

The Immutable Power of Worship

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“For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense shall be offered to My name, And a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations,” Says the LORD of hosts.”
(Malachi 1:11)

Recently during a time of intense and intimate worship. I was really enjoying the Lords Presence as He responded to my outpouring of adoration to Him. Then suddenly the Lord broke into the moment with a statement: *“Jim, worship is not just about how you feel...it actually moves things.”*

I already knew this to be true, but apparently I needed to be reminded. As I pondered His words, I began to see that worship moves the heart of God, and He responds by giving us revelation of His love and heart in His Presence, which makes us feel really good. We tend to do what makes us feel good and this is not necessarily a bad motivation. But If we only worship when we feel good or get an immediate response, we miss out on so much.

There is an acronym that illustrates an important principle. The **J-O-Y** acronym. The principle is that the way to have joy in life is to put things in their proper order: Jesus—Others—You. First Jesus, then Others, Then You. When we worship, things are moved in this same way. First and foremost, God Himself is moved. His big heart is actually moved when we worship Him, and much more so than we know. Then, others are moved. People are affected by our worship of God in so many ways. Atmosphere is changed. Hearts are struck by the reality of true devotion in the earth to an invisible God by weak and broken human beings such as their selves. And finally, we are impacted by the wonderful Presence of God. We feel His touch when we worship Him.

Worship as warfare

But there is another way true worship impacts our surroundings. Worship moves things in the invisible realm. This seems mystic to some because they cannot normally see with their natural eyes the spiritual realm. This is often a matter of paradigm. We believe in God and He is invisible. Most people (even what we call unbelievers) believe in Angels which are normally unseen. Many people believe in the unseen, yet when asked if they believe in the spirit (or unseen) realm, they are hesitant to answer yes. The unseen realm is as real as the realm that is visible. Both are real and both are impacted by different things. As some have wisely noted; *“You can set of a nuclear bomb, but when the dust has settled, the demon (or the angel) will still be standing there.”*

Only Spirit can move spirit.

God designed worship to move things in the spirit. Worship is a brilliant tactical weapon against an unseen and often unperceived enemy.

Judah Means Praise

“And she (Leah) conceived again, and bare a son (to Jacob): and she said, Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah; and left bearing.”
(Genesis 29:35 parenthetic commentary added)

Now will I praise the Lord: H3034

יָדָהּ

yâdâh

yaw-daw'

A primitive root; used only as denominative from [H3027](#); literally to *use* (that is, hold out) *the hand*; physically to *throw* (a stone, an arrow) at or away; especially to *revere* or *worship* (with extended hands); intensively to *bemoan* (by wringing the hands): - cast (out), (make) confess (-ion), praise, shoot, (give) thank (-ful, -s, -sgiving).

Call his name Judah: H3063

יְהוּדָהּ

y^ehûdâh

yeh-hoo-daw'

From [H3034](#); *celebrated*; *Jehudah* (or Judah), the name of five Israelites; also of the tribe descended from the first, and of its territory: - Judah.

The Lion of Judah

*“But one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep. Behold, the **Lion of the tribe of Judah**, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals,”*
(Revelation 5:5)

Jesus is called in scripture “The Lion of The Tribe of Judah” which makes Him the Lion (or king) of the Tribe of Praise. He is the Leader of a tribe of people who believe in and practice praise and worship to God. This title implies some things. First, that Jesus is really a great Leader Who is a worshipper Himself. He leads by example. He worships the Father as both an act of devotion as well as a means of warfare. In other words, He practices what He preaches. Jesus is a Worshipper. He dances, He bows, He adores, He sings, He gives thanks.

Secondly, Jesus has a tribe of people who *believe the same way* He does about praise, and who *practice the same things* He does concerning praise. He leads a Tribe of Worshipers. A Family of Praise-ers. As a part of this Family, we need to be completely convinced and sold out to being worshippers. Jesus is leading a tribe of people who have no time to be embarrassed or timid about this subject. Many today as still reserved about

their public worship to God because of their fear of what others might think of them. This fear has to be killed. To be more concerned about what people think rather than what God thinks is a sad outrage. God deserves to be praised both silently and audibly, both in private and in public. The Lord is raising up a people who are not ashamed to be seen worshipping Him in front of a lost world. This is after all, the King that we will be fearlessly worshipping in the freedom of joy-filled reckless abandon forever. Its time to get a little abandoned now!

The Power In Your Mouth

Do you believe there is power in your mouth that can change things? Can you bring yourself to believe unto the place of practice, that God will move through sounds you make coming from your heart that can move mountains? Pluck up and plant? Change atmospheres, sickness, and even nations? Jesus said so. He said that what we speak in agreement with Him will come to pass. Even if we don't see it every time, or right away, we are called to believe what He said about the power of our mouths and act upon it. Consider the following verses:

“Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 18:18)

“So Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.’” (Mark 11:22-24)

Whether it is spoken Prayer, Intercession, Thanksgiving, Declaration, Prophecy, Worship, Praise, or Preaching, the human tongue carries incredible power when rightly connected to the will of God.

Judges 1:1-2

*“Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, ‘Who shall be first to go up for us against the Canaanites to fight against them?’ And the LORD said, ‘**Judah shall go up. Indeed I have delivered the land into his hand.**’”*

Judges 20:18

*“The Israelites went up to Bethel and inquired of God. They said, ‘Who of us is to go up first to fight against the Benjamites?’ **The LORD replied, ‘Judah shall go first!’**”*

2 Chronicles 20:1-30

1 It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat.

2 Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar" (which is En Gedi).

3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

4 So Judah gathered together to ask help from the LORD; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

5 Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court,

6 and said: "O LORD God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?"

7 Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?

8 And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying,

9 'If disaster comes upon us—sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine—we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.'

10 And now, here are the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir—whom You would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them and did not destroy them—

11 here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit.

12 O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You."

13 Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the LORD.

14 *Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly.*

15 *And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: **'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's.***

16 *Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel.*

17 ***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; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you."

18 *And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the LORD, worshiping the LORD.*

19 *Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with voices loud and high.*

20 *So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: **Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.**"*

21 *And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the LORD, For His mercy endures forever."*

22 *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.*

23 *For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy them. And when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.*

24 *So when Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude; and there were their dead bodies, fallen on the earth. No one had escaped.*

25 *When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away their spoil, they found among them an abundance of valuables on the dead bodies, and precious jewelry, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away; and they were three days gathering the spoil because there was so much.*

26 *And on the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Berachah, for there they blessed the LORD; therefore the name of that place was called The Valley of Berachah until this day.*

27 *Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, with Jehoshaphat in front of them, to go back to Jerusalem with joy, for the LORD had made them rejoice over their enemies.*

28 *So they came to Jerusalem, with stringed instruments and harps and trumpets, to the house of the LORD.*

29 *And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries when they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel.*

30 *Then the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around.*

The First Choir

Did you ever wonder who invented the first choir? Who first thought of gathering a group of people together to sing collectively? You might be surprised at the answer. It very likely came from a man who saw it in heaven and tried to replicate it on earth. Read this excerpt from “Winging it: The History of the Choir” at www.birdsoftheair.blogspot.com

The History of the Choir. There are those today who suggest that the concept of the church choir is outdated. However, if we look at the history and purpose of the choir, I suspect we will find that this ought not be the case .

The “church choir” has its origins not in Roman Catholicism or in Christianity at all, but in the Old Testament. The first “church choir” was appointed by King David some 3000 years ago. These choirs were far more serious than anything we have today. Now these are the singers, heads of fathers' households of the Levites, who lived in the chambers of the temple free from other service; for they were engaged in their work day and night. (1 Chron. 9:33)

First, we find that the Levites appointed to music were “free from other service”. Why? They had no other duties because their job was full time. They engaged in their work “day and night”. They had no time for anything else. It appears as if David ordered there be music 7 days a week, 24 hours a day to worship God in the Tabernacle. This group of Levites “ministered with song before the tabernacle of the tent of meeting, until Solomon had built the house of the LORD in Jerusalem; and they served in their office according to their order.”

(1 Chron 6:32)

Now, we all have heard the term, “minister”, used as a noun. Unfortunately, in our vernacular, we’ve lost the sense of the word. According to the dictionary, the word now means “one who is authorized to perform religious functions in a Christian church.” That’s what it has come to mean. But it’s original meaning – and we still use it this way today – comes from its verb form. To “minister” is more accurately “to attend to the wants and needs of others.” Thus, a “minister” would be one who attends to the wants and needs of others. Or, in terms of the normal usage today, a “minister” would be “one who is authorized to attend to the wants and needs of those in a Christian church.”

According to [1 Chron. 6](#), the role of these particular Levites was to minister with song. They attended to the wants and needs of those who came to the Tabernacle to worship by use of music

First Chronicles is full of information about David’s musical requirements in worship. Then David spoke to the chiefs of the Levites to appoint their relatives the singers, with instruments of music, harps, lyres, loud-sounding cymbals, to raise sounds of joy. ([1 Chron 15:16](#))

The worship music included both singers and instruments, and their purpose was “to raise sounds of joy.” So he left Asaph and his relatives there before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to minister before the ark continually, as every day's work required; and Obed-edom with his 68 relatives; Obed-edom, also the son of Jeduthun, and Hosah as gatekeepers. And he left Zadok the priest and his relatives the priests before the tabernacle of the LORD in the high place which was at Gibeon, to offer burnt offerings to the LORD on the altar of burnt offering continually morning and evening, even according to all that is written in the law of the LORD, which He commanded Israel.

And with them were Heman and Jeduthun, and the rest who were chosen, who were designated by name, to give thanks to the LORD, because His lovingkindness is everlasting. And with them were Heman and Jeduthun with trumpets and cymbals for those who should sound aloud, and with instruments for the songs of God, and the sons of Jeduthun for the gate. ([1 Chron 16:37-42](#))

There were specific people assigned to the task. And more importantly, their duties were “every day’s work”. Their job was to “give thanks to the LORD”, and they did it loudly. Note, also, that they were both inside and at the gate. Music was everywhere.

Now when David reached old age, he made his son Solomon king over Israel. And he gathered together all the leaders of Israel with the priests and the Levites. And the Levites were numbered from thirty years old and upward, and their number by census of men was 38,000. Of these, 24,000 were to oversee the work of the house of the LORD; and 6,000 were officers and judges, and 4,000 were gatekeepers, and 4,000 were praising the LORD with the instruments which David made for giving praise. ([1 Chron 23:1-5](#))

Look again at the number. David appointed 4,000 Levites whose job it was to play and sing praise to God continually. Four thousand! The Levitical group went on to minister with song in Solomon's day in the Temple. Second Chronicles 5-6 describe the dedication of the Temple. In this account we see the role, again, of the musicians.

All the Levitical singers, Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun, and their sons and kinsmen, clothed in fine linen, with cymbals, harps, and lyres, standing east of the altar, and with them one hundred and twenty priests blowing trumpets in unison when the trumpeters and the singers were to make themselves heard with one voice to praise and to glorify the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice accompanied by trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and when they praised the LORD saying, "He indeed is good for His lovingkindness is everlasting," then the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God. (2 Chron 5:12-14)