

## GOD'S MAGNIFICENT IDEA

Part XXV  
*Psalm 98:1-9*

Introduction: There are two major restraining forces in the earth that restrain evil and keep society from running amuck: governments and the church. Governments are capable of being contaminated by evil, and as a result positive leadership is compromised. The church maintains the greatest potential for good because of her supernatural connection with God. When the church, under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, is in collaboration with God's plan, nothing can deter or minimize her impact on the world. Matthew 16:18 says concerning the church, "...the gates of hell shall not prevail against it..." It is such an exciting time to watch God setting up the end-time events. The immediacy of the coming of the Lord is certain. The church must intensify her celebration of the triumph of Jesus our Lord in these last days and remember what He did for us.

### I. God's magnificent idea

#### A. It's time to celebrate. *2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 2:14.*

1. Our praise makes us a part of the celebration. We are not fighting the battle when we praise; we are praising God that the battle has *already* been won. *Psalm 106:47; Colossians 2:15.*
2. Revelation comes through praise. *Psalm 49:4.* When the prophetic anointing came upon David, he often uttered "*dark sayings.*" The spirit of prophecy came upon David as he played his harp and sang. It was then that the "*dark sayings*" were opened to him.
3. There is something about the act of praise that opens our heart to the reception of revelation from God. Praise prepares you to understand the subtle meanings of God's Word. It prepares you to receive the *rhema* Word of God, that is, the personal word from God to you.
4. When Jesus was tempted of the devil on the Mount of Temptation, take note of His answer in *Matthew 4:4.* "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word [rhema] that proceeds from the mouth of God."
5. Praise prepares us for miracles. When the devil comes against us, praise will always maneuver a way out for us. *Psalm 50:23.* The word salvation in the Old and New Testaments impacts body, soul, and spirit. *1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:23.* This is deliverance from satanic attacks. Plus, when we praise, it brings glory to God.
6. When we offer praise to God, we should look for a demonstration of His salvation and deliverance. When we praise God, we prepare the way for Him to intervene.
7. Jonah is an example. *Jonah 2:1-9.* After complaining for 7 verses, he finally remembers to praise God in *verses 8 and 9.* God delivered him.
8. Paul and Silas in the Philippian jail. *Acts 16:23-25.* After great persecution by the inhabitants of Philippi and after being beaten, Paul and Silas were cast into prison. But at midnight, in the midst of their pain they began to sing and praise God. They could have complained and listed all the problems that they had faced. However, they chose to praise God in the midst of their storm. They did it so loud that the other prisoners heard them. Their audacity brought results. *Verse 26.*
9. God responds to the sacrifice of praise that you give when going through difficult times. *Hebrews 13:15.* It is the abnormal thing to do because things are not going well. Apparently, God delights in your sacrifice of praise. God lives in your praise. *Psalm 22:3.* One translation says, "*Thou art enthroned upon the praise of Israel.*"
10. God is always King whether we praise Him or not. But when we praise Him, we offer Him a throne to sit upon in our presence. This is why our praise is so necessary in order to bring the power of the presence of God into our church services. When we offer Him a throne through our praise, we can be assured that He will come and occupy that throne. If we don't praise, we are withholding a throne from the King of kings. Praise sanctifies the atmosphere.
11. When we begin to extol the mighty deeds that He has done, to magnify His Name and who He is, contamination leaves our mind. The strongholds of the enemy are neutralized by our praise unto God.

Conclusion: Everyone has a rudimentary drive to access God's presence. The Scripture is very clear in telling us that praise is the avenue of access to God. David taught to us in *Psalm 100:4* "...to enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him and bless His Name."