

Let Us Offer God Perfect Praise (Rev 5:9-10)

There is a new song being sung in heaven – ‘Jesus is the Lamb who is worthy to take the scroll and open its seals.’ Heaven sings of two events that will come on the earth:

- a) The great harvest of the nations (Rev 14:14-16). E.g. the volcanic eruption in Tonga. See the prophetic prayer over Tonga in Is 24:14-16.
- b) Saints take their position as the kings and priests before God’s throne in heavenly places to rule with Christ. We have been crucified with Christ, risen with Christ, and are seated with Christ in the heavenly places now. To do what? To rule with Him now and forever. This is the destiny of mankind.
How do we rule with Him? Through Harps (worship/Praise/Thanksgiving) and Bowls (Prayer/Intercession).



So what is Perfect Praise?

1. Praise Enthrones God in Our Midst (Ps 22:3)

‘But you are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel.’ God is the King whether we praise Him or not. But when we praise God, He takes His seat over us as King. Praise is our way of acknowledging God’s kingship. When we praise God, we are ‘building a throne for God’ over our lives. If we want to get into the presence of God, we must learn to praise Him.

- a) *Ps 100:4-5 - ‘Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.’*

There are three reasons for praising God: (i) ‘The Lord is good.’ (ii) ‘His mercy is everlasting.’ (iii) ‘His truth (faithfulness) endures to all generations.’ They are permanent and unchanging. The primary reason for giving God thanks does not depend on our feelings or circumstances. What if I do not know how to praise God? Psalm simply means ‘Praise’. The book of Psalms is the most loved portion of the Bible and the manual on how to praise God. We can read the psalms aloud to God and soon the praises of God will flow out of our lips.

- b) *Is 6:1ff - ‘In the year king Uzziah died I saw the LORD sitting on a throne...’* Did Isaiah put too much hope on a politician? We need to pray for leaders in authority (1 Tim 2:1-4), but politicians are not equipped to deal with the spiritual forces in heavenly places. It is the responsibility of the Church to use her spiritual authority in the world. The vision of God’s throne changed Isaiah’s life and ministry forever. Our vision of the greatness of God must be far greater than the news we hear.

2. Praise Provides Our Priestly Garment in the Presence of the King

- a) *Is 52:1-2 – ‘Awake, awake! Put on your strength, O Zion; Put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city! ... Shake yourself from the dust, arise; Sit down (‘sit enthroned’, NIV), O Jerusalem!’* Or ‘Put on your garments of splendour’ (NIV), i.e. the priestly garment of dignity and beauty rather than sitting under the dust with chains.’ It is the protocol to approach the King’s court in the proper attire – i.e. kingly and priestly garments. (Cf. Esther 4:1-2; 5:1ff.)

- b) *Is 61:3 (NIV) – ‘To bestow on them (who grieve & mourn in Zion), a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair...’* Or ‘the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.’ This is the antidote for the spirit of mourning and despair. Discouragement, anxiety and depression are the great enemy that prevents the church from taking our spiritual authority in Christ. Praise and thanksgiving are the cure for the spirit of murmur and complaint. Murmur and complaint released the fiery serpent and destroyed Israel in the wilderness (1 Cor 10:9-10).

3. Praise and Thanksgiving Enthroned Us with Christ in Triumphant Procession

- a) Ps 106:47 – the psalmist ends his tremendous praise with a voice of triumph. Triumph in the Roman world was not the actual winning of the battle, but the celebration of the victory already won, e.g. Col 2:15 – Jesus Christ has already triumphed through His cross. 2 Cor 2:14 – ‘Now thanks be to God who always

leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.’ Or ‘But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ...’ (NIV)

Eph 2:4-6 – ‘But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.’

- b) *Ps 110:1-2 – ‘The LORD said, to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’ The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. ‘Rule in the midst of Your enemies.’*

The Lord is not ruling direct right now. When He comes back, He will rule direct (Heb 2:8). Right now Jesus is ruling in the midst of His enemies. How? By sending the rod of His authority from Zion. Heb 12:22-24 – heavenly Zion is the dwelling of God in heaven where the church of the firstborn is registered right now, i.e. when the church gathers in the Spirit and offers thanksgiving, praises, prayers, intercession and prophetic declaration, then the rod of authority is sent out to the nations (Cf. Rev 8:1-6).

4. Praise is Our Spiritual Weapon Against the Enemy

- a) *Ps 8 is David’s praise to God regarding man’s breathtaking destiny – to rule and reign the earth on God’s behalf. But there is a challenge. Ps 8:2 – ‘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.’*

- (i) Who is this enemy of God and the avenger against God’s plan for us? It is Satan, the devil, the serpent of old, who accuses us before God, day and night (Rev 12:10).
- (ii) What is the strength that the Lord has ordained even through the mouth of helpless babes and nursing infants? Cf. Matt 21:15-16 – Jesus revealed the meaning of this verse: *‘Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise.’* God has ordained strength for His people against the devil and the avenger. This is *‘perfect praise.’ God silences the accusations of Satan when we praise God!*

- b) What happened when David worshipped God with his harp? Demons could not stand it but fled from Saul (Cf. 1 Sam 16:23). All kinds of instruments should accompany in giving God extravagant praise because they release God’s power. Even if you are not a great singer or instrument player, you can still make a joyful noise. Joyful noise releases God’s power into our situations the same.

‘Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.’ (Psalm 100:1)

‘O clap your hands, all you peoples! shout to God with the voice of triumph!’ (Ps 47:1)

‘Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet (shophar); Praise Him with the lute (bottle/jar – percussive?) and harp (strings); Praise Him with the timbrel (tambourine) and dance (our body); Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes (wind instruments); Praise Him with loud cymbals...Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD’ (Psalm 150:3-5)

5. Praise and Thanksgiving Prepare the Way for God’s Supernatural Deliverance

- a) *Ps 50:23 – ‘Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; And to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God.’ (NKJV) Or ‘He who sacrifices thank offerings honours me, and he prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God.’ (NIV).*

- b) Deliverance

- (i) *2 Chr 20:21-30 – Jehoshaphat was delivered by the angels of the Lord as he praised God. ‘Praise the LORD, for His mercy endures forever.’ (2 Ch 20:21)*
- (ii) *Jonah 2:2-10 – When Jonah starts to thank God, ‘But I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving ... ‘Salvation is of the LORD.’ Then fish could not keep him in his belly. The LORD spoke to the fish and the fish vomited John onto dry land.*
- (iii) *Acts 16:25ff – Paul and Silas in prison.*

6. Perfect Praise and Thanksgiving are the Acceptable Spiritual Sacrifice We Offer God by Faith

- a) Every one of the thanksgiving and praise offered by God's people prior to their deliverance in the Scriptures, was an act of sacrifice by faith.
- (i) *Jer 33:11 – 'Praise the LORD of hosts, for the LORD is good, for His mercy endures forever' – and of those who will bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the LORD. For I will cause the captives of the land to return as at the first,' says the LORD.'*
- (ii) *Heb 13:15-16 – 'Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.'*
- (iii) *1 Thess 5:16-18 – 'Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.'*
- b) *Ps 34:1 - (When David pretended madness before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he departed). 'I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.'* What a declaration of praise when he was in the place of utter humiliation and at the lowest point of his life. Praise is a decision. Not emotion. David had already made that decision before he got to such a place of desperation.

7. Praise is the Purpose of Our Salvation.

- a) *Ps 30:11-12 – 'You have turned for me my mourning into dancing...to the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent.'* The purpose of the deliverance is to praise God. Our tongue is our glory. Do not misuse your glory, which God has given you. (Cf. Ps. 16:9, Acts 2:26)
- b) *1 Peter 2:9-10 – 'But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.'*
- c) *Eph 1:10-12 – 'That in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth – in Him. In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.'*