

***Fountaingate Christian Foundation presents...***

# **The King's Table**

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**Series**  
**The Heights of Worship**

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***Sending the Word of God  
to the Ends of the Earth***

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# A Personal Letter to You

*Dear Friend*

*Worshipping God in the highest! This is our most noble expression in this life and the next. Heaven is filled with thunderous praise. It is like the sound of many waters (Revelation 19:6). As it is in Heaven so shall it be on earth. We join the growing crescendo on earth proclaiming the King of Kings and Lord of Lords as worthy.*

*In worship we step into the holy orbit of God's intimate presence and bathe in His glory. This is the believer's great desire, and the greatest experience of life is joining the hosts of Heaven to declare the greatness and glory of God.*

*Soon the praise and worship of God's people will rend the heavens and cover the earth. Soon the whole earth will be filled, not with violence and blasphemy, but with the glory of the Lord and the honour expressed to the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. Oh come, let us adore Him!*

*Kind regards,*

*Paul, Bunty and David*

*The Collins Ministry Team*

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## *The Sound of Heaven*

“ Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “Hallelujah!...” Revelation 19:6 ”

### ***We join Heaven's worship***

*“Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand...In a loud voice they sang: ‘Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!’...” Revelation 5:11-12.*

Worship fills Heaven constantly (Isaiah 6:1-3; Revelation 19:1,4-6). When we worship the Lord here on earth we are, in actual fact, joining with the Heavenly hosts.

*“...Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and all that is in them, singing: ‘To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever!’” Revelation 5:13.*

True worship has the sound of Heaven.

### ***Heaven responds to us***

*“After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language...And they cried out in a loud voice: ‘Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb’...” Revelation 7:9-10.*

As we lift our hearts in praise and worship to the Lord, Heaven responds with a resounding “Amen” and worships God.

*“...All the angels were standing around the throne...They fell down on their faces before the*

*throne and worshipped God, saying: ‘Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honour and power and strength be to our God forever and ever. Amen!’” Revelation 7:11-12 (read also Revelation 5:14).*

### ***A new sound***

Music is an expression of the heart. Its very sound reveals the human spirit and from it has come many beautiful songs and music. The world knows:

- The sound of human love.
- The sound of human suffering.
- The sound of national pride.

But it also knows...

- The sound of rebellion.

*“Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the peoples, nations and men of every language fell down and worshipped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up” Daniel 3:7 (read through Daniel chapter 3).*

As a new creation in Christ, we now join the sound of Heaven, unknown to the world. It comes from...

- a new heart
- a new relationship
- a new spirit

Read Ezekiel 11:19-20 and Hebrews 10:15-16. We can now, by the creativity of the Spirit, bring a “new song” of praise and worship to the Lord our God.

*“He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God...” Psalm 40:3 (also Ps.149:1).*

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## ***The Search for Worshippers***

...True worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks... John 4:23

### ***The Father's search***

Note in John 4:23 that Jesus did not say that the Father is seeking *worship* but that He is seeking *worshippers*. Worship is the expression of adoration because of love for the One who is being worshipped. It comes from the very depth of a person's heart. It has to do with relationship. This is what the Father seeks.

### ***True worshippers***

If there is a *true* then there is a *false*. Read John 4:19-26.

### ***What true worship is not***

- ***It is not in a place***

"...Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus declared, 'Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem'" verses 20-21.

- ***It is not in a tradition***

"You Samaritans worship what you do not know..." verse 22.

False worship focuses on the *act* or *form* of worship, centring on the one who is giving it and the method of it being given.

- ***It is not from a wrong heart***

Read John 4:4-19. The Samaritan woman had lived, and was living, a life of sin. She was a social outcast because of her way of life. Yet she was very religious and convinced she was right in her

method of worship. Jesus is revealing worship means nothing if the heart is not right (see Isaiah 29:13; Matthew 15:3).

### ***What true worship is***

"God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth" John 4:24.

- ***It is in spirit***

Through faith in His work on the Cross and Resurrection Jesus makes our spirit alive again so that we can truly know God and express our love and adoration to Him.

- ***It is in truth***

True worship is based on truth – the truth of Him, that is, the understanding of who He is and what He is like (see John 14:6; 17:17) – and the truth in us. God is looking for the sincere and genuine worship that comes from our knowledge of His holiness and purity, and from our own heart pure and open before Him.

- ***It is in a Person***

"...Then Jesus declared, 'I who speak to you am he'" John 4:25-26.

The revelation of who Jesus is makes all the difference to our worship. In Him the heart of God is revealed to us (see John 14:9-11). We see His great love and faithfulness, power and beauty. In Him we see God's glory and we cannot help but worship! (see 2 Corinthians 4:6).

"Suddenly Jesus met them. 'Greetings', he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him" Matthew 28:9.

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## ***Worshipping in Spirit***

Yet a time...has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit...God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit... John 4:23-24

We were created tri-une beings...

- Our body gives us world-awareness (that which is around us).
- Our soul gives us self-awareness (our mind, our will, our emotions).
- Our spirit gives us God-awareness (the ability to know and communicate with God).

Because of sin our spirit was dead (see Genesis 2:17 and Romans 5:12).

### ***Our spirit made alive***

Jesus took our death on the Cross and made us alive by His Resurrection.

*"For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive" 1 Corinthians 15:22 (see also Romans 6:1-11).*

God again breathed into us "the breath of life" – His own Spirit (see Genesis 2:7; John 20:22). He made our spirit alive again so that we could truly know God and once again have the ability to communicate with Him – to express our love and adoration to Him for all that He is and all that He has done. God is spirit, therefore the only way we can truly worship Him is in spirit.

### ***The overflow of the heart***

True worship is the very depth of our heart communicating with the heart of God. It is the outward expression of what is within.

*"The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart... For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks" Luke 6:45.*

### ***Inspired by the Holy Spirit***

Dwelling within us now, as the New Creation in Christ (2 Cor.5:17), is the Spirit of God (John 3:5-8).

### ***The Spirit of revelation***

True worship flows from the revelation of the Holy Spirit (read Ephesians 1:13-23).

*"...as it is written: 'No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him' – but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God" 1 Corinthians 2:9-10.*

As the Holy Spirit reveals to us more and more of the wonder of who God is our hearts overflow with praise and worship to Him.

### ***A different spirit from the world***

*"We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us" 1 Corinthians 2:12 (read through verses 6-13).*

The spirit of the world – its hype and self-pleasure – has no part in true worship.

### ***A harmony of spirit and sound***

As we respond to the revelation of God by the Holy Spirit, to each of us individually in our hearts, and in our midst as the church gathered, worship rises to the Throne of God in a beautiful harmony of spirit and sound.

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## Worshipping in Truth

“ A time will come, however, indeed it is already here, when the true (genuine) worshippers will worship the Father...in truth (reality)... John 4:23 (Amp) ”

The basis of true worship is truth – the reality of who God is and who we are. As revelation of the truth of God fills us, we cannot help but fall down before Him and worship Him.

*"I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw...someone 'like a son of man,'...His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead..." Revelation 1:12-17 (see also Ezekiel 1:28; Daniel 10:4-11).*

So great and wonderful is our God, it is impossible to cover every truth about Him in this study (see John 21:25) but we will touch on just a few.

### **The truth of who God is**

#### **The truth of God the Father**

*"Praise the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great, you are clothed with splendour and majesty" Psalm 104:1 (see Psalm 19:1-4).*

- **He is full of glory** (Exodus 15:11; 33:18-23).
- **He is holy and righteous** (Isaiah 6:3; Ps.119:137)
- **He is almighty** (1 Chron.29:12; Job 27:11).
- **He is sovereign** (Isaiah 40:10; Ez.12:28; Dan.4:17).
- **He is love** (Psalm 119:64; 1 John 4:16; Eph.3:14-21).

#### **The truth of God the Son**

*"He is the sole expression of the glory of God – the Light-being, the out-raying of the divine – and He is the perfect imprint and very image of [God's] nature, upholding and maintaining and guiding and propelling the universe by His might word of power" Heb.1:3 (Amp) (see Col.1:15-19).*

- **He is the revealer of the Father** (John 14:9).
- **He is the world's Light** (John 1:1-5;8:12; 9:5)
- **He is the Son of Man** (Luke 19:10; Heb.4:15)
- **He is the Saviour** (1 John 4:14; 1 Tim.4:10).
- **He is the Lord of Lords**(Rev.17:14;19:11-16).

#### **The truth of God, the Holy Spirit**

*"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth...He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you" John 16:13-14 (also 14:16-17;26).*

- **He is the Spirit of adoption** (Rom.8:14-23).
- **He is our intercessor** (Rom.8:26-27).
- **He is our empowerer** (Acts 1:8; John 14:12).
- **He is the Spirit of revelation** (Eph.1:17-23).
- **He is our transformer** (2 Corinthians 3:18).

#### **The truth of His Word**

*"In God whose word I praise..." Psalm 56:4 (see also verses 9-11).*

Every truth of God and of ourselves is revealed in His written Word (2 Tim.3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12).

#### **The truth of who we are**

*"Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name" Psalm 103:1.*

With the revelation of the truth of who we were outside of Christ; God's great love and salvation for us; who we now are in Christ and His glorious eternal plan for us, worship becomes our whole life. God desires the truth of our hearts in our worship. *"I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws" Psalm 119:7 (see Ps.111:1).*

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## ***The Awe of His Presence***

“ You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. Psalm 16:11 ”

### ***The presence of the Lord***

As believers in the Lord Jesus, the presence of the Lord is always with us (see Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 28:20; Deuteronomy 31:6,8).

There are times, however, both individually and as His people gathered together, when the sense of His presence becomes an awesome reality to us.

### ***Knowing Him***

It is being in the presence of someone that we get to know them better. The Holy Spirit has been sent to make known to us, in increasing measure, what the Lord is like.

*"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better" Ephesians 1:17 (see Colossians 1:10; John 14:26; 2 Corinthians 3:16-18).*

### ***An awesome God***

*"...the Lord your God, who is among you, is a great and awesome God" Deuteronomy 7:21 (see also Nehemiah 1:5; Daniel 9:4).*

Every revelation of the Lord that comes to us by His Holy Spirit, results in our worship of Him, for God is an awesome God.

### ***Worshipping acceptably***

*"Therefore...let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire" Hebrews 12:28-29.*

### ***In the splendour of His holiness***

*"...worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness" Psalm 29:2 (see 2 Chronicles 20:21).*

As we worship in His presence, by the Holy Spirit, the revelation of His holiness effects us in two ways:

- **Reverence** — humble respect, honour
- **Awe** — struck with absolute wonder.

Many times an awesome silence will come upon us, as the awareness of God in His glory and holiness fills us (see Habakkuk 2:20; Daniel 10:4-19).

### ***Ascribing the glory due to Him***

*"Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name..." Psalm 96:8 (see 1 Chron.16:28-29; Ps.29:1-2).*

True worship ascribes – declares, and gives to the Lord – what is already His.

*"...Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honour and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!" Rev.7:12.*

### ***Worshipping the Lamb***

*"Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the centre of the throne...Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: 'To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever!'" Rev.5:6,13.*

Forever, throughout all eternity, we will be acknowledging the wonder of our salvation and His great love for us, and worshipping the Lamb upon the Throne.

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"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## ***Satan's Target – Worship!***

“...I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: ‘Hallelujah! Salvation, and glory and power belong to our God... Revelation 19:1”

### ***Contention for the Throne***

Read Isaiah 14:12-15. Ever since his expulsion from heaven, Satan has been at war with God and His people (see Ephesians 6:10-20). The Church symbolises to him not only the point over which he rebelled (he wanted what God had planned for us), but also the target of his contention – the Throne and the worship which surrounds it.

### ***Satan seeks worship***

Satan's goal is far higher than dominion of the earth. When the Lord Jesus came to the earth to rescue us from the Enemy's clutches, Satan made plain his ultimate purpose...

*“The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, ‘I will give you all their authority and splendour, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours.’ Jesus answered, ‘It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’” Luke 4:5-8 (Deut. 6:13).*

All the kingdoms of the world, throughout the ages, were Satan's to give, for when Adam chose to rebel, he forfeited the rightful authority over the earth given to him by God (read Genesis 3). But Satan's goal is higher than this. He is after the very thing that he was created to bring God – the worship at the Throne!

*“...You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the gar-*

*den of God; every precious stone was your covering...The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. You were the anointed cherub who covers...” Ezekiel 28:12-14 (KJV) (read to v.17).*

Although the meaning in the original Hebrew writing is uncertain (so some have translated it “settings and mountings” (NIV) or “settings and sockets” (NASV)) “timbrels and pipes” speak of musical instruments. It can also be translated “tambourines and flutes”. Music was created within Lucifer to bring worship to God. But his heart was lifted up in pride because of his beauty and he desired the worship which is offered by the hosts of Heaven and earth around the Throne. His motive has not changed. He now uses his music as a means to win people's hearts.

### ***The victory of the Cross***

The Cross, however, destroyed Satan's right over Man (see Col.2:13-15; Rom.5:12-21). Through the work of Jesus, we are “rescued from the dominion of darkness” (see Colossians 1:12-14) and born as sons on the Throne in God's kingdom. The total focus of our worship now is the One who sits on the Throne and the Lamb (see Revelation 5:13).

*“...the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: ‘You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power...” Rev.4:10-11 (read from verse 8).*

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"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## Jesus, the Worshipper

“ Father...I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. John 17:4 ”

Worship is not just singing songs or raising our hands. These are just some of the outward expressions. Worship is the offering up to God of our very life.

### ***The example of Jesus***

The Lord Jesus, himself, is our great example of a life of worship.

#### ***In His relationship to His Father***

*“You heard me say, ‘I am going away...’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I” John 14:28 (see also John 10:29-30; 14:9).*

Jesus whole life on earth was one of close relationship with His Father. He was always in intimate communion with Him (see Luke 2:49).

*“...‘I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does’” John 5:19.*

#### ***By His obedience***

The Lord Jesus expressed His love and worship of the Father by His obedience.

#### ***In His on life earth***

*“But the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me” John 14:31.*

#### ***In humbling Himself***

*“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,*

*but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!” Phil.2:6-8.*

#### ***In His death***

*“Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!. Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and will glorify it again’” John 12:27-28.*

#### ***By glorifying His Father***

To glorify His Father was the whole desire of our Lord’s life on earth and is His desire throughout all eternity.

*“After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: ‘Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you’” John 17:1 (see also John 13:31-32).*

#### ***In the midst of the church***

Now, in the midst of the fulfilment of what the Father had sent Him to bring about – “many brothers” (see Romans 8:29); “many sons” (see Hebrews 2:10) – Jesus sings praises to His Father.

*“Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. He says, ‘I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises’” Hebrews 2:11-12.*

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"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## ***Worshipping with Our Lives***

But you are...a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9

### ***Bringing praise to God***

As the representatives of the Lord on earth we glorify Him by our lives, and are the means by which the world will praise Him.

#### ***By our whole life***

*"Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us" 1 Peter 2:12 (see Colossians 1:9-12).*

#### ***By all we say and do***

*"If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen" 1 Peter 4:11 (see Colossians 3:23; 4:6; Proverbs 8:6-8).*

Every word that comes out of our mouth, and everything we put our hands to, is to bring praise to our God.

#### ***By our good deeds***

*"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" Matthew 5:16.*

Any act of kindness we do to others results in praise to God.

#### ***By bearing fruit***

*"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples" John 15:8 (read verses 1-17).*

Fruit is the evidence of the life of a tree. So it is with the "fruit of the Spirit" (read Galatians 5:22-23). Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control are the living evidence of Christ within us. This is what is seen on the outside and this is what brings glory to God.

#### ***By our consecration to God***

*"... You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body" 1 Corinthians 6:20 (see Romans 14:8).*

#### ***By our unity***

*"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" Romans 15:5-6 (see Ephesians 3:21).*

It is out of the unity of the relationship of the Body of Christ – being of one heart and one voice – that we glorify the Lord.

#### ***By accepting one another***

*"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God" Romans 15:7 (John 13:35).*

### ***The basis of worship***

Our life is the basis of all true worship. All the outward expressions with our voice, our hands and our body, only have meaning if they come from a whole life that is lived to bring glory to God.

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"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## ***Worship as a Living Sacrifice***

☪ ...I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Romans 12:1 ☪

### ***The Burnt Offering***

*"Then burn the entire ram on the altar. It is a burnt offering to the Lord, a pleasing aroma, an offering made to the Lord by fire" Exodus 29:18*

This is the offering Paul is referring to here in Romans 12:1. The Burnt Offering was the highest of all the offerings (see Leviticus chapters 1-7), for it represented the life of the offerer himself. It could only be offered as a result of the prior offerings for Guilt and Sin. It was essentially a love-offering. The whole animal (representing every part of the offerer's life) was placed on the altar and the fire for the Burnt Offering was kept *continually* burning.

### ***Jesus – The Burnt Offering***

*"He fell with His face to the ground and prayed 'My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will'" Matthew 26:39 (read through verses 36-45).*

Jesus was, in His own relationship to His Father, giving himself over to be a "Burnt Offering". He had come to the earth with this heart of love and obedience to His Father and the Cross was its ultimate expression (see Hebrews 10:5-10).

### ***Us – A Burnt Offering***

*"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children, and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God" Ephesians 5:1-2.*

Out of the same heart of love as our Lord Jesus had to His Father, we now offer ourselves to Him as a burnt offering – "living sacrifices".

### ***Living***

This word "living" has the meaning of "perpetual", "lasting", "never neglected". The continual burning fire of the Burnt Offering should be a daily spiritual reality in our lives. In other words, our new lives in Christ are now lived in a continual state of surrender to the Lord (see Romans 6:13).

### ***Holy***

This living sacrifice is *holy* to the Lord. It has the same meaning as the animal of the Burnt Offering being "without blemish". Because of Christ's sacrifice can we now offer ourselves as a holy sacrifice to God, for He now sees us in Christ: forgiven, cleansed and righteous (see 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 2:11).

### ***Pleasing***

In the same way as the Burnt Offering was a "sweet aroma" to the Lord, so the offering of our new creation self as a living sacrifice is an offering in which God delights. He accepts it with great joy.

*"To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord..." Jude 24-25.*

### ***Worship***

The word translated "worship" here has behind it the meaning of "that to which a man gives his whole life". Offering ourselves as a living sacrifice in worship to the Lord is the offering of our *whole* life (see Philippians 2:5-8).

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## ***The Restoration of Worship***

“ These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. 1 Corinthians 10:11 ”

### ***Lessons from Israel***

The experiences of Israel in the Old Testament, in its decline and restoration, foreshadow the experience of the Church. Because Israel defiled the Temple with the worship and practices of the idolatry of the surrounding nations, the Lord brought judgment against them. They were taken out of the land into captivity by their enemies (see Jeremiah 25:1-14; 2 Kings 16; 2 Chronicles 29:1-11). After 70 years of captivity in Babylon and Persia, a remnant returned to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem and with it, the worship in the Temple.

Since the time of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Acts chapter 2) the Church is now the Temple of God and the place where worship rises from the earth to the Throne of God.

*"...built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit" Eph.2:20-22 (see also 1 Cor.3:16; 6:19).*

### ***The need for restoration***

Just as Israel's worship in the Old Testament needed to be restored so it is with the Church. Israel's worship had become:

#### ***Outward expression only***

*"The Lord says: 'These people come near to me with their mouth and honour me with their lips,*

*but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men'" Isaiah 29:13 (read Isaiah 1:10-15).*

Worship is not an outward form that is followed. Neither is it just a method to be practised. If the heart does not line up with the outward expression, Jesus said it is hypocrisy (see Matthew 15:7-9; Mark 7:6-9).

#### ***Mixed with the world***

Old Testament Israel's greatest error was mixture. They did not totally reject the Lord but added idols to their worship of the Lord. One of the greatest examples of this was King Ahaz.

*"...King Ahaz...saw an altar in Damascus and sent to Uriah the priest a sketch of the altar, with detailed plans for its construction. So Uriah the priest built an altar in accordance with all the plans that King Ahaz had sent from Damascus... When the king came back from Damascus and saw the altar, he approached it and presented offerings on it. He offered up his burnt offering and grain offering, poured out his drink offering, and sprinkled the blood of his fellowship offerings on the altar" 2 Kings 16:10-13 (read to v.16).*

King Ahaz offered *to the Lord* all the offerings according to the Law of God but on *an idol's altar!* In the same way, we must never mix the world's "worship" – its methods, its focus, or the spirit of its music – with our worship to the Lord!

*"You must not worship the Lord your God in their way" Deuteronomy 12:4.*

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## ***The Tabernacle of David***

David...danced before the Lord with all his might...and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouts and the sound of trumpets. 2 Sam.6:14-15

### ***Historic background***

Read 2 Samuel 6:1-23; 1 Chronicles 13:1-14; 15:1-16:43). The Ark of the Covenant, which represented the full glory of God's presence, had been removed from the Holiest of All (read the full account in 1 Samuel chapters 4 to 7). When David became king of Israel his foremost desire was to bring back the presence of God to his people. So David erected a tabernacle (a tent) to house the Ark. While the tabernacle of Moses remained at Gibeon (see 1 Chron.16:39-40), with all the articles of furniture (except the Ark of the Covenant itself), the tabernacle of David was on Mount Zion. Unlike Moses' Tabernacle, which had three compartments – the Outer Court, the Holy Place and the Holiest of All (where the Ark was placed), all divided by veils – David's Tabernacle had only one compartment, the Holiest of all! And there was *no veil!* Both men and women came freely to praise and worship the Lord. So the Tabernacle of David represented two major things:

- Open, free access to the presence of God
- Continuous praise and worship in His presence.

### ***Old Testament prophecy***

*"On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old; that they may possess the remnant of Edom, and all the Gentiles who are called by My name," Says the Lord who does this thing" Amos 9:11-12 (NKJV).*

Amos prophesies God will rebuild again the Tabernacle of David!

### ***New Testament fulfilment***

Read Acts 15:12-20. Speaking to the gathering of the early church in Jerusalem, James declares that the fact that the Gentiles were coming to the Lord was the fulfilment of this prophecy of Amos. In Christ all that David's Tabernacle represented becomes a reality for us (see Hebrews 12:22-23):

### ***Open access to God's presence***

As Jesus hung on the Cross He took upon Himself everything of us which separated us from a holy, righteous God. He became the veil! The moment He died, the veil in the Temple was ripped in two, from top to bottom (see Matthew 27:50-51). Through Him there is no longer any barrier between us and the presence of God. We now have open, free access into His full glory.

*"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body...let us draw near to God..." Hebrews 10:19-22.*

### ***Continuous praise and worship***

*"David told the leaders of the Levites to appoint their brothers as singers to sing joyful songs, accompanied by musical instruments: lyres, harps and cymbals" 1 Chron.15:16 (also v. 28).*

Many of the Psalms in the Scripture come from David's Tabernacle. In them are revealed to us the variety of expressions of praise and worship.

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## Praising God

“Praise the Lord. Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord. Let the name of the Lord be praised, both now and forevermore. Psalm 113:1-2”

Praise is an expression of admiration and appreciation. When we praise someone, we tell them how wonderful we think they are, or how great their accomplishments are. It is the same with the Lord. When we praise the Lord we are acknowledging His character and His power.

*“For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises in a skillful psalm and with understanding” Psalm 47:7 (Amp).*

The Psalmist says we are to praise God “with understanding”. In other words, we are to know *why* we praise the Lord.

### **Why do we praise God?**

#### **Because of who He is**

*“Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise” Psalm 47:6-7 (read to verse 9; see Psalm 116:5; 135:3).*

#### **Because of what He does**

*“Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits – who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s” Psalm 103:1-5 (see Luke 19:37; 5:26; Isaiah 25:1; Psalm 150:2; Rev. 4:11).*

#### **Because of His love**

*“Because your love is better than life, my lips*

*will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live...” Psalm 63:3-4 (see also Psalm 107:8-9).*

#### **Because it is pleasant and fitting**

*“Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him!” Psalm 147:1 (see also Psalm 33:1).*

#### **Because it honours Him**

*“He who sacrifices thank offerings honours me, and he prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God” Psalm 50:23.*

### **Who are to praise God?**

#### **All people**

*“My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless – affectionately and gratefully praise – His holy name for ever and ever” Psalm 145:21 (Amp).*

#### **All His creation**

*“Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens...Praise him all his angels...Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars...Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures...you mountains and hills...wild animals...small creatures and flying birds, kings of the earth and all nations...young men and maidens, old men and children...Praise the Lord” Psalm 148:1-14.*

#### **Everything that has breath**

*“Let everything that has breath and every breath of life praise the Lord! Praise you the Lord! – Hallelujah!” Psalm 150:6 (Amp).*

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## The Reflex of Praise

From the rising of the sun to the going down of it, and from east to west the name of the Lord is to be praised!  
Psalm 113:3 (Amp)

### ***When do we praise God?***

#### ***All day***

*"My mouth is filled with your praise, declaring your splendour all day long" Psalm 71:8 (see Psalm 35:28).*

The daily revelation to our hearts of the "splendour" of the Lord causes the reflex of praise – our mouths overflow with praise to Him.

#### ***At all times***

*"I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips" Psalm 34:1 (see Eph.5:20).*

In the "good times" and the "bad times" of life the Lord is worthy of our praise for He does not change.

#### ***When we are discouraged***

*"Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God" Psalm 42:11.*

Keeping our eyes on the Lord – what He is like, what He has promised, and what He can do – replaces our discouragement with hope and, again, fills our hearts with praise.

#### ***In every circumstance***

*"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.*

Because we know that God works in all things for our good and uses everything to bring about His ultimate purpose for us (see Romans 8:28-29), we

can praise Him in the midst of whatever is happening to us.

#### ***When we hear His Word***

*"Then they believed his promises and sang his praise" Psalm 106:12 (see also Psalm 119:171).*

The word of God to us in the midst of the situations of life causes our hearts to rise in faith and the automatic result of faith is praise.

### ***Where do we praise God?***

#### ***In His presence***

*"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs...Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name..." Psalm 100 (see Ps.95:2)*

#### ***When we are alone***

*"I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings" Psalm 63:4-7.*

#### ***In the gathering of God's people***

*"I will give you thanks in the great assembly; among throngs of people I will praise you" Psalm 35:18 (see also Psalm 109:30).*

#### ***Among the nations***

*"I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples" Psalm 57:9.*

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## ***Praising God with Our Voice***

“ Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout  
aloud to the Rock of our salvation.  
Psalm 95:1 ”

### ***Praise is audible***

*“Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard” Psalm 66:8.*

Praise comes from the heart but it doesn't stay there. It has to be expressed audibly.

*“Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess his name” Hebrews 13:15.*

The Scripture gives examples of many ways that we can praise the Lord with our voice:

### ***Declaring***

*“No one is like you, O Lord; you are great, and your name is mighty in power. Who should not revere you, O King of the nations? This is your due. Among all the wise men of the nations and in all their kingdoms, there is no one like you” Jeremiah 10:6-7 (see Psalm 92:1-4).*

Like Jeremiah, we speak praise to God, declaring to Him how wonderful we know He is.

### ***Singing***

*“...be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” Ephesians 5:18-20 (see also Colossians 3:16).*

### ***Psalms***

Psalms have a twofold significance:

- They are songs directly from the Psalms of Scripture.

- They are songs expressing personal revelation of the Lord through the experiences of life (see Psalm 54:0-7; 57:0-11).

### ***Hymns***

Hymns are songs declaring the wonder of who God is in all His glory, and all He has done (Romans 15:9; Acts 16:25; 1 Corinthians 14:26).

### ***Spiritual songs***

Whereas psalms and hymns are both composed songs, spiritual songs are songs of praise and worship coming spontaneously from the overflow of our hearts, inspired by the Holy Spirit.

*“Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things...” Psalm 98:1.*

### ***Shouting***

*“...shout to God with cries of joy. How awesome is the Lord Most High, the great King over all the earth!” Psalm 47:1-2 (see also Psalm 35:27).*

Just as we cheer a successful athlete or a triumphant army who have won a victory on our behalf, so it is with the Lord. As the Holy Spirit moves upon us in revelation of God's greatness and victory over the Enemy, we can shout to Him with the voice of triumph.

*“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn – shout for joy before the Lord, the King” Psalm 98:4-6.*

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## ***Praising God with Our Hands***

☪ Lift up your hands in holiness and to the sanctuary, and bless the Lord [affectionately and gratefully praise Him]. ☪  
Psalm 134:2 (Amp)

Our hands represent our actions. We use our hands to express our heart to others. For example, in Western culture the shaking of the right hand (the sword hand from days of old) represents a greeting of peace and friendship. The Chinese express the same meaning by the cupping of an open hand over a closed fist. A large percentage of our communication is with our hands. How many people would feel inhibited if they could not use their hands while speaking? So it is with us in our praise to the Lord. We use our hands in a variety of ways:

### ***Clapping hands***

*"Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy" Psalm 47:1 .*

Just as we applaud in admiration and appreciation for a performer, so the clapping of our hands to the Lord is an expression of our praise of Him for His greatness, His power and His goodness.

### ***Lifting hands***

When we lift our hands up to the Lord it is an expression of our open hearts to Him.

### ***Thirst for God***

*"I spread out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land. Selah" Psalm 143:6.*

### ***Submission to His Word***

*"I lift up my hands to your commands, which I love..." Psalm 119:48.*

### ***Complete surrender***

*"...may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice" Psalm 141:2.*

### ***Praising God***

*"I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands" Psalm 63:4.*

### ***Playing instruments***

*"Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy" Psalm 33:3.*

A wonderful expression of our hands in praise and worship is the playing of musical instruments – not only for the accompanying of singing but, inspired by the Holy Spirit, as a beautiful expression of praise and proclamation of the Lord.

### ***Expressing praise***

*"Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute, praise him with the clash of cymbals" Psalm 150:3-5 (see also Psalm 144:9; 147:7; 1 Chronicles 23:5; 15:16).*

### ***Proclaiming the Lord***

*"So all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the Lord with shouts, with the sounding of rams' horns and trumpets, and of cymbals, and the playing of lyres and harps" 1 Chronicles 15:28 (see also 1 Chronicles 16:4-6).*

### ***Releasing prophecy***

*"'But now bring me a harpist.' While the harpist was playing, the hand of the Lord came upon Elisha and he said, 'This is what the Lord says...'" 2 Kings 3:15 (see 1 Chron.25:1-3; 1 Samuel 10:5).*

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## ***Praising God with Our Body***

☉ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ☉  
Deuteronomy 6:5

Worshipping God with our whole being finds expression in four different physical stances. These, of course, are not just outward stances to observe but are, as we have already seen, outward expressions of the heart and are reactions to the different revelations, by the Spirit, of the presence of God.

### ***Standing***

*"... 'Stand up and praise the Lord your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting.' 'Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise'" Neh.9:5. (see Deut.10:8).*

When we stand to our feet in the presence of someone we are expressing honour to them. So we stand to our feet before the Lord to acknowledge that He is exalted above all.

### ***Bowing/Kneeling***

*"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" Psalm 95:6 (see also Philippians 2:9-10).*

We bow and kneel in the presence of the Lord as a humble acknowledgement of His greatness and, in the light of that, the wonder that He should love and care for us.

### ***Prostrating***

*"... they all praised the Lord, the God of their fathers; they bowed low and fell prostrate before the Lord..." 1 Chronicles 29:20.*

There are times when the absolute sense of awe at the presence of the Lord so fills us that we have to

fall prostrate before Him. He is too wonderful, too glorious, for us to remain standing in His presence (see 1 Samuel 6:20).

*"Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. When I saw it, I fell facedown..." Ezekiel 1:28 (see also Ezekiel 44:4; Leviticus 9:24; Revelation 1:17).*

### ***Dancing/Leaping***

*"Let them praise his name with dancing..." Psalm 149:3 (see also Psalm 30:11; 150:4; Jer. 31:4,13).*

There are two expressions of dancing in praise to the Lord in the Scripture:

#### ***Expression of joy***

*"... So David went down and brought up the ark of God... with rejoicing... David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the Lord with all his might" 2 Samuel 6:12-14 (see also verse 16).*

*"And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God" Acts 3:8 (KJV).*

#### ***Expression of victory***

*"Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her, with tambourines and dancing. Miriam sang to them: 'Sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea'" Ex.15:20-21 (read 14:21-31).*

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## ***The Sacrifice of Praise***

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess his name. Hebrews 13:15

### ***The Fellowship Offering***

*"...the sounds of joy and gladness...the voices of those who bring thank offerings to the house of the Lord, saying, 'Give thanks to the Lord Almighty, for the Lord is good; his love endures forever'..." Jeremiah 33:11.*

The "sacrifice of praise" in Hebrews 13:15 is a reference to the Fellowship Offering of the Old Testament (see Leviticus chapter 3; 7:11-21). It was also called the Peace Offering and Thank Offering (see Psalm 107:22). It was not an offering to *make* peace and restore fellowship with God (that was the purpose of the sin and guilt offerings – Leviticus chapters 4-6:7). It was an offering of thanksgiving and praise to the Lord (or sometimes when a vow had been made) from an offerer who was at peace with God and, therefore, in fellowship with Him. The writer is using this offering as a picture. The believers in Christ who, through the shed blood of Jesus are now at peace and in fellowship with God (Romans 5:1; 1 John 1:3; 1 Corinthians 1:9), are to lift their hearts and voices in praise and thanks to the Lord for all He has done for them.

*"...at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the Lord" Psalm 27:6 (see Psalm 69:30; 95:2; 147:7).*

### ***Entering His gates***

*"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name" Psalm 100:4.*

Through the Cross of Christ Heaven's gate is open

wide and the way into the Presence of God is always open to the believer (Hebrews 10:19-22; 4:16). We are to offer the sacrifice of praise *continually*.

### ***Giving thanks and praise***

#### ***In times of need***

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" Philippians 4:6 (see also Psalm 116:17).*

*"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone" 1 Timothy 2:1.*

#### ***In all circumstances***

*"...give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" 1Thess.5:18.*

#### ***For God's generosity***

*"You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God" 2 Corinthians 9:11.*

#### ***For God's enduring love***

*"Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever" Psalm 106:1 (see also 2 Chronicles 5:13; 7:3,6; Psalm 136:26).*

#### ***For the spread of the Gospel***

*"All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God" 2 Corinthians 4:15.*

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## Declaring His Praise



My mouth is filled with your praise, declaring  
your splendour all day long.

Psalm 71:8



When we praise someone it can be in two ways. We can praise them personally, to their face, or we can praise them to someone else. It is the same with the Lord. We not only praise Him "face to face" but also declare His praises to those around us.

*"I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders" Psalm 9:1 (see also Acts 2:5-11; Psalm 106:1-2; 73:28; 51:15).*

### **Giving God glory**

*"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" 1 Peter 2:9.*

We declare the praises of the Lord by three means:

#### **Our testimony**

*"...my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise" Isaiah 43:20-21.*

Our personal experience of God's goodness and grace is the greatest force we hold to reach people with the Lord. No one can refute a changed life!

*"...the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 'Come see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?' ...Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony...And because of his words many more became believers. They said to the woman, '... now we have heard for ourselves, and we know*

*that this man really is the Saviour of the world" John 4:28-42.*

#### **"The day He visits us"**

*"Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us" 1 Peter 2:12.*

This is speaking of the special times of God's intervention in our lives – when we are in need in some way and the Lord comes in His love and His grace and brings the answer (read John 9:1-38). All those who surround us knew the need and know the answer has come. As we declare His praises to them – giving Him the "glory due to His Name" (see Psalm 29:2) – they will glorify God.

#### **When He uses us**

When God uses us to meet other people's needs through the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to us, we have the joy of giving Him the glory for what He has done through us.

*"When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him...Peter...said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?...By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong..." Acts 3:9-16 (read through to 4:2).*

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## *The Victory of Praise*

☉ Sing to God, sing praises to His name; cast up a highway for Him who rides through the deserts; His name is the Lord...glory before Him. Psalm 68:4 (Amp) ☉

### ***The victory already won***

The greatest declaration to the Enemy of his defeat is the redeemed of the Lamb worshipping before the Throne of God! (see Rev. 7:9-10). The complete and total victory over all the Devil's work was won by Jesus on the Cross (see John 12:31-32; 16:11). It is seen outworked in the circumstances of the believer's life as we focus on that finished work and praise and worship Him for all that He has done.

*"He who sacrifices thank offerings honours me, and he prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God" Psalm 50:23.*

There are many examples in the Word of God of praising God resulting in tremendous victory over the Enemy. Praise of God is not aimed against the Devil. The focus is never the *Enemy*. No. The focus is always the *Lord!* He, then, brings the victory.

### ***Joshua and the walls of Jericho***

*"...when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the people, "Shout! For the Lord has given you the city!...at the sound of the trumpet, when the people gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed..." Joshua 6:16,20(read vs.1-21).*

God had given them His Word (see Deuteronomy 7:1-2; Joshua 6:2). The victory was already the Lord's. The sounding of the trumpet, and the raising of the shout in unity together, was Israel's proclamation of praise to the Lord for His victory!

### ***Jehoshaphat and the vast army***

*"Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord*

*and to praise him for the splendour of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: 'Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever.'" 2 Chronicles 20:21.*

A vast army, greater and more powerful than Judah's, was coming against them. What commander-in-chief, going out to battle, would put singers in front of the soldiers? But in doing this Jehoshaphat was expressing his faith in God who had said that He would fight the battle for them (read 2 Chronicles 20:1-30). Under Jehoshaphat, the people's focus was on the Lord, His faithfulness to His word and His love for them, so they sang and praised Him.

*"As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated" 2 Chronicles 20:22.*

### ***Hezekiah and the seige***

Read 2 Kings 19:10-37. Hezekiah declared his praise of God's majesty and power in contrast to the pride and lies of the king of Assyria whose mighty army had defeated the surrounding nations and had now laid seige to Jerusalem. In response, while they slept, God sent His angel to destroy the enemy.

### ***Paul and Silas in prison***

*"About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose" Acts 16:25-26.*

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## ***Being a Doorkeeper***

“ ...I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. ”  
Psalm 84:10

Rather than being the least important task in the House of the Lord, as we so often think of it, being a Doorkeeper was, in fact, an awesome privilege.

### ***Obededom***

The greatest example in the Scripture of a Doorkeeper was Obededom. When David's first attempt to return the Ark of the Covenant to Israel had failed because he had tried to bring it back the wrong way, it had been left in the house of Obededom. For the three months it was there Obededom's house experienced tremendous blessing (read 2 Samuel 6:1-12; 1 Chronicles 15:11-15). When David came to take it to the tent he had set up on Mt Zion for it, Obededom followed it. He became a doorkeeper in David's Tabernacle, living in the glory of God's presence, ministering to the Lord and leading God's people in constant praise and worship (see 1 Chronicles 15:16-24; 16:4,38).

### ***The "shadow"***

*"They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven..." Hebrews 8:5 (see also Heb.9:23-26; 10:1-23; 1 Corinthians 10:11).*

What a Doorkeeper was in the Old Testament is a "shadow" of the Heavenly, the reality of which is found in the New. As we look at their responsibilities it proves a beautiful picture of our ministry before the Throne of God. Read 1 Chronicles 9:17-32. Among other details, the Doorkeeper had three main responsibilities, each a picture of ours as people of the New Covenant:

### ***In charge of the key***

The Doorkeeper was responsible for opening the gate of the Temple so people could come into the presence of the Lord. We, too, have the awesome call to usher people into the presence of God.

*"For this reason I kneel before the Father...that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God" Ephesians 3:14-19.*

### ***Care of the rooms and treasuries***

The Doorkeeper was responsible for the rooms and treasuries of the Temple. For us, too, there are depths and riches in Christ yet to be discovered and to be shared with others.

*"To me, though I am the very least of all the saints (God's consecrated people), this grace (favour, privilege) was granted and graciously entrusted: to proclaim to the Gentiles the unending (boundless, fathomless, incalculable and exhaustless) riches of Christ – wealth which no human being could have searched out" Eph.3:8 (Amp) (see Rom.11:33; Col.2:2-3; 1 Cor.2:6-10).*

### ***Guardians of His glory***

The Heavenly guardians around the Throne of God, and revealers of His glory, are the cherubim (read Ezekiel chapters 1 and 10; Hebrews 9:1-5). This is the ministry of the Doorkeeper on earth – to both guard and reveal His glory!

To be a Doorkeeper means to discover, experience and live in the riches and wonder of the glory of God, and by our praise and worship of the One we see, usher others in also.

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## Leading in Worship

“ Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord...Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. Psalm 95:1-2 ”

It is an awesome responsibility to lead God's people in praise and worship to Him. Therefore the qualifications for those who lead are very high.

### Qualifications

#### Consecrated to the Lord

“...consecrate yourselves and bring up the ark of the Lord, the God of Israel, to the place I have prepared for it” 1 Chronicles 15:12.

The total commitment of the life to the Lord is a vital qualification. All ministry is an imparting of one's own heart and spirit (see Acts 3:6-8).

“...offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life...” Romans 6:13.

#### Worshippers themselves

“Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care” Psalm 95:6-7.

In order to lead, worship must be a living reality in the heart and life of the leader himself/herself. God's flock are to be *led* not *driven*. As the leader leads by worshipping the Lord the flock follows in worship.

#### Guardians of the glory

Every true leader of praise and worship is, like the Doorkeeper of the Temple, both a guardian and a revealer of the glory of the presence of the Lord.

“Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart...” Psalm 24:3-4.

Clean hands speak of our actions. The leader must be one who knows the reality of the Cross in his life – his sins forgiven and the power of sin in his life broken (see Rom.6:1-11). A pure heart speaks of our motives. Never must self-glory be the motive of the leader. Neither must the motive be entertainment. God is a jealous God (see Ex. 34:14).

#### Sensitive to the Holy Spirit

“He gave him the plans of all that the Spirit had put in his mind for the courts of the temple of the Lord...” 1 Chronicles 28:12.

Everything that David did in his Tabernacle and planned for the Temple was given him directly from the Holy Spirit. This is an essential aspect of leading in praise and worship and requires two things:

#### Preparation beforehand

Much time spent in prayer and waiting on the Lord before the gathering of the people is essential.

#### Moving with the Holy Spirit

There will be times when the Holy Spirit will lead in an unexpected way. It is important to follow the leading of the Spirit.

#### Skilled

“Kenaniah the head Levite was in charge of the singing; that was his responsibility because he was skillful at it” 1 Chronicles 15:22.

Often skill is placed as the first criteria for a leader, but this is not so. Skill is important, but without the other qualifications listed above, means nothing.

“Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy” Psalm 33:3.

# Making the Truth Mine

Write out in full the scripture from this lesson which means the most to you. We encourage you to commit this verse to memory.


Write out one statement from the study which you feel is most significant for your life.


Write in your own words how you believe you should respond to the truth of this study. Are there any decisions you should make?


## **You can make a difference!**

For this study to have its full effect in your life, we encourage you to:

- Read and digest the study – meditate on the Word of God.
- Put into action what you have learnt (James 1:22).
- Share the Word of God with others.

Your places of ministry have been pre-arranged by God: your home, the street you live on, your place of work and your church.

“I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free” Psalm 119:32.

# Food for Thought

## **Sending God's Word to the Ends of the Earth**

The Word of God made available in a
clear, simple layout for personal study
and for use in sharing with others.

### ***The King's Table is designed to help...***

- ***Every believer for personal study***
- ***Parents to teach their children***
- ***Leaders of home groups***
- ***Ministers of congregations***
- ***Christian schools and home schooling***
- ***Missionary projects to other nations***

Our Project 21 series for leaders has been widely received and multiplied throughout Asia and the Pacific. The reports from many places of growth and blessing encourage us greatly in the spreading of the life-giving Word of God. It is something that for us never loses its excitement.

The King's Table is an extension of the Project 21 teaching program, where people like yourself can receive a different series of 21 lessons each month. Our prayer is that this series might be a great blessing to you.

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