

# A STRONG FOUNDATION WARFARE IN WORSHIP

*Sarah Kawalsingh*

*The Lord is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation. (Psalm 118:14, NKJV)*

Each one of us is a candidate to praise the Lord.

*Let everything alive give praises to the Lord! You praise him! (Psalm 150: 6, TLB)*

*But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9, NLT)*

**Chosen**, *eklektos* (Strong's No. 1588). From *ef*, "out of", and *lego*, "to pick, gather." The word designates one picked out from among the larger group for special service or privileges. It describes Christ as the chosen Messiah of God (Luke 23:35), angels as messengers from heaven (1 Timothy 5:21), and believers as recipients of God's favour (Matthew 24:22; Romans 8:33; Colossians 3:12). The New Testament traces the source of election to God's grace.

We are singing out in faith what we are believing God to do.

*And you are **living stones** that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, **you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.** (1 Peter 2:5, NLT)*

Even in the Old Testament God called the Children of Israel to be his Kingdom of priests.

*And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.' This is the message you must give to the people of Israel." (Exodus 19:6, NLT)*

*And from Jesus Christ. He is the faithful witness to these things, the first to rise from the dead, and the ruler of all the kings of the world. All glory to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us. He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen. (Revelation 1:5-6, NLT)*

As a 'royal' priesthood, the kingly nature of the redeemed worshiper is noted. This passage is rooted in God's call to ancient Israel (Exodus 19:5-7). Peter and John (Rev 1:5-6) draw this truth to full application and prophetic fulfilment in the New Testament believer. As with Israel, deliverance through the blood of the Lamb is but the beginning. As promised, dominion and destiny will unfold as their priestly duty is fulfilled. True authority is always related to a walk in purity and a constancy in worship. The spirit of worship is essential to all advance of the kingdom. Just as ancient Israel will only take the Promised Land while doing battle from a foundation of righteous worship before the Lord, so with the contemporary church. We will only experience promised power for evangelism and spiritual victories as we prioritize and grow in our worship of the living God. Kingdom power is kept from pollution this way, as kingdom people keep humbly praiseful before the King – and witness His works of power with joy. **Jack W. Hayford**

Our time here on earth is our training ground for eternity.

## One minute after a believer dies:

1. Angels usher your soul to Heaven (Luke 16:22)
2. You immediately enter God's presence (2 Corinthians 5:6-8)
3. You are conscious, in command of your thinking, feeling, speech, and memories (Luke 16:19-31)
4. You participate in magnificent worship with angels and believers before the throne of God and Christ (Revelation 4-5)
5. You are aware to some degree of activities and events on earth (Revelation 6:9-10)
6. You will recognize and communicate with believers who preceded you to Heaven (Luke 9:28-36)

It is only by the grace of God that we can stand before Him and enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise! (Psalm 100:4)

**Thanksgiving**, *towdah*, properly, an extension of the hand, i.e. adoration; specifically, a choir of worshippers: - confession, (sacrifice of) praise, thanks (-giving, offering).

Praise, *thillah*, laudation, specifically a hymn: - praise.

David teaches us in the Psalms that worship requires our everything:

1. Sing  
*Sing a new song to the Lord! Sing it everywhere around the world! Sing out his praises! Bless his name. Each day tell someone that he saves.* (Psalm 96:1-2, TLB)
2. Shout (Psalm 33:3; 47:1; 98:4)
3. Speak (Ephesians 5:19)
4. Play instruments (Psalm 150)
5. Clap our hands  
*Come, everyone, and clap for joy! Shout triumphant praises to the Lord!* (Psalm 47:1, TLB)
6. Lift our hands (Psalm 134:2)
7. Dance  
*Praise his name with dancing.* (Psalm 149:3, NLT)
8. Bow (Psalm 95:6)
9. Stand  
*And now here we are, standing inside your gates, O Jerusalem.* (Psalm 122:2, NLT)

In Numbers 4:23 the Lord spoke to Moses about setting up a priesthood to minister before his presence. He described them as being all those who “**enter in to perform the service...**” The words “perform the service” are from Hebrew words which mean, literally, “fight the warfare.” “Perform” is the translation of the Hebrew word “*tsaba*,” which means ‘assemble, fight, perform, wait upon, war.’ The word ‘service’ ‘a mass of persons, organized for war, (specifically, hardship, worship): - appointed time’. The priests entered into the holy place to fight a warfare.

We see the same words used in the original of Numbers 8:24, which translated “to wait upon the service...” Clearly, the priests were appointed to fight a spiritual warfare against God’s enemies.

*For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.* (Ephesians 6:12, NLT)

#### A Pilgrim Song

I look up to the mountains; does my strength come from mountains? No, my strength comes from God, who made heaven, and earth, and mountains. He won’t let you stumble; your Guardian God won’t fall asleep. Not on your life! Israel’s Guardian will never doze or sleep. God’s your Guardian, right at your side to protect you, Shielding you from sunstroke, sheltering you from moon stroke. God guards you from every evil, he guards your very life He guards you when you leave and when you return, he guards you now, he guards you always. (Psalm 121, MSG)

Two examples of warfare in worship:

#### **Example 1: Joshua defeating Jericho (Joshua 6)**

Joshua led the people marching around the city of Jericho until the time came to shout in triumph before the Lord. The priests led in worship, playing the trumpets as Joshua directed, and a great battle was won.

The people of Israel had, by their shouts and the sound of the trumpet, become a ‘rereward’ (verses 9,13), a gathered people who had the power to destroy the enemy. All they had to do was wait for the word to shout, and then shout

#### **Example 2: Jehoshaphat defeating Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir**

- On hearing the news of a great multitude coming against him –  
2 Chronicles 20:3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.
- God spoke to Jehoshaphat and said

together. As they did this, the walls came down, and the enemy was defeated.

The word "rereward" has the meaning in the Hebrew "to gather in order to destroy to consume." This is the same Hebrew word for the name Asaph, who was the man appointed by David in I Chronicles 16:37, "to minister before the ark continually..." He was responsible for those who were appointed to minister before the Ark in the Tabernacle of David.

What the children of Israel did marching around Jericho in silence was a test of their obedience and trust. They had the word of the Lord. Now they just had to obey the commands. The appointed time would come when they would see their enemies fall.

"Then your salvation will come like the dawn, and your wounds will quickly heal. Your godliness will lead you forward, and the glory of the Lord will protect you from behind. (Isaiah 58:8, NLT)

Isaiah 58:8b promises that "the glory of the Lord shall be thy rereward" (Hebrew "asaph"). 'rear guard' NKJV.

As we worship as God's people today, God's glory is revealed as our rereward. We become a gathered company whose worship becomes warfare to destroy the enemy.

*You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem! Do not fear or be dismayed. (2 Chronicles 20:17)*

Dismay:

1. To destroy the courage or resolution of by exciting dread or apprehension.
2. To cause to lose enthusiasm, disillusion.
3. To upset or alarm.
4. A sudden or complete loss of courage in the face of trouble or danger.

Latin: *exagare*, to deprive of power.

*'...Believe in the Lord your God and you shall be established...'* (2 Chronicles 20:20)

**Believe, aman** (Strong's No. 539): To be firm, stable, established; also, to be firmly persuaded; to believe solidly. To consider trustworthy. From 'aman' comes 'emunah', "faith". The most famous derivative is "amen", which conveys this idea: "It is solidly, firmly, surely true and verified and established.

Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated. (2 Chronicles 20:22, NKJV)

## Jesus defeating the Cross

Matthew 21:1-11

"Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' The King of Israel!" (John 12:13, NKJV)

**Hosanna** means 'Save now'.

'Hosanna' was more than a cry of acclamation. Essentially, it was a plea from an oppressed people to their Savior for deliverance. Later it came to be a standard shout of praise.

On Palm Sunday, Jesus had the bigger picture in mind. He looked beyond the present and thought about the world's future.

**Unknown**