

10-17-2021, COTR Texarkana

Title: Let the Worshippers Arise, pt-2

Purpose: Explain what can happen when we worship and provoke people to be true worshippers of God.

Truth for Today: Worship changes our heart, opens the door for miracles and is way of fighting spiritual warfare.

Text: Daniel 4: 28-37, Acts 16:16-30, 2 Chronicles 20: 2-23

Topic: Worship, Praise, Pride, Humility, Spiritual Warfare, Miracles

Series Title: Let the Worshippers Arise

Series Purpose: Lay a foundation for Biblical worship and provoke people to be devoted worshippers of God.

Let the Worshippers Arise, pt-2

I. Introduction

- A. Review Series: 'Let the Worshippers Arise'. Last week, we answered the question, what is worship? (1) Worship is how we express our love for God through singing, clapping, kneeling, etc. (2) Worship is more than singing; it's the way we live our life. (3) Worship is how we declare our recognition of God's worth (4) Worship is more than religious rituals. It's a heart attitude of awe and reverence for God (5) Worship is our response to God when life is overwhelming.
- B. Today we'll look at 3 historical accounts in the Bible and answer the question, what can happen when we worship. Worship can (1) Change our heart, (2) Open the door for miracles and (3) Be a way of fighting spiritual warfare.
- C. Title: Let the Worshippers Arise, pt-2
- D. Purpose: Explain what can happen when we worship and provoke people to be true worshippers of God.
- E. Truth for Today: Worship changes our heart, opens the door for miracles and is way of fighting spiritual warfare.

II. What can happen when we worship? (1) Worship can change our heart: pride is turned into humility and gratitude to God is born.

- A. [Daniel 4:28–37 (NLT) “King Nebuchadnezzar. 29...was taking a walk on the flat roof of the royal palace...30...he said, ‘Look at this great city of Babylon! **By my own mighty power, I have built this beautiful city as my royal residence to display my majestic splendor.**’]
- 1. Pride filled his heart. He took credit for everything God had allowed him to do. God had no place in His heart; yet everything he'd done was because of God.
- B. Vs. 31 “While these words were still in his mouth, a voice called down from heaven, ‘O King Nebuchadnezzar... You are no longer ruler of this kingdom. 32 You will be driven from human society. You will live in the fields with the wild animals, and you will eat grass like a cow...**until you learn that the Most High rules** over the kingdoms of the world and gives them to anyone he chooses.’ 33 “That same hour the judgment was fulfilled...He ate grass like a cow...He lived this way until his hair was as long as eagles’ feathers and his nails were like birds’ claws. 34 “After this time had passed, I, Nebuchadnezzar, **looked up to heaven.** My **sanity** returned, and **I praised and worshiped the Most High and honored the one who lives forever...**35 All the

people of the earth are **nothing** compared to him. **He does as he pleases...**³⁷ “**Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and glorify and honor the King of heaven.** All his acts are just and true, and **he is able to humble the proud.**”

- C. Lessons about our heart and worship
1. Before God humbled Neb., he was a proud, selfish man. One of the great dangers of success is pride. After he found humility, his heart changed, and he became a worshipper. Humility means we recognize God is the source of all we have, all we can do and all we are. He learned life’s greatest lesson: [Acts 17:28 (NLT) For **in him (Jesus Christ) we live and move and exist...**] The more prideful we are, the less we worship. The more humble we are the more we worship.
 2. True worshippers may not sing the best or clap the loudest, but they have humble hearts. Proud people don’t see the need to take time to honor God in worship until God humbles them.
 3. On the flip side, the more we genuinely worship, the more humble we become.
- D. “*My sanity returned, and I praised and worshiped the Most High and honored the one who lives forever.*” Def. sanity: a sound state of mind¹ capable of exercising sound judgment and reason. Insanity is an unsound mind incapable of exercising sound judgment and reason. Biblically, proud people are insane and humble people are sane. Contrast culture. Pride made Nebuchadnezzar insane. When his sanity returned, he realized who God was and bowed his knee before God. Last week we learned that the primary def. of worship is to ‘bow down’, reflecting a posture of kneeling but more importantly an attitude of our heart. When Nebuchadnezzar’s heart changed, thanksgiving to God/ worship became a way of life.

III. What can happen when we worship? (2) Worship can open the door for miracles.

- A. In Philippi [Acts 16:16–30 (NLT)...we (*Paul and Silas*) met a slave girl who had a spirit that enabled her to tell the future. She earned a lot of money for her masters by telling fortunes...18...Paul...said to the demon within her, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And instantly it left her. 19 Her masters’ hopes of wealth were now shattered, so they...dragged them before the authorities ...23 They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison...24 So the jailer put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks.
1. Imagine how they felt. They were serving the Lord with all their heart. After helping a girl get free, they were punished, and God didn’t stop it. Instead of quitting, getting bitter or mad at God, they realized God was still good and still worthy, they did something different.
- B. Vs. 25 **Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God...**²⁶ Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison...doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off...²⁹ The jailer called for lights and...fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30...and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”
1. Their worship opened the door for a miracle. The same could happen to us.
 2. The reason: Paul and Silas were on a mission for God spreading the Good News about Jesus throughout Asia. Satan tried to stop them by stirring up people against them. In their darkest hour they offered sacrificial worship. [Hebrews 13:15 (NIV) Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God **a sacrifice of**

praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. ‘we should always praise God’³] It’s easy to worship when life is great but it’s a sacrifice when life is hard. Sometimes, our worship is not based on what God has done but who He is; God was still worthy even when they were in prison.

3. I can’t promise every problem will disappear when we worship but if we’re on a mission from God and Satan’s trying to stop us, worship might welcome a miracle

IV. What can happen when we worship? (3) Worship can be a way of fighting spiritual warfare

A. [2 Chronicles 20:2–23 (NLT) Messengers came and told Jehoshaphat, “**A vast army from Edom is marching against you...**”]

1. This was an natural attack but it’s reasonable to assume there was something demonic behind the attempt to destroy the people of God. Israel fought literal enemies; our battles are against spiritual unseen enemies. [Eph. 6:12 (NLT) For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world...and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.]

B. Vs. 3 Jehoshaphat was terrified by this news ...6 He prayed, “O Lord...12... We are **powerless** against this mighty army that is about to attack us. **We do not know what to do, but we are looking to you for help.**”...14 the Spirit of the Lord came upon one of the men...15 He said...This is what the Lord says...Don’t be discouraged by this mighty army, for the battle is not yours, but God’s. 16 Tomorrow, march out against them...17 But you will not even need to fight...stand still and watch the Lord’s victory...18 Then King Jehoshaphat **bowed low** with his face to the ground. And **all the people of Judah ...did the same, worshipping the Lord.** 19 Then the Levites...stood to **praise the Lord...**with a **very loud shout...**21 ...the king appointed **singers to walk ahead of the army, singing to the Lord and praising him...**they sang: “**Give thanks to the Lord;** his faithful love endures forever!” 22 **At the very moment they began to sing and give praise, the Lord caused the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir to start fighting among themselves.**

1. Lesson: Our praise and worship can be a weapon to fight spiritual battles. They faced overwhelming odds. They realized the enemy was stronger, but they mixed faith with praise and God defeated their enemy.
2. This should give us hope when we’re facing a battle; when we’ve done all we can do, let’s get on our knees and worship Almighty God. Worship is an invitation to God to help us win battles we are unable to win on our own.
3. Our faith and praise can be weapons to win battles.

V. Conclusion

A. Picture² Headline: People who attend **worship services** regularly are happier than others, according to the new Pew Research Center. In most of the 26 countries studied, Pew researchers found that being a regular participant in a religious community was “clearly” linked with higher levels of happiness.²

B. Though worship services are different, 1 thing is the same. People are trying to worship God and when they do, their lives are better. Today we learned that worship can (1) Change our heart, (2) Open the door for miracles and (3) Is a way of fighting spiritual warfare. Secular research reveals another benefit, happiness comes from expressing our worship to God.

VI. Response

- A. Prayer
 - B. Souls
- VII. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.
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 2. https://www.huffpost.com/entry/church-attendance-happy-pew-research-center_n5c545b34e4b0bdf0e7daac7f
 3. Ellingworth, P., & Nida, E. A. (1994). *A handbook on the Letter to the Hebrews* (p. 331). New York: United Bible Societies.