

# Coming Into His Presence Pt. 2 - Praise

## I. The Lesson

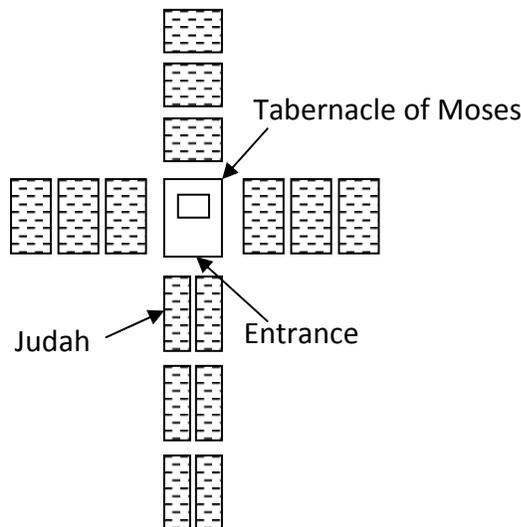
In the previous lesson on “Coming Into His Presence,” we talked about how thanksgiving is the first part of the “formula” for coming into God’s presence, both on a personal and congregational level. While thanksgiving is powerful in itself, it is important that we do not miss the second requirement for coming into His presence: Praise.

**Psalm 100:4** “Enter... into His courts with praise.”

Praise means different things to different people. Even in the Hebrew language that the Psalms were originally written in, there are many different words for praise. The word for praise in this passage is **Tehillah**.

**Tehillah** = \_\_\_\_\_ praise  
= praise offered from our \_\_\_\_\_, not from words on a screen

The picture, historically, is very vivid as well. When Israel would set up the Tabernacle of Moses in the desert, the tribes of Israel would have to set up camp surrounding the Tabernacle (representing the presence of God). The tribe that camped right outside the entrance to the Tabernacle was the tribe of Judah. Judah means praise. See where we’re going with this? In order to get into the Tabernacle (the presence of God), you would literally have to walk through “praise” (Judah)! (see diagram below)



It is the same way for us today. It is not good enough to just play great songs, sing every note accurately, and pray before service. All that is great, but God has given us an outline in His Word. We enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise!

Let's look at another promise in Psalms regarding this *tehillah* (spontaneous) praise.

**Psalm 22:3** "But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel"

Israel represents the people of God – the Church. The Hebrew word for praise here, once again, is *tehillah* – spontaneous, from-the-heart praise. When we offer God this kind of praise, He is enthroned upon it. This means that He makes the place where this praise is offered His \_\_\_\_\_ – He sets up His throne there!. What does this mean?

- God chooses to \_\_\_\_\_ in our praise.

- If His throne is established, other "thrones" are \_\_\_\_\_

Freedom replaces bondage.  
Joy replaces depression.  
Healing replaces sickness.  
Wholeness replaces brokenness.

What an amazing environment! Who wouldn't want to be a part of this? It's not some ethereal thing either. It is unlocked by worship teams and worshipers who enter His presence with thanksgiving and praise. What an awesome privilege! What an awesome opportunity!

## II. Discussion

- 1) What are some of the ways we, as worshipers, can become more comfortable with singing spontaneous praise to the Lord?
- 2) What are the implications, musically, of taking time to sing spontaneously to the Lord? (what do we do musically?)
- 3) What can we, as a worship team, do to encourage our congregation to offer this kind of praise in our worship services?
- 4) If we, as a worship team and a church, never sang praise *to* God, but rather *about* God, what affect would that have on worship experience of our church?

## III. Prayer Points

- 1) Pray for freedom over the worship team and congregation to step out and purposefully lift spontaneous praise to the Lord.

- 2) Pray that the worship level of the church would begin to mature as a whole – that our level of praise would not waiver as different seasons of life occur.
- 3) Pray that the manifest presence of God would increase in our worship times... that the things discussed in this lesson would be a consistent reality in our church.