

## **WORSHIP SERIES**

### **DEGREES OF WORSHIP**

There are degrees of praise and worship. There are degrees of approaching God and His presence. As we worship God sometimes, God in His grace allows the Spirit of praise to sweep over our life so that we could be refreshed by His presence and by the waves of glory from heaven.

In II Chron. 5 in the dedication of Solomon's temple, we see the people of God gathered together to worship Him. We see the basic approaches that are there. As we approach the temple of Solomon, there are six pieces of furniture. As you enter into the temple of Solomon the first thing that you see is the Outer court. There is first of all three sections. And there is a veil that separates the Outer court from the Holy place. This veil is the entrance into the Holy place. The whole Outer court is where the people gathered.

Then there is another veil that separates the Holy place from the Most Holy place. There are two veils in the tabernacle of Moses and the temple of Solomon. In the Outer court, you have two pieces of furniture. The first piece of furniture is the brazen altar. Just before you enter the first veil, you have the laver. So as you enter the Outer court you have two pieces of furniture then you have the first veil. When you enter the first veil, you enter into a different portion. In that portion, you find on your right a very bright light. The bright light as you look towards the left there is the candlestick. Then towards our right you will find a table of showbread. Then you have the table of incense. Then you enter the second veil and that is the Most

Holy place.

When we worship the Lord, there is a pattern by which we approach the Lord. The brazen altar is where the blood sacrifice is. And that is the blood of the lamb. This piece of furniture points to Jesus. The brazen altar represents the blood of Jesus the Lamb of God being shed. We also have the laver in the Outer court. There is where they wash the animals before they sacrifice the animals. The laver is where they do all the ceremonial washing representing the washing of the Word. The laver represents Jesus Christ the Word of God.

Then you enter the first veil on the left is the candlestick which represents the Holy Spirit and all His gifts. The table of showbread the bible tells us there are two moldings. They represent Jesus Christ the King of Kings and Lord of Lord. It has twelve loaves that must be changed every week. They put also the wine there for the sacrifice and it also points to communion and of course it points to the status of Jesus as the Mighty King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Then you have the altar of incense, one of the tallest pieces of furniture there. That represents the prayers, praise, and worship as well as Jesus Christ our High Priest.

As you enter into the Most Holy place, you have the Ark of the Covenant. This is where the glory of God resides with the two cherubim whose wings touch the Mercy Seat that represents the glory of God.

Now each aspect represents a particular teaching in the bible too. The brazen altar represents the blood of Jesus Christ and the power of the blood of Jesus Christ. The laver represents Jesus the Word of God. It represents the power of the Word. Then the candlestick represents Jesus the baptizer of the Holy Spirit, the Giver of the Holy Spirit. It represents the power of the Holy Spirit. Then we have the table of showbread and that represents Jesus Christ the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and the power of the Name of Jesus. Then the altar of incense represents Jesus our High Priest. The altar of incense represents the power of praise and worship and prayer; Jesus Christ our High Priest. The Ark represents Jesus Christ the fullness of the Godhead, the power of God's presence and glory.

In II Chron. 5 as they gathered together before the Lord in verse 6 *Also King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel who were assembled with him before the ark, were sacrificing sheep and oxen that could not be counted or numbered for multitude.* Notice what they were doing. They were sacrificing lambs. In other words, blood was shed. There were so many animals that they could not number the animals. So the blood of the lamb was signified and shadowed here. The reason why the glory of God came in that familiar passage is because first they entered by the blood. That's the only way as we seek to worship God. See there are different degrees of worship that we can enter into. So the first stage we enter is the blood. They magnify the blood. That's the only entrance. The blood of the Lamb washes us spirit, soul and body. So they entered by the blood. When we worship God and enter into His presence we need to magnify the blood. Notice that all worship followed this very systematic order. As we approach God's presence all the time, we should keep this order in mind.

II Chron. 5:7 *Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the Most High Place, under the wings of the cherubim. For the cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark and the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles. The poles extended so that the ends of the poles of the ark could be seen from the holy place, in front of the inner sanctuary, etc.* Then in verse 10 *Nothing was in the ark except the two tablets which Moses put there at Horeb, when the Lord made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they had come out of Egypt.*

And so they have made everything, everything was completed. They made the ark and all the different furniture. On that occasion that day was the setting up of the Ark of the Covenant. So it was a special occasion when they were laying the ark in its rightful place in the Most Holy Place. What we want to see is that all the pieces of furniture were made according to the pattern that God showed David.

I Chron. 28:11 *Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the vestibule, its houses, its treasuries, its upper chambers, its inner chambers and the place of the mercy seat; and the plans for all that he had by the Spirit, of the courts of the house of the Lord, of all the*

*chambers all around of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries for the dedicated things; also for the division of the priests and the Levites, for all the work of the service of the house of the Lord.*

Notice here that in I Chron. 28 in verse 11, 12, 13, that everything they did in II Chron. 5 was according to the pattern shown to King David. In other words, God revealed to David as He revealed to Moses the pattern. In Solomon's temple God revealed to David how to divide the priests, how to divide each piece of furniture, which was larger and bigger than what Moses built. In other words, they built it according to the pattern. And the pattern represents God's revealed Word whether it be rhema or logos. And that means that the approach of the whole worship was set after the pattern that King David had visualized. King David had seen the rhema of God, the laver of God. As they approach God, it has to be after God's pattern.

Remember the story where King David tried to bring the ark into the city of David. The first time he brought it in, he made a cart that was pulled by oxen and it did not work. Halfway through someone died. Later King David realized he was wrong. They should let the priests carry the ark. So they had to follow God's pattern before the transporting of the Ark of the Covenant could proceed smoothly. Before they could tap on the glory of God in II Chron. 5, they have to be obedient to the pattern. Before we could offer God our worship, we have to offer God the sacrifice of our obedience. If we do not get ourselves under the blood or we are not obeying the Word, no amount of worship or praise could reach into heaven. If we live a life of disobedience and we are not under the Word of God, we are not obeying the Word and we are not covered by the blood, no amount of singing, no amount of instruments, no matter what we do we can never go above the ceiling. So we always enter the presence of God through the same pattern of the blood and the Word.

But that's not enough they want to enter deeper into the presence of God. So here as they move deeper in II Chron. 5:12 *And the Levites who were the singers, all those of Asaph and Heman and Jeduthaun, with their sons and their brethren, stood at the east end of the altar, clothed in white linen, having cymbals, stringed instruments and harps, and with them one hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets.*

So they have there all the priests of God all a hundred and twenty trumpeters. But they were divided into three groups Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun. Look at I Chron. 25 and you see those three groups there in verse 2 *Of the sons of Asaph; Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah and Asharelah the sons of Asaph were under the direction of Asaph, who prophesied according to the order of the king.* Now Asaph is the one who prophesied. Look at the last phrase there.

Now at the end of verse 3 *Jeduthun prophesied with a harp to give thanks and to praise the Lord.*

**Then with Heman it tells us in verse 6 *All these were under the direction of their father for the music in the house of the Lord, with cymbals, stringed instruments, and harps, for the service of the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthu and Heman were under the authority of the king.* Now in verse 5 it says *All these were the sons of Heman the king's seer in the word of God to exalt his horn.***

**Notice the three groups there. In Asaph's case, no instruments were mentioned. Then you have Jeduthun who used stringed instruments, the harps to prophesy. Then you have the last group Heman. It says that his sons play the horns. They prophesy with the horn.**

**There were these main divisions all with different areas in God. In other words, they were prophesying in the Spirit of God. In**

other words, the Spirit of God was moving them. They were moving in the realm of the Spirit and they were bringing before God praise and worship. And David wrote some of the songs. Jeduthun wrote some of them and the rest by Heman. When they sing the songs that God gives the anointing of God started coming.

Look at II Chron. 5 they have only gone three steps. In II Chron. 5:12 *And the Levites who were the singers, all those of Asaph and Heman and Jeduthun* again you see those three names. It represents the different moving and the different gifts of God as each gift functions according to God's design. *With their sons and their brethren.* In verse 13 *Indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the Lord, saying, "For He is good, His mercy endures forever," that the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud.*

The glory of God came in when they move in the blood, the Word, the pattern, they prophesy by the harp and by instruments, and as they move in the Spirit, they saw the glory of God coming in. Many times when we see God's glory, we say enough. But they have some things to go through. See there are waves of God's glory. What we are teaching here this morning is there are waves of God's glory. Don't be satisfied with the first time. There will be eternal waves of glory; there will be more

and more of the things of God. There is no end to what God continues to do. That is why Paul always says he press forward. We must be eternally hungry for God. They had just reached the third step and the glory of God came. It is not the end. When you reach a certain point and the glory of God comes in and you say thank you, thank you and you ran out. My friend, it is only the beginning. There are some more things God wants to bring into our lives.

And so the glory of God came down and the priests could not stand in God's presence in II Chron. 5. That's the first wave of God's glory. In fact, there are many waves of God's glory. They have all those sub-waves, the blood, the Word and now the praise and worship as one together in the Lord.

In chapter 6:1 *Then Solomon spoke; "The Lord said He would dwell in the dark cloud. I have surely built You an exalted house and a place for you to dwell in forever."* Here they begin the dedication of Solomon's temple. Solomon dedicated the temple and provided an avenue for every Israelite to do certain things that God would honor according to the old covenant. In other words, he was making a covenant with God.

See the table of showbread represents God's covenant with us. Today when you take of the cup of the Lord's Supper, it represents the covenant the Lord has with us. It is when you have passed the third state that you make a covenant with the Lord. Many people when they reached this stage they go to a

place they enjoy the worship, enjoy the place, but they don't move into the covenant with God. Let me tell you God doesn't want you to just enjoy worshipping Him. God wants you to make a covenant with Him. God wants you to come into covenant with Him. We know we have the covenant with the Lord Jesus Christ the blood of the Lamb. But I believe all of us must have our own covenant with the Lord. We have to have our own dedication service to the Lord. Dedicate yourself to Him. And many time people will just move in these three levels; the blood, the word and praise and worship and then they just go off. Their lives are not changed. They are not transformed. God doesn't have more of them. After some time, even that becomes dull.

See even those who are in the Charismatic movement for twenty years slowly begin to feel dry. They have the same praise and worship. They have the same songs. But something starts growing dry because they don't move deeper into a personal covenant with the Lord. That's the table of showbread. See the table of showbread only the priests can eat it. Do you know all the Levites cannot eat the showbread? Only the priests the descendants of Aaron can partake of the showbread. In other words, you have to have a special relationship to Aaron. The Lord Jesus today signifies Aaron. You have to have a special relationship with the Lord before you can partake of the table of showbread. Get deeper into the covenant relationship.

Here Solomon is saying in Chapter 6 making a covenant with

the Lord. Solomon is giving himself onto the Lord and making a covenant with God on behalf of his people. He is saying, "Lord You will put Your presence here. Let all who cry out to Your presence in the direction to the temple let them hear You." He was making a covenant with God. When God shows His glory what do you do? Just worship God and say thank you? No. Make a covenant, dedicate yourself to Him. When God shows Himself, don't just enjoy His glory; go further and make a covenant with Him. Make a deeper relationship with Him. Go deeper into Him. And yield more to Him.

A lot of people will stop at II Chron. 5. If they had stopped at II Chron. 5 they will have just one glory. But because they went deeper perpetually throughout all generations after that time men and women could tap on the glory of God continually. Whenever other kings come and dedicated the temple the glory of God came. Many other times like in II Chron. 20 when the Israelites were in trouble King Jehoshaphat in II Chron. 20 says Lord remember Your covenant. If Solomon had not prayed what he prayed in II Chron 6, he would only have tasted the glory of God in his days. But because of his covenant with the Lord there is now open the possibility of others stepping into that same covenant. Solomon had opened the way for the generations to come. He went deeper. When he did that, he also prayed a prayer onto the Lord in II Chron. 6:40 *Now, my God, I pray, let Your eyes be open and let Your ears be attentive to the prayer made in this place. Now, therefore; Arise, O Lord God to Your resting place. You and the ark of Your strength. Let Your priests, O Lord God, be clothed with salvation. And let Your*

*saints rejoice in goodness. O Lord God, do not turn away the face of Your Anointed. Remember the mercies of Your servant David."* See Solomon was offering prayer. From covenant, he is coming now to personal prayer, praise and worship. He began to move deeper into the things of God.

Then you have II Chron. 7:1 *When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. And the priests could not enter the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house.* Now that's the second greater glory. There are many people who see the first glory; the gifts of the Spirit but they don't enter deeper. There is a deeper glory when you are in covenant with Him. As you enter deeper into praise and prayer with Him, you not only have the glory of God but you have the fire of God coming down with His glory. Now fire was important to them. It is in fire that the burnt offering outside keeps on burning. So the fire came on the brazen altar. Normally if the fire did not come down on the brazen altar, what they were burning already they had to light the fire themselves. But now the fire came from God. God Himself light and burn the offerings. That is where human works end and God's Spirit takes over a hundred percent. We reached a stage where our works end. And what you do a hundred percent of the time is the Holy Spirit flowing out. That's what we want - to be totally in manifestation of the Holy Spirit. Where it's the Holy Spirit Who fully blows you. All you do is to set sail and the wind of the Spirit blows you. In everything you do its flowing from the Holy Spirit.

What we want to encourage you is to enter into praise and worship there are degrees of glory. We only saw two this morning. I want to encourage you there are many degrees of flowing. Enoch walked with God and walked in such glory that he was so physically transformed that he walked into the depths of God's glory. There are many degrees of glory. The average Christian when they see the glory of God, "O praise God that's enough." There are many degrees of glory you enter into when you praise and worship God. You enter into one and you flow in it. You enter into another one and enter into another one and it brings you into the heights of God's glory. For the bible says, we are being transformed from glory to glory. That means the glories of God are the mountain peaks in our life. But there are many, many Mounts of Transfiguration that we move into from glory to glory to glory until we reached the heights of His glory. Don't be satisfied with the first glory. Enter deeper. There are more of the depths of God's glory.