

The Voice of Triumph (Ps 8:2)



1. Praise is Eternal - Originated in Heaven Before We were Created by God

- a. Job 38:4-7 – *‘Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together. And all the sons of God shouted for joy?’*

In this creation account, before human beings were on earth, we see angels shouting before God in jubilant praises.

‘It was the praise of the angels that sent our planet spinning on its celestial course. It is the responsibility of God’s people on this planet to see that praise continue to mark its course until heaven and earth are no more.’ (Derek Prince)

- b. Rev 4:8-11 – *‘The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: ‘Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty. Who was and is and is to come!’ Whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: ‘You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power; For you created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.’*

These powerful beings in heaven enjoy the closest access to God’s presence, and they respond to God in uninterrupted praise before the throne. Uninterrupted access to God’s presence calls for uninterrupted praise. Yet this uninterrupted praise in heaven is not confined to the throne of God. It ripples outward to all creation, calling them to respond to God in the same praise and worship to the Father and the Son Jesus Christ as Creator and Redeemer.

2. Praise Leads us to Agreement with What God is Doing in Heaven

- a. Rev 5:8-14 – *‘Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, ‘You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we will reign on the earth.’ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice:*

‘Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honour and glory and blessing!’ And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: ‘Blessing and honour and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, forever and ever!’ Then the four living creatures said, ‘Amen!’ And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshipped him who lives forever and ever.’

- b. *‘You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals...’*

Are we also singing this new song that is being sung in heaven?

Those spiritually awake are responding to heaven’s praise in full agreement for the Lamb to break the seals. And then there are those who disagree with heaven’s praise. The current global turmoil makes us wonder if Jesus has actually started opening the seals (Rev 6). The four horses that run on the earth are: White (deception); Red (conflict, peace taken from the earth); Black (scarcity); Pale (widespread death).

When we unite with heaven’s praise, we are agreeing with what God is doing on earth. That Jesus is worthy to open the seals, and we have been made kings and priests unto our God, and we will reign on the earth. How have we been made kings and priests? ‘The harps and the bowls of incense’ represent praise and worship, and prayer and intercession (4:8). The extent to which we rule and reign with Christ in this life, determines the extent to which we will rule and reign with Him in the next.

3. The Destiny of Mankind is to Rule and Reign with Christ (Ps 8)

- a. Ps 8 reveals God's amazing intention in creating mankind – to rule and reign with Him on earth. The psalm opens and closes with jubilant praise of God: *'O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!'* (8:1, 9). David is in awe of God's high calling on mankind (Ps 8:3-8).

However, verse 2 presents a challenge. It is a riddle. Nobody knew what it meant. *'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength because of Your enemies. That you may silence the enemy and the avenger.'* (Ps 8:2)

(i) Who is this enemy and avenger who comes against mankind? It is Satan. He comes against God's glorious destiny for mankind at every turn, and accuses us day and night.

(ii) What is God's answer? What is this strength He ordained out of the mouth of the babes and nursing infants? What strength do these little ones have against Satan to silence him?

- b. Jesus' divine commentary on this verse in Matt 21:15-16 solves this mystery: *'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise.'*

The strength that God has ordained for His people is in the 'perfect praise.' When the little children praised the Lord, *'Hosanna to the Son of David!'* the religious leaders were indignant. Praise makes Satan mad. Praise silences the accusation of Satan - *'that You may silence the enemy and the avenger.'* (Ps 8:2)

The babes are the perfect example of weakness. Yet, when the little ones shouted praises to the Lord, that praise became a perfect spiritual weapon to silence Satan's voice. *'Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, 'Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God, day and night, has been cast down.'* (Rev 12:10)

Praise is the key to spiritual strength and vitality. It silences the enemy's voice and releases God's power over your enemy. One voice will drown out the other. One is the voice of accusation coming from Satan. The other is our voice of praise to God. Which voice will ring louder in your life? Therefore, praise is our voice of triumph. It is important we praise God with our lips! Our tongue is the greatest spiritual weapon God has to us against the devil. We must use it well to be victorious over the works of the devil.

4. Our Tongue and Our Glory

- a. Ps 30:11-12 – *'You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness. To the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever.'* The purpose of God's deliverance was for David's glory to sing God's praise and not be silent. What is David's glory? How does his glory sing praises and not be silent?

- b. Ps 16:8-9 – *'I have set the LORD always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved. Therefore, my heart is glad and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope.'* Peter quotes in Acts 2:26, *'Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad...'* Why is my tongue my glory? Because our tongue is the glorious weapon given to us against the devil. And it is the greatest instrument we possess to glorify God. The chief purpose of God putting our tongue in our mouth is to give glory to God, to praise God, and to acknowledge God. It is a sure sign of our spiritual vitality.

Who cannot praise the LORD? (i) 'The dead do not praise the Lord.' (Ps 115:17); (ii) Satan cannot praise the Lord. If you do not praise the LORD, that is the sign of your spiritual death.

- c. Ps 34:1-10 – *'I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth...'* When did David write this psalm? It is in the heading of the psalm: When David pretended madness before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he departed. David praised God at the lowest point of his life and in the place of humiliation. Praise is a decision, not emotion. David made that decision before he got to the place of desperation.

Let us give God continual praise and thanksgiving this year. Let's raise the voice of triumph. Let us declare Jesus is worthy to break the seals and make us the kings and the priests unto our God. *'Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.'* (Ps 150:6)