

<<< He Reproved Kings for Their Sakes

1 Chronicles 16:8 – 17:27 >>>

~ What does worshiping God really mean to you, specifically? Is it the songs; or perhaps you believe a prescribed posture in prayer constitutes worship? Is worship going to church? Is Bible study worship of God? Maybe you think taking communion or telling others about the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ according to Scripture is true worship? Well, this leg of our Spiritual Safari will consider one of David's Psalms, and it will reveal precisely what proper, correct and complete worship really is, in Biblical terms.

In our last report, we saw David finally bring the Ark of the Lord up to Jerusalem the *CORRECT* way. In previous reports, David attempted to bring up the Ark up in the *wrong* way — and that didn't work out well for him. God rejected the "*worship*" — and mayhem ensued. At *this* time in which we are studying, the Lord has blessed David in a tremendous way. David's heart is now filled with joy, motivation and even ecstasy. Jerusalem was David's city, and he loved it very much; David also discovered Jerusalem was God's city, too.

Now, I doubt that anyone who has spent any time in Jerusalem would desire to call it their city. Personally, I have no desire to go to Jerusalem; David can have it as far as I am concerned. To be fair, in David's day, Jerusalem was likely much different than it is today. I see many people say — and even sing the song — "*we're marching to Zion!*" Well, friends, I'm *not* on that march with you — I promise you that — and I also promise God is not with you on your march, either. If you're marching to Zion — you're on your own; in fact, I'm not marching *at all* — I'm not a soldier — I'm not fighting — not a warrior; none of that pious nonsense. God fights for me; all I do is *stand* for Him - and one of these days I expect Him to take me to the New Jerusalem where all things are going to be made new. Either way, David is rejoicing in this wonderful Psalm of thanksgiving we began to consider in our last report....

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XVI

⁸ Give thanks unto the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people.

~ This is an excerpt from Psalm one hundred five; and we'll be looking at this again in other places. In most of our modern churches, the Bible is practically meaningless. It is a modern tragedy how the Word of God became secondary to everything else in the church. I have seen church after church where music, tongues, prayer – everything *EXCEPT* proper, correct and complete Bible teaching goes on. Out of ninety minutes, perhaps *twenty* are devoted to Scripture; and usually, it's a disconnected verse or two from a fractured passage propping up some self-righteous agenda; typically politics, current events, personal opinion – and it's usually exactly wrong. The Bible receives *MAYBE* five incoherent and adulterated minutes, net – at the *MOST*. It does more harm than good for the cause of Christ. See, the study of the Word of God isn't popular – but it is the only place of blessing, friends. If you are going to call on the Name of the Lord, and make known His deeds among the people, you're going to have to understand the Word of God and divide it rightly – and that means *KNOWING* it – *NOT* guessing and making up doctrine as we go along.

God has moved in the past, and He is moving today. I can see the hand of God in the affairs of the world; but, the only way I can discern that movement is by light moving through the prism revealing the Word of God properly, correctly and completely – and *NOWHERE* and *NO OTHER WAY*. You can talk about the Holy Spirit revealing things to you in dreams and in the sky all day long – but – you aren't credible. I'm not impressed. God isn't through with this little world, that's for sure....

⁹ Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works.

¹⁰ Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD.

¹¹ Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually.

~ All we have to do is come to Christ and trust in His Name and we will be saved. However, that *IN NO WAY* assures that you will have fellowship with our Father in Heaven. If we want to be close to God, we are going to have to follow through and *SEEK* the Lord, friends – make no mistake about that. We’re going to have to seek His Face *continually*. Guess how we do that? – *IN THE WORD OF GOD!* When you wake up in the morning, what is the first thing you think about? When you go to sleep at night, what’s the last thing on your mind? When do you think about God? Do you leave God at home when you go to work or school? Is Christ directly by your side at the social functions you attend? Now, I understand that Satan is the god and prince of power of the air in this world today, but the Hand of God is still moving *RIGHT NOW* overruling in judgment – that should be perfectly clear to anyone who believes....

12 Remember his marvellous works that he hath done, his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;

13 O ye seed of Israel his servant, ye children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

14 He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth.

15 Be ye mindful always of his covenant; the word which he commanded to a thousand generations;

16 Even of the covenant which he made with Abraham, and of his oath unto Isaac;

~ There are many people who erroneously minimize the covenant God made with Abraham. That error reveals a foundational and fatal theological flaw. David didn’t minimize the covenant. It meant everything to him. Our admonition is to talk about all of the things that were written aforetime as an example unto us, as Paul the apostle would say. The word “*everlasting*” in verse seventeen means just that – it means *forever!* There are many things God has said He is going to do – and He is going to do them. The Old Covenant is equally as important as the New Covenant is right now; it all

points to Christ – even though some of the dispensations have changed – such as law and grace. Remember, there is love in the law and there is law in love! Someone now says, “*you don’t mean that!*” Oh, I mean it. You cannot have a proper, correct and complete understanding of the Word of God unless you understand it from G-R; from Genesis to Revelation. Impossible.

It has been said that the Old Testament is the Alpha, and the New Testament is the Omega; and I like that. God hasn’t gone back on His Word in *ANY* way. God said He was going to give Israel that land; and that’s *EXACTLY* what He intends to do one day – even though that day is *NOT* today. When they return to the land in fulfillment of prophecy, they won’t fear the Arabs or the Iranians; and they will worship the True and Living God. They do *NOT* dwell every man under his own vine in peace and safety in that land currently – everyone knows that – and they *DO NOT* worship the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and Messiah; so, the present day return to the land is not fulfillment of prophecy, according to Scripture....

17 And hath confirmed the same to Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant,

18 Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance;

19 When ye were but few, even a few, and strangers in it.

20 And when they went from nation to nation, and from one kingdom to another people;

21 He allowed no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproveth kings for their sakes,

22 Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.

~ Modern persecution of Christians is carried out under a pretext of “*love, love, love.*” That crowd are the meanest group of people in any community.

They are bitter gossips who couch hate in a charmingly deceptive manner; one that portrays them as lovingly concerned for others. Well, they aren't getting by with their sin. God is moving in judgment in their lives as we speak. They despise anyone who is strict on doctrine; and they wonder why I disagree so vehemently with certain groups of people who call themselves Christians. Well, if you hold to the integrity of the Word of God and the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, then we get along just fine. On the other hand, I don't interfere *IN ANY WAY* with the work of the Lord's anointed. Others can teach whatever they believe they should teach. We need to be super careful that we aren't harming or diminishing the work of God. Ask yourself: are you furthering the cause of Christ? Do you support the man who actually believes God and who has taken the time to execute a Spirit-led and Spirit-filled study of the entire Word of God? It happens to be important. All of those principles are wrapped up in this one little Psalm....

23 Sing unto the LORD, all the earth; shew forth from day to day his salvation.

24 Declare his glory among the heathen; his marvellous works among all nations.

25 For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised: he also is to be feared above all gods.

26 For all the gods of the people are idols: but the LORD made the heavens.

27 Glory and honour are in his presence; strength and gladness are in his place.

28 Give unto the LORD, ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength.

29 Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

~ “*Idols*” in verse twenty-six means “*nothing*;” All of that metal, wood, glass, plastic, concrete and vegetative matter we love so much is absolutely **NOTHING**. The “*beauty of His holiness*” doesn’t mean your church, either – although I do love a beautiful church! No, friends, we’re talking about His **HOLINESS**! Most people have **NO IDEA** what it means to worship God. Most people simply interfere and harm the cause of Christ. Why not try “*worshipping*” the Lord with a proper, correct and complete, educated, sincere and systematic Bible study? **THAT’S** true worship....

30 Fear before him, all the earth: the world also shall be stable, that it be not moved.

31 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let men say among the nations, The LORD reigneth.

32 Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof: let the fields rejoice, and all that is therein.

33 Then shall the trees of the wood sing out at the presence of the LORD, because he cometh to judge the earth.

34 O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.

~ One day, even the trees are going to sing for joy *because of God’s mercy*! Currently, as I type this report, the earth is under judgment; but the melody of nature is in a profoundly sorrowful minor key. Candidly, I have no idea how trees will sing out in joy — but it will happen. And it will happen because God is not short on mercy. Mercy is what I need – and I need a **WHOLE LOT** of it – and I suspect mercy is what you need, too, because if you’re one who doesn’t care much for the mercy of God, there’s a good chance you stopped reading my reports a **LONG** time ago. Whatever we need today; let’s look to God for it. This passage is truly remarkable, and we didn’t even scratch the surface of the meaning. I’m not sure it’s even possible to do much more than stand on the fringe of this incredible and marvelous Psalm....

35 And say ye, Save us, O God of our salvation, and gather us together, and deliver us from the heathen, that we may give thanks to thy holy name, and glory in thy praise.

36 Blessed be the LORD God of Israel for ever and ever. And all the people said, Amen, and praised the LORD.

37 So he left there before the ark of the covenant of the LORD Asaph and his brethren, to minister before the ark continually, as every day's work required:

38 And Obededom with their brethren, threescore and eight; Obededom also the son of Jeduthun and Hosah to be porters:

39 And Zadok the priest, and his brethren the priests, before the tabernacle of the LORD in the high place that was at Gibeon,

40 To offer burnt offerings unto the LORD upon the altar of the burnt offering continually morning and evening, and to do according to all that is written in the law of the LORD, which he commanded Israel;

41 And with them Heman and Jeduthun, and the rest that were chosen, who were expressed by name, to give thanks to the LORD, because his mercy endureth for ever;

42 And with them Heman and Jeduthun with trumpets and cymbals for those that should make a sound, and with musical instruments of God. And the sons of Jeduthun were porters.

43 And all the people departed every man to his house: and David returned to bless his house.

~ We're not told much about the government David instituted. What we are told about are those who kept the service of the Ark of the Lord. Those who committed their lives to the service of God are the important people in

the Word of God, friends. Verse forty-one tells us what Psalm chapter one hundred thirty-seven says twenty-six times: *“His Mercy Endureth Forever!”* What a great section of Scripture we have in this report; and what a great emphasis God places upon it....

XVII

¹ Now it came to pass, as David sat in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, Lo, I dwell in an house of cedars, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD remaineth under curtains.

² Then Nathan said unto David, Do all that is in thine heart; for God is with thee.

~ We have already considered this account thoroughly in detail in second Samuel chapter seven. You may want to go back and read that report. The Ark has now been brought to Jerusalem, of course. I think this was likely a rainy night and David couldn't sleep; all he could hear were the tent flaps flapping in the wind and rain. The tabernacle proper was probably worn out and long gone by this time, so they had no choice but to place the Ark temporarily in a tent. Well, David had a magnificent castle to live in – but there was no place for the Ark. This is when David conceives in his heart to build a temple for God. Nathan the prophet tells David to get busy building; but here is a case that a prophet of God was wrong! There was no consultation with the Lord about this matter. Personally, I am very sympathetic with Nathan because he was, obviously, doing what he thought was the right thing to do....

³ And it came to pass the same night, that the word of God came to Nathan, saying,

⁴ Go and tell David my servant, Thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not build me an house to dwell in:

⁵ For I have not dwelt in an house since the day that I brought up Israel unto this day; but have gone from tent to tent, and from one tabernacle to another.

~ When Jesus came to the earth we are told He “*pitched His tent among men!*” That means God took our humanity upon Himself. God has always identified with His people; and Israel still dwelt mainly in tents at this time in which we are studying. Therefore, God dwelt in a tent. That’s where God met His people. As the people began to build permanent houses, God still made no command for a temple to be built. That was all David’s idea from his heart – and God gave Him credit for his thoughtfulness. However, God was not going to allow David to build His house because David had a lot of blood on his hands; not to mention being in abject disobedience with all those wives. So, God tells David that He is going to build David a house. And isn’t that just like God? Whatever you say you’re going to do for the Lord, He will do for you before you can do it for Him. God never wanted David to forget the place from where He picked him up as a little shepherd boy and anointed him king over His chosen people....

⁶ Wheresoever I have walked with all Israel, spake I a word to any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people, saying, Why have ye not built me an house of cedars?

⁷ Now therefore thus shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheeppcote, even from following the sheep, that thou shouldest be ruler over my people Israel:

⁸ And I have been with thee whithersoever thou hast walked, and have cut off all thine enemies from before thee, and have made thee a name like the name of the great men that are in the earth.

⁹ Also I will ordain a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, and they shall dwell in their place, and shall be moved no more; neither shall the children of wickedness waste them any more, as at the beginning,

10 And since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel. Moreover I will subdue all thine enemies. Furthermore I tell thee that the LORD will build thee an house.

11 And it shall come to pass, when thy days be expired that thou must go to be with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom.

12 He shall build me an house, and I will stablish his throne for ever.

13 I will be his father, and he shall be my son: and I will not take my mercy away from him, as I took it from him that was before thee:

14 But I will settle him in mine house and in my kingdom for ever: and his throne shall be established for evermore.

15 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

16 And David the king came and sat before the LORD, and said, Who am I, O LORD God, and what is mine house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?

17 And yet this was a small thing in thine eyes, O God; for thou hast also spoken of thy servant's house for a great while to come, and hast regarded me according to the estate of a man of high degree, O LORD God.

18 What can David speak more to thee for the honour of thy servant? for thou knowest thy servant.

19 O LORD, for thy servant's sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou done all this greatness, in making known all these great things.

20 O LORD, there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

21 And what one nation in the earth is like thy people Israel, whom God went to redeem to be his own people, to make thee a name of greatness and terribleness, by driving out nations from before thy people, whom thou hast redeemed out of Egypt?

22 For thy people Israel didst thou make thine own people for ever; and thou, LORD, becamest their God.

23 Therefore now, LORD, let the thing that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant and concerning his house be established for ever, and do as thou hast said.

24 Let it even be established, that thy name may be magnified for ever, saying, The LORD of hosts is the God of Israel, even a God to Israel: and let the house of David thy servant be established before thee.

25 For thou, O my God, hast told thy servant that thou wilt build him an house: therefore thy servant hath found in his heart to pray before thee.

26 And now, LORD, thou art God, and hast promised this goodness unto thy servant:

27 Now therefore let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may be before thee for ever: for thou blessest, O LORD, and it shall be blessed for ever.

~ The day is coming when God will be worshiped by the nation Israel again; but that is not happening today. They're very far from God right now; and there is quite a division in Israel as to whether they should even follow the *orthodox* view. The two great covenants God made with David and Abraham will *BOTH* be fulfilled in the second Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is going to dash the rebellion when He returns to establish His Kingdom here on this earth — but, again, that's not happening at this moment as I type this report. Many people assume Christ is their "*King*" — but that's just not so; He is our *Savior* today. To the genuine believer, Jesus

will only ever be their Savior, throughout eternity. Only when He returns to establish His Kingdom will He reign as King, according to Scripture.

Apparently, God thought this was very important information because this is the second time we have had this same lesson in our Spiritual Safari. David is having a difficult time understanding God's goodness and mercy at this time. Personally, I am having that same trouble understanding why God has been so good to me. Why has God been so good to *YOU*? I'll tell you why: *His mercy endureth forever!* Why don't you come to Christ today and tell Him you mean business with Him?

Only when we establish communication with Him can we have a personal relationship. We have a communication *FROM* Him – why do most people continue to neglect that message of salvation? David knew he was just a sinner who needed mercy. When that recognition was made by David, then God did all of these wondrous things for David. When *YOU* make the same recognition, God will do the same for *YOU*! Why not turn to God with sincerity for a change today and get into His presence for once? ~

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