

The Supreme Value of Prayer and Worship in God’s Kingdom

I. GOD’S ZEAL TO BE WORSHIPED AND THE IMPORTANCE OF RESPONDING TO THIS

- A. Jesus revealed how important worship is to the Father (Jn. 4:23; cf. 1 Sam. 13:14; 2 Chr. 16:9).
²³The true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. (Jn. 4:23)
- ⁹The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. (2 Chr. 16:9)*
- B. **Eternal:** The Lord established worship around His throne before the creation of the earth (Job 38:7). John described aspects of the heavenly worship order that reflect God’s desire. It is *continual, musical, corporate, and God-centered* (Rev. 4:8; 5:9; 15:2).
⁹They sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy...”¹¹I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand...¹²saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb...”¹³And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth...I heard saying: “Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!” (Rev. 5:8-13)
- C. **Worthy:** The Lord’s worthiness and majestic beauty demand expression; the rocks will cry out if man is silent (Lk. 19:40). Proclaiming God’s worth in worship is essential to our priestly calling.
- D. **Biblical:** David commanded Israel’s kings to honor the order of worship with singers and musicians that he received by revelation because it was God’s command (2 Chr. 29:25; 35:4, 15). Scripture emphasizes that Jesus and church leaders greatly valued prayer and worship (Mk. 1:35; 6:46; Lk. 5:16; 6:12; 9:18, 28; 21:37; Acts 1:14; 2:42; 4:31; 6:4; 9:11; 10:2-4; 13:3; 14:23; 16:16, 25; Rom. 10:1; 12:12; 1 Cor. 7:5; 2 Cor. 1:11; 9:14; 13:7-9; Eph. 1:17-19; 3:14-20; 6:18; Phil. 1:4, 9-11; 4:6; Col. 1:3, 9-11; 4:2-3; 1 Thes. 3:10; 5:17, 25; 2 Thes. 1:11; 3:1; 1 Tim. 2:8).
²⁵...stationed Levites in the house of the Lord with stringed instruments...according to the commandment of David...for thus was the commandment of the Lord. (2 Chr. 29:25)
- E. **Prophetic:** The prayer movement is a major theme in end-time prophecy (Ps. 96:1, 9, 13; 98:1-9; 102:15-22; 122:6; 149:6-9; Isa. 19:20-22; 24:14-16, 23; 25:9; 26:1, 8-9; 27:2-5, 13; 30:18-19, 29, 32; 35:2, 10; 42:10-15; 43:26; 51:11; 52:8; 62:6-7; Jer. 31:7; 51:8; Joel 2:12-17, 32; Zeph. 2:1-3; Zech. 10:1; 12:10; 13:9; Lk. 18:7-8; Rev. 5:8; 6:9-11; 8:3-5; 9:13; 14:18; 16:7; 18:6; 22:17).
- F. **Historical:** The Lord established 24/7 prayer ministries throughout church history.
- G. **Current:** The Spirit is now calling many ministries worldwide to establish prayer rooms. For example, Call2All delegates have committed to start 700,000 new houses of prayer by 2020.
- H. **Personal:** Many people worldwide are being called specifically to join prayer ministries. The Lord rewards faithfulness to worship and prayer (Ezek. 44:15-16; Lk. 10:41-42; Mk. 14:9).
⁴“Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.” (Acts 10:4)

II. DAVID’S REVELATION OF WORSHIP

- A. The Lord revealed to David a new order for worship (1 Chr. 28:11-19). Later, when Israel went astray, God raised up spiritual reformers with a vision to restore worship as David had commanded. Seven “revivals” are recounted, each connected to Davidic worship being restored.
- B. Solomon established singers (about 970 BC) according to the command that God gave David.
¹⁴According to the order of David his father, he [Solomon] appointed...Levites for their duties to praise...as the duty of each day required...for so David...had commanded. (2 Chr. 8:14)
- C. Jehoshaphat’s reform (about 870 BC) included establishing singers and musicians.
²¹He [Jehoshaphat] appointed those who should sing to the Lord... ²⁸They came...with stringed instruments...to the house of the Lord. (2 Chr. 20:21, 28)
- D. Jehoiada the high priest restored temple worship in the order of David (about 835 BC) with singers and musicians and enthroned King Jehoash (Joash) when he was only 7 years old.
¹⁶Jehoiada [high priest] made a covenant between himself, the people, and the king, that they should be the LORD’s people...¹⁸Jehoiada appointed the oversight of the house of the LORD to...the Levites...with singing, as it was established by David. (2 Chr. 23:16-18)
- E. Hezekiah’s revival (about 725 BC) included restoring singers/musicians as David commanded.
²⁵He stationed Levites in the house of the Lord with stringed instruments...according to the commandment of David...for thus was the commandment of the Lord. (2 Chr. 29:25)
- F. Josiah’s revival (about 625 BC) restored full-time singers and musicians as David commanded.
*³He said to the Levites...⁴“Prepare yourselves...following the instruction of David...”
¹⁵The singers...were in their places, according to the command of David... (2 Chr. 35:3-15)*
- G. Zerubbabel (about 536 BC) established full-time singers and musicians as commanded by David.
¹⁰...the Levites...to praise the LORD, according to the ordinance of David. (Ezra 3:10)
- H. Ezra and Nehemiah (445 BC) established full-time singers and musicians as David commanded.
²⁴The Levites...give thanks...according to the command of David...⁴⁵The singers and the gatekeepers kept the charge of God...according to the command of David. (Neh. 12:24, 45)
- I. God commanded Israel to support the singers financially (2 Kgs. 22:3-7; 1 Chr. 9:33; 16:37; 2 Chr. 8:14; 31:4-16; 34:9-13; Neh. 11:22-23; 12:44-47). I believe that the Lord will again speak strongly to His people to support singers, musicians, intercessors, and “gatekeepers” financially.
*⁵The tithes...were commanded to be given to the Levites and singers and gatekeepers...
¹⁰I realized that the portions for the Levites had not been given them; for each of the Levites and the singers who did the work had gone back to his field. ¹¹So I contended with the rulers, and said, “Why is the house of God forsaken?” I gathered them together and set them in their place. ¹²Then all Judah brought the tithe...to the storehouse. (Neh. 13:5-12)*