

A Celebration of Praise

Psalm 100 — "A Psalm of praise."

Historically, Psalm 100 was sung in the temple at the sacrifice of thanksgiving (Lev. 7:11-15). The thanksgiving offering is the last sacrificial offering listed in Leviticus. This is because true expressions of thanksgiving flow from an appreciation for all that God has done for us. Not until our sins are atoned for can we truly worship God.

Psalm 100 is a **prophetic** psalm. It is the climax of a cluster of "coronation psalms" that began at Psalm 93 and crescendos with Psalm 100.

These psalms deal with Christ's millennial reign on earth (Rev. 20).

- Psalm 93:1 — *"The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty..."* This phrase speaks of the future and the time that the Lord will come again to earth. The first time He came to earth He did not come in majesty. He came as a Lamb. He is coming to earth the next time, as we are told in this psalm, *"clothed with majesty."*
- Psalm 94:1 — *"O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongeth..."* When the Lord comes to earth again, He will make things right.
- Psalm 95:1 — *"O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation."* (see also vs. 2, 6, 7)
- Psalm 96:1 — *"O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth."*
- Psalm 97:1 — *"The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice..."*
- Psalm 98:1 — *"O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory."*
- Psalm 99:1 — *"The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble..."* (see also v. 9).

Psalm 100:1—The "noise" is the shout of people at the coronation of Jesus at the beginning of His millennial reign. "King Jesus" is crowned as the world's rightful king... The horrors of the tribulation are over... The beast and the false prophet are dead... Satan is bound in the bottomless pit... Lawyers, politicians, doctors, nurses, and morticians are out of business... No wonder they are making a joyful noise unto the Lord!

➡ In this message we will look at Psalm 100 both prophetically and devotionally.

I T IN ITATION **L** (vs. 1-2—*Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. 2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.*)

A. The **SOUND** of joy.

1. The word “*make*” means “to cause to happen”—A command to bring into existence. **Worship can be noisy!**
2. Joy should be one of the main characteristics of the Christian life. It is the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). Romans 14:17—*For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.*
 - Gladness in service (Ps. 100:2)
 - Cheerful in giving (2 Cor. 9:7).
 - Joyful in worship (Luke 24:52).

B. The **SERVICE** of gladness.

1. Joyful noise leads us to joyful service. Our shouting should lead to service.
2. Serving the Lord is not to be a drudgery. It is a delight. **I'M GLAD I GET TO SERVE THE LORD.**
3. Serving the Lord is to be done with gladness, and excitement.
 - ➡ If church is not a joyful experience for you, there is something wrong!

C. The **SINGING** in His presence.

➡ God does not want you to come to worship Him with a long face. There may times when you are of a sad countenance, but not during times of worship.

1. Our singing is *about* Him... *for* Him... and *to* Him.
2. There is something about singing that can change a person's mood. “Whistle while you work. Hum a happy tune.”
3. Paul and Silas were singing praise to God in prison (Acts 16:25).

II T INSTR CTION

L (vs. 3, 5—*Know ye that the*

LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture... For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.)

➤ If you are coming into God's presence, you better know who you are approaching.

A. Know His **DEITY**. *Know ye that the LORD he is God*—Jehovah is Elohim / Jesus is God. The "Jehovah" of the Old Testament is the Jesus of the New Testament. Know ye that Jesus, He is God.

B. Know His **DEEDS**.

1. He **made** us (v. 3). Primarily this is a reference to God making the nation Israel (Gen. 12:2). But it is also true of us. We are not "self-made." Man did not come into existence by chance. We are not the product of evolution. God said, "*I have made the earth, and created man upon it*" (Isa. 45:12).

2. He **redeemed** us—"*We are his people.*" Not everyone is one of God's people. We become "his people" by being born again (John 1:12; 3:1-7).

3. He **sustains** us — "*And the sheep of his pasture.*"

➤ He is our Shepherd who protects and provides for us.

➤ "**HIS PASTURE**" is different from the devil's pasture.

C. Know His **DISTINCTIONS** (v. 5)

1. His **character**— "*The Lord is good.*" "Good" means agreeable, pleasant, and desirable. He is incapable of being "bad."
CHORUS: "God is so good."

2. His **compassions**— "*His mercy is everlasting.*" Mercy is "not getting what you deserve." "Everlasting" is forever. His love, His grace, His mercy is never exhausted (Lam 3:22).

3. His **consistency**— "*His truth endureth to all generations.*" Unlike most of us, **God is consistent**. He is today what He was yesterday—He will be tomorrow what He has been the past.

- **He is truth** and truth never changes.

- **His Word is truth**, therefore it does not change. When God says He loves you, you can count on it. When He says He is coming again, we need to look for Him. When He says He hears our prayers, we can trust Him for an answer.
- NOTE: This psalm begins with a reference to "**ALL ye lands**" and ends with a reference "**to ALL generations.**"

III T INCITEMENT L (v. 4—*Enter into his gates with **thanksgiving**, and into his courts with **praise**: be **thankful** unto him, and bless his name.*).

➡ This is the fulfillment of the millennial kingdom. The scene is the temple in Jerusalem, the future capital of all the earth. Christ is sitting on the throne of David. Filled with joy, people from all over the earth ascend the temple mount to worship King Jesus (Zech. 14:16).

- A. The **ACCESS**— "*Enter into His gates with thanksgiving...*"— The gates are flung open for us to enter in. What a privilege! As we go through the gates, we are exhorted: "*Enter into His gates with thanksgiving.*" We have so much to thank Him for!
- ➡ Thanksgiving should flow freely... frequently... without having to be reminded.
- B. The **ADMISSION**— "*...and into His courts with praise...*" Next, we proceed to His courts—the open spaces which surround the temple. We are exhorted to praise the Lord in exaltation!
- C. The **ADORATION**— "*...be thankful unto Him and bless His name.*" All of this centers in the Lord. Here is the heart of our worship. Our gratitude turns to blessing—"Bless His name."

SUMMATION: In 1988, the Los Angeles Dodgers had a great pitcher named Orel Hersheiser, who also a dedicated Christian. That year he won about every award a pitcher could win. He pitched 63 consecutive scoreless innings, still a record. He won the Cy Young Award and voted Most Valuable Player.

He appeared on the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson. Johnny Carson asked him how he seemed to stay so calm, steady, and focused in those

incredibly tense, pressured situations, on the pitcher's mound, alone, with 50,000 screaming fans and millions of people watching on television. Hersheiser answered, "I sing a hymn to myself that we sing every Sunday in church." Carson was momentarily speechless and caught a bit off guard. Carson asked if Hersheiser would sing it—on NBC-TV. With cameras on him, before a nationwide TV audience, Hersheiser sang:

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Johnny Carson was stunned and greatly moved. In fact, Carson chose this taped segment to conclude his prime-time 27th anniversary television special of the Tonight Show.

When we have a praising and grateful spirit for the Lord, He has a way of putting us in situations where people will hear our praise as a testimony to Him!