *Barak* gives us a sense of kneeling and blessing God as an act of adoration. Psalm 95:6 says to bow before Him and worship Him!
  4. Another Hebrew word for praise is *zamar*. This is one of the musical words for praise in the book of Psalms (92:1). Music was the foremost expression of praise by God's children in the Old Testament. This also refers to praise on musical instruments. Psalm 150. 1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 25:1, 6; 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 5:12-14, 7:6; Ezra 3:10-11, 13.
  5. The next word in the Hebrew is *towdah*. It is related to *yadah*. It is used in the book of Psalms to thank God for things that have not yet happened. Psalm 50:23. It serves as a sacrifice of praise before the answer comes.
  6. *Tehillah* is another Hebrew word meaning to sing. This is singing out our *halals*. It is used in Psalm 22:3. God manifests Himself in the midst of exuberant singing. When the Israelites began to sing and praise in 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 20:22, God set ambushments. I would compare this kind of singing today to *singing in the Spirit*. Psalms 40:3, 66:2.

Conclusion: David was not tenuous or unabashed in his manifold outward praise to the Lord. Psalm 95:1, 100:1. The important thing to notice about the Hebrew words for praise that we talked about is that they are words of sound. Praise is vocal, it is public, and it is exciting.