

CSI WINTER ELECTIVES: LOVING THE LORD

ROMANCE OF WORSHIP

Experiencing the Presence of God through selected Psalms

I. Poetry— Language of the Psalms

- The most powerful literary means of expressing experience
- Special use of language
- A Language that says *more* and says it *more intensely* than ordinary language

II. Praise—the Center of the Psalms

Definition of Praise: three meanings for the verb “to praise”. These three are as follows: (1) “to set a price on, “to appraise”; (2) to commend the worth of,” “to express approval of”; and (3) “to laud the glory of, as in song,” “to glorify,” “to extol.” That is, praise concerns speaking well of, to extol the virtues of, to magnify.

The Psalms command, enjoin, encourage and exemplify the praise of God. They serve as the textbook on praise. The Psalms suggest that praise is a matter of life and breath. That is praise must come from a genuine and vital relationship with God, and that praise to God must be vocal and in a public forum. Praise is not silent nor is praise possible in solitude.

- Thanksgiving is a New Testament term that speaks to what may be done silently and in private. It occurs when one breathes a prayer of thanks to God for his mercy and goodness.
- Praise is a Hebrew, Old Testament term that says it is both vocal and public. Praise occurs when someone tells about God’s mercy and goodness. It tells about what God has done for someone.
- True praise elevates God and magnifies Him in the community.
- Praise is constructive worship.

- Praise is a matter of life and breath as it should be part of everyday living for the believer.
- Hebrew words of praise:

A. Praise! The word *halal*, which is seen in the transliteration “Hallelujah” (Praise the Lord or Praise Yah!), basically means “to be boastful,” “to be excited in joy.” (Ps. 111)

B. Acknowledge in Public! Hebrew word *yadah* which is rendered “to thank”, but in the OT one gave thanks to God by telling others what God had done. (Ps. 138)

C. Bless! The verb *barak* means “to bless.” (Ps. 103:1-2) We bless God by never forgetting what He has done.

D. Sing! The word *zamar* has the idea “to make music in Praise of God. (Ps. 92:1) Other words include *shir*, “to sing” (Ps. 96:1) and *ranan*, “to sing for joy.” (Ps. 95:1)

E. Laud! The verb *shabach* means “to speak well of.” (Ps. 117:1)

F. Shout in joy! The word *ru(a)* means “to shout in joy.” Hebrew culture allowed for believers to get truly excited about the reality of their great God! (Ps. 100:1)

G. Proclaim! *Qara* “to make proclamation,” (Ps. 116:17) *nagad* “to declare,” (Ps. 92:2) and *basar* “to proclaim”

H. Extol! The word *rum*, which has the basic meaning of “to be high.” (Ps. 145:1)

- Praise Him (God) in the Congregation and it should occur by His people at all times and in all circumstances of our living. (Ps. 149:1)

III. Praise on Target

- God must be the target and focus of our Praise
- Praise is participation in the worship of God

- **We praise God for who He is. (Psalms of Descriptive Praise)**

A. The Psalms Praise God for his Attributes (God's nature)

- 1. God is great!**
- 2. God shows loyal love!**
- 3. God is holy!**
- 4. God is good!**
- 5. God is righteous!**
- 6. God is truth!**
- 7. God has great glory**

B. Praise God for His Name Yahweh (Ps. 113:1b)

- 1. Yahweh speaks of God's eternal existence!**
- 2. Yahweh speaks of God's existence for the good of His people!**
- 3. Yahweh is a name of relationship!**

C. Praise God for His incomparability! There is no one like Him!

- **We praise God for what He does. (Psalms of Declarative Praise)**

A. The Psalms exults in the actions of God, in His mighty deeds, in His wonderful works.

- 1. Creation**
- 2. Salvation, redemption, response to prayer, providence, protection, guidance, healing, sustenance**
- 3. His constant care of His people**
- 4. Provision in nature**

- **God must be the Target of our Praise!**

IV. Let us then Praise Him

- **Read Psalm 145, a Psalm of Praise, and to share its experience of genuine, vocal, and public declaration of the exceeding excellence of our incomparable God**
- **See how many words of Praise as well as the concepts of Praise you can find.**