

ALL AGE WORSHIP 21.7.13

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Today's theme is worship and praise.

Worship calls us into this place where we encounter the God of all the universe and know that we are not alone.

There are times when I have to do something to worship and there are times when I need to stop, sit still and shut up and let God reveal himself to me. One is out of response and choice and the other is out of revelation or relationship

Response or praise. I see what God has done and I praise and thank Him.

I tell my soul to respond and I tell my body to move to signify what I am saying inside. Soul you need to get up and sing and maybe even shout and rave. You need to move it, move it. I've noticed when I do this I feel much better!!! Praise the Lord, my soul, all my innermost being praise the Lord and forget not all his benefits Psalm 103. Count your blessings, name them one by one. What 10 things am I thankful for every day??

Revelation. This is more of a move from within to worship from the heart. It comes from knowing this God I have praised. It is more intimate and precious... It comes from sitting down on the inside and letting God encounter me. Both are important.

Prayer

Lord by your spirit, create in us a clean heart and a genuineness in our worship today.

May we break through the clouds that prevent us from knowing and coming close to You.

Would you help us to let go of the things we have come with that occupy our minds and cause us anxiety.

Turn us from this now to focus on you.

Help us to praise you, to step aside from our fears about what we look like and what others will think. Help us to praise you, to climb over our own doubts and questions and disappointments, our laziness and plain stubbornness.

Reveal yourself, God who loves us more than we could ever hope for or conceive.

We are tired of our own company and sad without yours.

Show us again who you are and what you are like.

Tell us again that you love us and are proud of us that we can go on stronger in our love for you and bring a real offering of worship today.



Let's start with the response part.

HEBREW WORDS RELATING TO PRAISE AND WORSHIP

When reading an English translation of the OT, there are relatively few words for "worship," and even fewer for "dance." There are, though, many Hebrew words used in Scripture which relate to dancing and worship in general, all of which have different meanings. Because they rarely have an appropriate corresponding word in English, they are often simplified. There are 58 words to describe it in the OT. Top most prominent are:

Barak

-to kneel or bow, to give reverence to God as an act of adoration, implies a continual conscious giving place to God, to be attuned to him and his presence
Psalm 34:1 I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Psalm 100:4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise. Be thankful to him, and bless his name.

Psalm 95:6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

Karar-to dance, whirl

2 Samuel 6:14 Then David **danced** before the Lord with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod.

Macha-to rub or strike the hands together (in exultation), clap

Psalm 98:8 Let the rivers **clap** their hands; Let the hills be joyful together before the Lord...

Shabach

Shabach means, "to shout, to address in a loud tone, to command, to triumph."

Ps 47:1

O clap your hands, all peoples; shout (shabach) to God with the voice of joy (or triumph)

Ps 145:4

One generation shall praise (shabach) thy works to another and declare thy mighty acts.

Isa 12:6

Cry aloud and shout (shabach) for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Hallal

-to praise, to make a show or rave about, to glory in or boast upon, to be clamorously foolish about your adoration of God

Psalm 22:23 You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify him, and fear him, all you offspring of Israel!

Psalm 44:8 In God we boast all day long, and praise your name forever. Selah

Psalm 63:5 My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise you with joyful lips.

Tehillah

-to sing hallal, a new song, a hymn of spontaneous praise glorifying God in song

Psalm 34:1 I will bless the Lord at all times; His praises shall continually be in my mouth.

Psalm 40:3 He has put a new song in my mouth – praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, and will trust in the Lord.

Psalm 149:1 Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, and his praise in the assembly of saints.

Towdah

-an extension of the hand, avowal, adoration, a choir of worshipers, confession, sacrifice of praise,

thanksgiving

Psalm 50:14 Offer to God thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High.

Psalm 69:30 I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.

Psalms 100:4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise. Be thankful to him, and bless his name.

Yadah

-to use, hold out the hand, to revere or worship (with extended hands, praise thankful, thanksgiving)

Psalm 33:2 Praise the Lord with the harp; Make melody to him with an instrument of ten strings.

Psalm 61:8 So I will sing praise to your name forever, that I may daily perform my

vows.

Psalm 18:49 Therefore I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name.

Zamar

-to touch the strings or parts of a musical instrument i.e. play upon it, to make music accompanied by

the voice, to celebrate in song and music, give praise, sing forth praises, psalms

Psalm 66:2 Sing out the honor of his name; Make his praise glorious.

Psalm 71:22 Also with the lute I will praise you --and your faithfulness, O my God! To you I will sing with the harp, O Holy One of Israel.

Psalm 144:9 I will sing a new song to you, O God; On a harp of ten strings I will sing praises to you...

Alats

-to jump for joy, exult, be joyful, rejoice, triumph

Psalm 5:11 But let all those rejoice who put their trust in you; Let them ever shout for joy, because you defend them; Let those also who love your name be joyful in you.

Psalm 9:2 I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Ps 68:3 But let the righteous be glad; Let them rejoice before God; Yes, let them rejoice exceedingly

2 Sam 7:12-15

¹² Now King David was told, "The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-Edom and everything he has, because of the ark of God." So David went to bring up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing. ¹³ When those who were carrying the ark of the LORD had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf.

¹⁴ Wearing a linen shirt, David was dancing before the LORD with all his might, ¹⁵ while he and all Israel were bringing up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets.

Picture David dancing with all his might...what do you think this looked like?

Why would he do that?

Why wouldn't you do that?



So what do we take from this study of Hebrew words relating to worship and praise?

We are to be vocal in our praise, constantly. *Psalm 34:1 I will bless the Lord at all times; His praises shall continually be in my mouth.*

- There are many ways to do this and we should grow our repertoire.
- It's natural to move.

We like to dance. Children are natural movers.

But we adults have got clogged up. **Our feelings and fears tell us to stay still.**

We bottle up our need to move and express our praise.

- To praise we do have to make a choice. To sing may not feel very cultural these days, let alone to dance or shout or kneel down, but I believe there is an enormous freedom in the spirit that comes when we will make a move to express praise, either on our own or in the congregation.
- We can be slaves to our feelings.
- Making declarations of what will be and what I want when I don't necessarily feel it will bring my feelings into line with the truth. I don't want to go out and meet new people, I feel tired and just want to watch TV...but when I do I enjoy it.

Nothing in me wants to get off my couch and pray and yet when I do it, I wonder why I haven't been doing it.

- I'm afraid of what others will think when I raise my hands or kneel in the pews but if I will do this my relationship with God will grow because I have chosen to put HIM before my pride.

I challenge you to make a move today in response to God. Just one thing you wouldn't normally do.

Relationship and revelation. Luke 19

19 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵ When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

⁹ Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Why do you think Zaccheus was up the tree?

- Up a tree cos he didn't think he could get close to Jesus? He couldn't see.
- Shy? Possibly ridiculed for being short.
- Ashamed of what he'd done, the way he ripped people off.
- He wanted to see but he didn't want Jesus to see him?
- Ostracized and not fitting in with the culture that defined you in a certain way. In their eyes a sinner, not worthy of a second chance.



- Short Picture of me short!!

We all have pictures of ourselves and others and God might see us.

Many times I think its not a very nice be tall...

We don't think God likes us very
We feel bad about things we've done
We think our physical differences
I'm short and no one likes me!!



how we think

picture. I wanted to

much.

maybe.

matter a lot.

But I want you to know about Jesus
spend time with you.

Jesus knew he was there, up that tree. That's amazing!

He knew his name!

He wasn't worried about the things Zaccheus was worried about or what everybody else thought.

He had a different set of criteria.

He looked at Zaccheus as a child of God, one of his creation and he wanted to have a relationship with him.

Jesus thought Zaccheus was pretty all right. He said: Come on down and take me to your place!!!!

He wanted to have dinner with him!!!

His behaviour didn't count for much to Jesus, he wanted to love him, share bread and salt with him and say you are worthy in my eyes.

He gave Zacc a family to belong to.

⁹ Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, **because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.** ¹⁰ For the Son came to seek and save the lost.

God so wants to come in and be our friend. He is looking for us. He's knocking on the door of our life wanting to come in and share bread and salt with us. its something God is doing!!

Clip: Alice 2010 version falling down the rabbit hole is pretty scary, she falls felt on her face.

I had a dream recently it was a bit like going down the rabbit hole... I was freaking out about falling flat on my face and

I didn't want to get stuck in a place I couldn't get out of.

Then I found myself fighting this lady, who said: you're here until you settle down and let go.

So I stopped fighting and realized it could be for my benefit.

I needed to sit down and stop for a while.

There are a variety of chairs on stage from small to big.

I have a chair I like to sit in for my time of being with God.

Here I am sitting down on the inside.

Here's the thing: God's really interested in what's on the inside of me.

And it's in here that I can be with Jesus and talk to the Father.

It's in here that I move from loud rants and clapping and praise to a quieter space for worship.

Where the Father tells me He loves me and I have a friendship with Jesus.

Connection happens for me when I am just being silent and still, closing my eyes and imagining Jesus with me. Imagining how much he loves me and is connected to me.

Where's your space? Do you have quiet space at home? A chair, your bedroom, a tree???

Let's imagine that we are all sitting in our favourite chair, in a quiet space.

This is a nicer version of the rabbit hole in

Alice in Wonderland clip 2 Alice floats down and lands comfortably.

We're all sitting in our quiet chair. Get comfortable.

Now close your eyes and imagine you can pull down a shutter in your mind.

Imagine that there is a deep hole inside of you. No one else can see it but you.

It's not an empty, horrible hole. It's a real space, it's the eternal part of me.

Inside this hole you can go down and walk in your imagination.

And there are all sorts of things to see and explore down here.

Worship is a time to tell God you love him and to let Him love you.

Imagine that Jesus is here and just like Zaccheus, he calls you by name and he says it's so great to spend some time with you.

He wants to give you a hug.

Stay here for a while and enjoy God's friendship.

Thank you that you are delighted in me Lord

Thank you that your covering over me is like a blanket of love

Thank you that you are proud of me.

Thank you that wherever I go, you are with me.

Amen