

A Hallelujah Harvest

A. *Song: Great Things.*

II. PRAISE (1) *Read vs. 1*

A. **David** was a *great soldier*, but also a *great musician*, a *great singer*, & *great saint*.

Whatever your occupation (or desired occupation) *become* a *great singer* and *great saint*.

1. In spite of *difficulties* and *problems and* even *dangers*, we have come to
Praise the Lord tonight!

B. This is a *Harvest Psalm*, a *Hallelujah Harvest song*. It's for believers who want to *thank God* for His *goodness and care* during another year.

1. *Hear the sounds of Springtime, feel the spray of Rain, enjoy all the flowers busting forth.*
 - a) Whether you are up on the temple mount (1-4), or in His vast dominion (5-8), or among the hills & valleys (9-13).

C. *Praise is due to You, O God in Zion ... Praise is due to You, O God in Murrieta.*

1. (lit.) *Praise waits silently for you. Or (LXX) Praise is fitting for you.*
2. *Praise God for all He is, and has done* (place your thoughts there this evening, as we worship Him in this next song)
In His beautiful name. His Wonderful name. His Powerful name.

D. *Song: What A Beautiful Name.*

III. PRAYER and PURGE (2,3) *Read vs. 2,3*

A. **PRAYER** (2) O You who *hear* prayer

1. *Praise & Prayer belong together.* The more we *pray*, the more answers we have to *praise* the Lord for.
2. *Tonight*, right now, He *hears* you. *Believe it.*
3. *But sometimes*, we *can't pray* because *sin* is in the way.

4. See, *The more we praise the Lord, the more we see how **needy & dirty** we are, & so we come for purging, confessing our sins to God.* Warren Wiersbe

B. PURGE (3) When *iniquities* prevail against me, You **atone** for our *transgressions*.

1. **Atonement** - the means of **reconciliation** between God and people.
 - a) It's the *process* by which **2 parties** (typically estranged) are made *at-one* with each other. *At-one-ment*
 - b) It emerges in the OT as *part of the sacrificial system*. Then reframed *exclusively* around *the person and work* of **Jesus Christ** in the NT.
2. *The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, & abounding in steadfast love & faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.* Ex.34:6,7
 - a) *forgiving* (to lift or carry) *iniquity and transgression and sin* (or *wickedness, rebellion & sin*; 3 categories of unrighteousness).
3. **Transgression** (rebellion) is the most defiant of sins. John Mackay defines it as a "willful violation of the terms of the covenant, involving not merely disobeying a rule or regulation, but betraying the relationship one has with the covenant King."
4. **The point?** God is willing to forgive **any** and **all** kinds of sin.

C. **Communion:** At this time - you are invited to the table to *pick up the elements*, return to your seat and partake when you are ready.

D. **Song:** *Run To The Father*

IV. PRESENCE and POWERFUL (4-8) *Read vs.4 only*

- A. PRESENCE: Choose to approach God. (4)
- B. Now that we've taken care of our sins, *blessed is the one You choose and bring near to dwell in your courts.*
- C. This is what God desires for all of us. *To approach Him, to dwell with Him, to be satisfied with Him.* How do we do this? By *praise, prayer*, and *purging* of sins.

1. **Then we** will *draw near to Him*, as **He** *draws near to us*.
2. **Our God** is easily approached. We run into some men and women who are *not* approachable. **But Jesus**, showing us the heart of His father, was the most approachable of men. **Mothers** were comfortable to bring their little ones to him. *Prostitutes, adulterers, tax collectors and thieves* were comfortable around Him.

D. **Read vs. 5-8** POWERFUL: You answer us. You are the Hope of all the earth. You are strong. You are powerful. (5-8)

E. (8b) You make the going out of the **morning** and the **evening** to shout for joy.

1. Msg **Dawn and dusk** take turns calling, "**Come and Worship.**"

F. **2 Songs:** *Nothing Else. Gratitude.*

V. **PROVISIONS (9-11)** *Read vs. 9-11*

A. **PROVISIONS:** Rain down from You. Your Goodness/bounty. Your Abundance.

B. (9a) You **visit the earth** - God is always **present** and **active**, *nevertheless* He has decisive times of drawing near either *to bless* or *to judge*.

1. **You visit the earth and water it** - reminder for you and I to pray through our winters for **rain** (just heard, starting June water once a week?).

C. (11) You **cover the earth with Your bounty** - reminds me of table grace growing up. *"Bless us oh Lord & these thy gifts, which we are about to receive, of Thy bounty through Christ our Lord."* [something given in generous amounts; *generosity, liberality*]

D. (11b) Your wagon tracks overflow w/abundance - Picture of **a farm wagon** going down the road, piled high with vegetables, right up to the edge, and even dropping some of its contents on the wagon tracks.¹

1. **Has your God been *bountiful* in your life?** like with: plenty of air to breathe, keeping your heart beating, mind thinking, ears listening, eyes seeing, friends encouraging, basic needs supplied. [**then** can we worship

¹ Adapted from Derek Kidner, pg.232.

Him as a *Good Good Father?*]

E. *Song: Good Good Father*

VI. **PAY TRIBUTE TO (12-13)** *Read vs. 12,13*

A. The creation, *the pastures, hills, meadows, & valleys*, join in *shouting and singing for joy*.

1. It's *April Showers* bringing forth *May Flowers* (England, 1500s poet Thomas Tusser)

a) (or *March* showers bringing *April* Flowers here in the States)

B. *Song: Reason I Sing*.

C. ***Baptism Classes:** kids & parents. (courtyard rm 111)

D. Keywords: gifts, goodness, hope, Joy, sin, thankfulness, worship.