

WORSHIP SERIES

REACHING THE HIGHEST

PRAISE IN WORSHIP

We have been looking at praise and worship. In this message, we want to look at three realms or three levels of praise and worship and see how we can reach into the highest praise. We know in the book of Psalms 149 that there is a high praise. And if there is a high praise, there must be a low praise. We know that we cannot go high until we start low.

We want to just look at Ps. 149 Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, and His praise in the assembly of saints. Let Israel rejoice in their Maker. Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. Let them praise His name with the dance. Let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp. For the Lord takes pleasure in His people. He will beautify the humble with salvation. Let the saints be joyful in glory. Let them sing aloud on their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth and a two edged sword in their hand to execute vengeance on the nations and punishment on the people. To bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute on them the written judgment – this honor have all His saints. Praise the Lord!

We see here that there is such a thing as high praise. And we want to look

at what it means and what the scriptures speaks about when it talks about high praise. Bear in mind that when they are speaking about high praise here it is in the Old Testament. They have not been born again in the New Testament sense, neither have they received the baptism in the Spirit with the ability to worship God in the Spirit in tongues. So there must be an aspect of high praise they did experience although prophetically its ultimate fulfillment can point to worship in the spirit and in tongues.

What is it speaking about besides a simple interpretation of saying that is tongues? Surely there is more to that. The Old Covenant saints must have understood something about high praise. We must have first of all a picture of the tabernacle of Moses or the temple of Solomon in our minds. The tabernacle is divided into three primary sections. The first section as you enter in is the Outer court. The first thing you will see is a huge big altar called the brazen altar. And in the Outer court, everything is made out of bronze. They have the brazen altar where all the animal sacrifices take place. And every festival and every high occasion the people of Israel will gather there in the Outer court and bring all their sacrifices. There is also another furniture as you enter into the Outer court which is the laver where there is water to wash the animals legs and other internal organs they use to worship God with to burn before the Lord.

There is the first veil that separates the Outer court from the Holy place. Only the priests in the Old Covenant can enter the Holy place. There are three pieces of furniture there; the candle stick, the table of showbread and the altar of incense just before the second veil. When you cross the second veil, you enter into the Most Holy place. Using all these expressions you realize where there is the *most*, there must be something before that. If there is a *high*, there must be something before that. Here the third section is described as the Most Holy place. In the Most Holy place is the ark. The glory of Lord rests upon the ark between the wings of the cherubim. We have always thought that the Outer court as thanksgiving and the inner courts that is the Holy place and the Most Holy place as worship. Sometimes in our minds, we divide the Outer court to be thanksgiving, the Holy place to be praise and the Most Holy place to be worship. However, when we look at the totality of praise and worship in all that they represent, we realize that there is also worship in the Outer court. Otherwise, where do the people worship the Lord if they were not priests? Only the covenant

people of God can enter the Outer court. Only the priests can enter the Holy place. And only the high priest can enter the Most Holy place. So we realize that there must be some sort of worship also taking place in the Outer court.

In the Psalms, you will find verses that speak about worshipping in the Outer court. So not only thanksgiving goes on there but there is also worship going on. And what happens is that there are these three different levels of worship. There is a certain level of worship that takes place in the Outer court. And there is a level of worship that takes place in the Holy place. And there is a high praise and worship that takes place in the Most Holy place. And they all can be lined up as different dimensions of praise and worship. The word dimensions indicate some equality in a sense. For example, we live in a soul dimension and a physical dimension at the same time. And when we are born again we live in a spiritual dimension. So the dimensions are simultaneous and they take place at the same time. Levels speak about one at a time. The highest level is built upon the lower level. Therefore, we will use the word levels. There are three different levels of worship that we need to enter into. And each one has its special touch or special principles involved. And if you understand them, it will help us to enter into the highest praise and worship.

The First Level: the Law of Sacrifice

So let's look at the first level and the laws that are involved. In fact, we only look at one main principle at the worship in the Outer court and what it represents and all the principles involved in that. Let's look at II Sam. 24. David had sinned against the Lord and that incident was important because there was a revelation of God that came forth regarding the place. Remember we were teaching about the place of worship. Here David has come to a point where he has repented. He has humbled himself before God. Verse 16 *And when the angel stretched out His hand over Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord relented from the destruction, and said to the angel who was destroying the people. "It is enough; now restrain your hand." And the angel of the Lord was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. Then David spoke to the Lord when he saw the angel who was striking the people, and said, "Surely I have sinned, and I have done wickedly, but these sheep what have they done? Let You, and I pray, be against me and*

against my father's house." And Gad came that day to David and said to him, "Go up, erect an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite." So David, according to the word of Gad, went up as the Lord commanded. Now Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming toward him. So Araunah went out and bowed before the king with his face to the ground. Then Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" And David said, "To buy the threshing floor from you, to build an altar to the Lord, that the plague may be withdrawn from the people. Now Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take and offer up whatever seems good to him. Look here are oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing implements and the yokes of the oxen for wood. All these, O king, Araunah has given to the king." And Araunah said to the king. "May the Lord your God accept you." Then the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God with that which costs me nothing. So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. And David built there an altar to the Lord.

Now those altars were more or less like the brazen altar where animal's sacrifices were performed. David worshipped the Lord at that altar. And that is the first level of praise and worship. It is the level of Outer court, which is necessary. There is no way you could go into the Holy place without going through the Outer court first. In fact, if your sacrifices in the Outer court were to be rejected you could never get into the Holy place and the Most Holy place. So there are levels that are built one upon the other.

What is this Outer court and what does it symbolize? That's the first principle. The first level of praise and worship as you enter is a sacrifice. It must cost you something to praise and worship God. If it doesn't cost you anything, you haven't even entered the first level. We are teaching you how to enter into the highest and worship. Today we may not offer animals. But there must be a price paid to enter into the first level of praise and worship. Whether it costs you your money; your time; it has to be something that costs before you could worship. When we gathered together on Sunday to worship God whether or not you ever enter into the first level, depends on the price you paid to worship Him that day. Maybe you are song leading and you want to bring the people into the highest praise. If you did not pay that price that morning, you cannot enter the Holy place. We can sing the same old songs; we can do the same old things but

the spiritual dimension is missing. How do I pay the price? Search your heart. Maybe you say, "I am going to worship so let me do without sleep." So you sacrifice sleep. You got up at 4 am and you seek God's face. That is your sacrifice. That is your oxen that you burned. Maybe you are going to lead worship in an international rally and you really want to bring worship into the highest realm. Besides praying time how else can you pay the price in the same way that David paid an offering to the Lord. Say, "Lord, let me give you an offering that cost something to me. Lord, let me give above what my normal tithe as an offering to you." When you come and you worship there will be something different. The first law is the law of sacrifice.

Lets turn to Heb. 13 and see the mention of sacrifice in verse 15 *Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.* Notice that is the sacrifice of praise. Not just thanksgiving although it involves thanksgiving. Besides our finances, besides our time, it could be areas of your personal family life. For example, you could be a family man or a housewife or perhaps you are busy in your professional work and you are going to do something for God in worship. You have learned the principles. And you learned that the first law is sacrifice. Remember if you stand before God and you haven't sacrificed anything you can't even enter the Outer court. Nobody enters without sacrifice. I am talking about praise and worship. If you really want to worship God in the first realm, it must cost you something. Perhaps you are so busy and you got only three days of leave from your secular work. You say, "I am going to specially take leave for that day to spend time in personal praise and worship." So it costs you something. You sacrificed something in order to lead God's people into the realm of praise and worship. When there is a sacrifice involved in the first two levels, the sign is the sign of fire. Fire is the sign for the first two. The third level is the sign of glory.

Turn to I Chron. 21 and see what price we have to pay in order to worship God. If tomorrow is a public holiday and we say, "Lets all gather on a certain mountain and worship God." Three quarter of the people say, "Well, I can't make it." Only one quarter can and they dragged themselves all the way up to worship God. What will happen? Will the one-quarter experience God? Yes, because they paid the price. They have traveled for two days in order to reach that place. Understand the word sacrifice is so broad and so big in modern terms. The

principle is it costs you something, whether your time, your finances, your energy, your vacation, something. If it has been very difficult for us to meet together to worship God and you make an effort that costs you something to worship God, then there will be the first level coming in. It has costs us something to worship Him.

I Chron. 21:24 Then king David said to Araunah, "No, but I will surely buy it for the full price for I will not take what is yours for the Lord, nor offer burnt offerings with that which costs me nothing." He says I will pay the market rate, I will pay the full price. It must cost me something. Araunah said, "O king, these are all yours. You can take my oxen, you can take my land." David said, "I will not take what is yours. I will pay with the full price in order to worship God."

Verse 25 So David gave Araunah six hundred shekels of gold by weight for the place. And David built there an altar to the Lord, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called on the Lord, and "He answered him from heaven by fire on the altar of burnt offering. It is called the altar of burnt offering. God sent a fire from above. And it came all the way to burn the sacrifice. It is not a natural fire. As I studied on this subject of fire, I find that fire involves surrender, fire involves humility, a consecration and surrenderedness to God and an angel is usually involved. (Read Watchman Nee's excellent teaching on [Spiritual Fire](#).) You find that when Elijah called down fire in II Kgs.1 the angel was there. And in the story of the prediction of Samson's birth, it was an angel who walked into the fire and disappeared. But that fire was a natural fire and the angel just walked into it and went into heaven. In the Old Testament when they saw the pillar of fire besides God's presence, there was an angel of God involved. That's another area. But we realize that when we pay a price, the angels of God are involved in our praise and worship. And every time God's people have paid a price to worship God, some manifestations take place.

In Acts 16:23 And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. It was not easy to praise God in Paul's position.

He had followed his missionary call. In Acts 16, they tried to go to Mysia and then to Bithynia but the Holy Spirit forbade them. And at Troas seaport, they had a vision of a Macedonian man and so Paul and Silas went all the way to the capital of Macedonia, which was Philippi and began to preach the gospel there. The preaching went on well until they cast out a demon and they were taken to prison. They were whipped and their bodies were hurting. Their legs were chained. They were tired. The logical thing to do is to just sleep. But maybe the stripes on their backs that were laid upon them were so painful that they could not sleep. And in their pain, in their suffering and in their imprisonment they chose to worship God. That is the price. And as they prayed and worshiped God instead of a fire coming down, we see an earthquake coming. But one thing we see is God moving. There is a certain level of worship that we need to enter into.

A lot of us in our modern society worship God in our convenience. We don't know what it is to pay a price to worship God. We worship God in our convenience. Therefore, we never understand and know what the highest praise and worship is. You can never enter until you pass that point. This is why the songs that you sing to God when you have paid the price are the sweetest melody to God. It is not just how the words, "Amazing Grace," is sung. I mean thousands of people sing, "Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see." But the composer of that song was a man named John Newton. And John Newton had lived a life of wretchedness and sin. And he came to a point in his life when he said, "God I can't take this any more. I let go and let you take control." It is not just how you sing. But it is who sings it. You can be the best soprano singer in the world. But if you didn't pay a price to sing "Amazing Grace," there is no melody that touches heaven. But when you pay the price that's when you reach that first level. And God above hears the sweet melody.

What is our sacrifice compared to the sacrifice of Jesus? But yet, it means something to God. It means something to God if you sacrifice to come to Him. Your songs are different. It is a sacrifice or praise. Many years ago when I was in the seminary, there was a new student that came. She had given up everything. She was chased out of her home and persecuted. It costs her everything to go into the ministry. When she stood up her voice was not the best voice in the world; it was untrained. But when she sang "Amazing Grace" it could break the hardest

heart because she paid the price to sing that song.

The first key in the first level in the Outer court is that it must cost us something to praise and worship God. If it cost you nothing to come on Sunday to worship Him then don't blame God when you cannot enter His presence. It must cost us something. We must prepare ourselves in order to worship God. Otherwise, you cannot call it a sacrifice and God cannot answer by fire.

The Second Level: the Law of Prayer

When you pay the price and you enter into the second level. there is only one word for the second level and that's the word prayer. The first level is the word sacrifice. The second level is the word prayer. Prayer is what enhances worship into the second level. Prayer is communion with God. It is speaking to God and pouring out your heart to God your desires, your visions, your goals, your emotions.

Turn to II Chron. 6 Solomon the king in verse 12. Now God's presence had already come. *Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands (for Solomon had made a bronze platform five cubits long, five cubits wide, and three cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court, and he stood on it, knelt down on his knees before all the assembly of Israel, and spread out toward heaven.)* He prayed to the Lord and he dedicated the temple to the Lord.

Chapter 7:1 *When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifice and the glory of the Lord filled the temple.* The second level is communion or prayer. When a people of prayer praise the Lord, there is a difference. When you stand there to play an instrument or to lead worship or to sing a song your prayer life comes out. If there is no prayer life there is no second level. What is prayer life? Prayer life is our relationship with God. What comes out in praise and worship at the second

level is the vibrations from the relationship that you have with God. The vibrations in your spirit and in your soul of the communion that you have with God comes forth and will vibrate in the souls of other people. You cannot bring somebody else higher than where you stand. If you only know God this much at this level in this first step, you can only pull people to this level. But if you truly know God and know the heart of God and when you commune with Him when you praise and worship Him, the others can feel the vibrations from your spirit and soul. The closeness that you have with God begins to affect us. It is our prayer life. How much time do you spend with God? How much time do we pray in His presence? It brings down fire from heaven.

When we look at Acts 16 we realize that the apostle Paul tapped on both. Verse 25 *But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God.* The first word was *praying*. I could see him there in the prison. Even though it was so painful for them, yet there were no curses that came out from their mouths. Instead, there were prayers to God. Maybe he prayed in tongues. And out of the depth of his communion with God he poured out his soul to God, he poured out his pain to God. Do you know that we could tell how close you are with God by your prayer? How much you really know God is by your prayer. And Paul prayed and after he prayed, he praised. Right at that time, he also paid the price and he also prayed. Therefore, there were two levels working in his life. No wonder it was a double fire. And it came in a form of the whole earth shaking and vibrating. He had prayed through to God.

We look at all the others who had spent a lot of time in prayer. Other people like Daniel is known as a man of prayer. And others like Hannah had cried out to God. And the praises and the worship that come forth had a certain quality that touches the core of our being. First word sacrifice, second word prayer. The more prayers you get soak into the stronger the praise and worship will be. The altar of incense represents it. The altar of incense needs to cover you. The altar of incense represents the prayers that come forth from you that helps you into the other level the third level, which we call the highest praise and worship. Notice that the first level cannot bring you into the Most Holy place; you still need prayer. Baby Christians can sacrifice everything but they may not have much communion with God. The second level takes a certain depth of relationship. Sacrifice will bring you in but it takes prayer to push into the

highest level. You have prayed through in God. And you are confident you can press into the highest realm. That's what high praise is made of.

The Third Level : the Law of Synchrony

Now lets look at the third level, high praise, highest form of praise and worship. Let's look at II Chron. 5:11-14, *And it came to pass when the priests came out of the Most Holy Place (for all the priests who were present had sanctified themselves, without keeping to their divisions) and the Levites who were the singers, all those of Asaph and Heman and Jeduthun, 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 the one hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets. 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. For His mercy endures forever," that the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud. So that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.*

Lets just bow our heads for a moment and just let that prayer ascend into our life. We could sense its difference when there is prayer made even before praise and worship. There is a realm of sacrifice. There is a realm you sense that you have prayed, you have communion, and then when you sing it's different. Some of you may love to sing songs to God at home. Do you notice that before you prayed and you try to sing and after you prayed and you sing, it's different? Prayer is the second key because after you have communed with God there is something in your soul and in your spirit that is still vibrating with that presence of God. When you meet a person, the conversation or the time you spend with him or her still lingers in your mind especially when you have had a good time. And that's what happens when we commune with God - there is still the lingering presence residing in our spirit and in our soul that is still vibrating. Then when we worship God the vibration is still there and it comes forth as a second level, the Holy place.

Now the third level takes a different realm. It takes if I want to put it its just one word - sound. The right sound, noises and instruments. Now you know why it is very difficult to get into the third realm because we don't make the right sound. Some of us are touched and we thought we are already there. But actually, we have only entered the Outer court. Some of us get touched and say this must be it. It was the second level. To reach that third level the highest realm of praise and worship sacrifice is not enough. Prayer is not enough. It takes skill to make the right sound.

Examine it very carefully here in II Chron. 5 there were two types of sound and they must be in harmony. II Chron. 5:13 *Indeed it came to pass, when and only when the trumpeters and singers were as one.* It is not that easy to harmonize trumpeters with singers. There are two realms in verse 13. The first realm is when the trumpeters and the singers were one. There was unity. There was communion. When you have sacrificed to God and you prayed oneness among each other is automatic. It's a different realm of oneness. It's the oneness in the sound it produces. The people were in one accord even before verse 13. We are not talking about just the one accord. If we all paid the price to meet Jesus in worship, there is a certain oneness that we already had. But this oneness is the oneness in the sound they produce before God.

The second realm gives you further explanation. *When they lifted up their voices with the trumpets and cymbals, instruments of music.* When they all made the right sound, they entered the highest realm. And it lasted just for a moment of time. Why doesn't it last forever? Because its so powerful that you cannot take it. If you live long in that level, your body may not return to earth. Being touched alone does not indicate that you have entered the Most Holy place. The first level can also touch us. We can cry and weep but its not the highest level yet. It is still the first level. Here it is not a matter of just being touched. You were touched long ago at the first level. You have communion in the second level. Do you notice that sometimes when you worship God you get touched you really want to cry? Crying and being touched is first level. But sometimes when you praise and worship do you notice the second realm is taking place? When you just sense the awesomeness of His presence and He is just talking to you, that is still not third

level. It is still at the second level. We have set our standards too low. Let the Word set the standard. Sometimes I have been in worship services when it seems like God and you are just face-to-face. You have done all your crying and done all your weeping. But God's voice is as clear as crystal. What is this that we are experiencing? The second level.

The third level takes skill to produce the right sound. Because if you make the wrong sound in the third level – finished. One discord, one mistake by any instrument and the third level is gone. This is what Kenneth Hagin means when he talks about the anointing that is coming. He feels the anointing coming to minister, to cast out devils, to heal the sick, and suddenly the musicians got a wrong song or something and the anointing flew away like a bird. The third level takes great skill to enter and great skill to maintain. And we do not remain long inside it because it takes everything of our being to even be there. But they are the flashes of heaven on this earth. It takes human voices. It takes all instruments in the right sound. And they lifted up their voice and make one sound to God with the trumpets and all the other instruments.

Turn to Ps. 149 and see some of the Hebrew words so we would know what high praise is about and understand what David is talking about in this third level. There are seven Hebrew words for the word praise. The word praise the Lord in Ps. 149:1 is the word *halal*. So it says *halal* to the Lord - sing to the Lord a new song and his *tehillah* in the assembly of saints. Although your English version has the same word *praise* in both parts of this verse – *praise* the Lord and sing His *praises* in the assembly of saints, the Hebrew has two different words *halal* and *tehillah*. The second word praise in verse one is the word *tehillah*. So the psalmist says *halal* the Lord and sing His *tehillah* in the assembly.

Verse 2 *Let Israel rejoice in their Maker. Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. Let them halal His name with the dance. Let them sing zamar to Him with the timbrel and harp.* The word *zamar* means to worship Him with instrument. Notice if you read it in the Hebrew there is a building up.

Verse 4 *For the Lord takes pleasure in His people. He will beautify the humble with salvation. Let the saints be joyful in glory. Let them sing aloud on their beds.* Doesn't that remind you of II Chron. 5 *and they lifted up their voices.* What does it mean by lifting up their voice? It means that they start off by singing in a low tune followed by singing in a high tune. The song becomes louder and stronger.

Then only you reach verse 6, *Let the high praises.* Notice before you reach high praises you have to cross the thresh hold of *zamar* and the loudness of the voices. See it's the combination of instruments. In verse 3 it says *let them zamar to Him with the timbrel and harp.* So the instruments come in. This is in line with II Chron. 5. The third realm or the highest level takes coordination skill. Now David was not just able to play and sing. The bible tells us in the book of I Samuel that he plays skillfully. It says we have found a young man a son of Jesse who is skillful. So skill is necessary when it talks about instruments to produce the right sound. For example when we are rejoicing in the Lord we can make jazzy sound, no problem. Then when you worship the Lord you play a different type of song. If you are an instrument player you must know that your

instrument produce different sounds for different levels. And there must be different levels as we approach God and we must learn how to produce it. Just the sound will create the mood. Between the second and the third level, we have to be skillful in *zamar* to produce the right sound and harmonize with human voices. It has to be a lifting up of our voices to God. The music helps you to go higher. It is important when we see the two combined. So *zamar* must go with voices.

This is what happened in II Chron. 5 that the voices came with the trumpets and something happened. The third realm depends on sounds that we have. In heaven, music is going on all the time. There is no such thing as a discord in heaven. Even the angels' voice sound like music. Look at Rev. 4:5 *And from the throne proceeded lightning, thundering, and voices.* I have heard those thundering before. They are not the same like ordinary thunder. Two weeks ago, I was in the studio and we were enhancing the praise and worship tape that we were producing. I wanted to add the sound of rain on the tape. We tape-recorded the sounds of real rain with the thunder and lightning. When we transferred it into the tape, it was also quite a miracle because when we put it in everything was synchronized. In other words, the sounds of the thunder and the lightning came at the right time in the songs. Most people don't realize that the natural thunder and the thunder of God's voice are totally different in quality. Rev. 14:2 *And I heard a voice from heaven like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder.* You hear the noise of running water and if you increase it to certain level it becomes like thunder. Now that's

the voice of God in His full presence. We must synchronize with that sound in order to enter into His presence at the highest level.

This is why the Israelites were worshipping for some time in II Chron. 5 before they became one in sound. They were worshipping all the time. See by the time that verse took place where the glory of God came they have been worshipping all the way as they enter in. That's many long hours. Remember they have to sacrifice first. Then they got to take the blood and all these took time. So toward the ending part and they have song and praise until the priests entered into the holy place. When they saw the priests emerging from the Holy place, all the trumpeters started blowing, there was high praise, and God's glory came. For one fraction of a human second, for one moment in humanity's time, the earth was making the sounds of *zamar* and human voices. That combination of *zamar* and human voices was akin to the great voice of God and God came down in His glory. And all the priests could not stand in God's presence.

This is why the third level is so precious. Don't be discouraged if it takes time to reach that level because it is very special. Even if you worship and you got first and second level its very good. Some people don't even get to the first and second level. But don't give up if you have spent one or two hours worshipping God because, sometimes it happens toward the end. Just when you think everything was over it's for a moment in human time

there was a synchrony of heaven and earth. God's presence in heaven comes down to the earth and we taste heaven for a moment of time. They are very precious times. It has happened at least a number of times in our worship services, at least to a certain level that we need to know how to enter into.

Lets look at II Chron. 5:13 *Indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one.* The word *were* is not found in the Hebrew. We could read it as *when the trumpeters and singers as one to make one sound to be heard.* So the oneness is not the oneness of accord but the oneness of sound. The word *one* refers to the word *sound*, to make *one sound*. In heaven there is no limit as to how much we can hear or how high a pitch we can hear. On earth, we talk about four parts harmonies, in heaven we can talk about multiple harmonies. And when you combine all the hundreds of harmonies together, it is like running waters.

There were a few times in the bible that this kind of thing took place. When it takes place its so powerful that earth cannot stand it. The other time it happened is in Jericho. Again, as I said this thing takes preparation. At Jericho wall, they walked round and round. Everyday they walked one time. For the first six days, they walked around one time. Finally, on the last round they walked seven times. Look at the book of Joshua 6:14 *And on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. So they did six days. So six days they walked about but look at the instructions that was given in*

verse 10. *Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, "You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, Shout! Then you shall shout."* Now look at his instruction. You cannot shout, you cannot make noise and you cannot talk for six days. That would be very interesting days because after they marched one round and they go back they remained silent. Imagine how difficult it was if somebody stepped on your legs and you couldn't make a sound. No children were allowed when they marched round, only the soldiers. When they march round and somebody fell accidentally not a single sound must be uttered. On the seventh day, they marched seven times. When you have kept silent for six days you are just waiting to shout. And it was God who got this idea.

In the seminary in those days, we studied hard. Some university students enrolled in our seminary and they even commented that the course was tough, tougher than their subjects in the secular universities. We also had practical ministry besides theological training. We had to go out on Friday evenings and come back on Sunday evenings. On Mondays, most of us would be dead tired. We had to pick up our assignments and then get ready on Tuesday. Besides that, we had to do all kinds of duties. When it was nearing exams, we really studied. I remember while preparing for the Greek exams, we burned the midnight oil and really studied. Then my opposite roommate went off for the exam, sat on his desk and fainted. He studied so hard, got to the exam hall and fainted. When the exams were over, we all went to the beach. All the tension was inside us and at the

beach we shouted and let out all the tension. If that was what it was like when you were just studying, think about what it would be like for six days keeping silent.

So when the day came to make noise and Joshua said "Shout" everybody shouted at the top of their voices and the whole Jericho wall fell down. Just a small little bit of His presence and the wall came down. Verse 16 *And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people, "Shout! For the Lord has given you the city"* All the people were shouting and the wall fell down. What they tasted was the same principle found in II Chron. 5 *zamar* with the human voices. It was not just all of *zamar* but a powerful combination of *zamar* with the voices. When they made one sound the presence of God came down. That's the third level.

Now you can link up the high praise that is found in Ps. 149 with Joshua. That is why after verse 6 of Ps. 149 talked about executing judgment. When God's presence comes down, the anointing and the power of God manifests because God reigns as Judge. That is why there will be a last day move of praise and worship. It is to bring forth the high praises that will cause God to execute judgment. That's when all the wonderful things began to take place. When God's kingdom comes and reigns on this earth, the Body of Christ will constantly move in the third level of the highest praise and worship.

