

Worthy is the Lamb
Revelation 5.8-14

Sunday 22, 2024

What is the difference between “praise” and ‘worship’?

Praise:

Throughout the Bible are numerous commands to "praise the Lord."

- Angels and the heavenly hosts are commanded to praise the Lord:
 - Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts! Ps.148.1-2
- All inhabitants of the earth are instructed to praise the Lord:
 - Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! Ps.67.3
 - Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Ps.100.1-2
- We can praise Him with singing:
 - Sing praises to the Lord, who sits enthroned in Zion! Tell among the peoples his deeds! Ps.9.11,
- with shouting:
 - Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright. Ps.33.1,
- with the dance, and with musical instruments:
 - Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Ps.150.3-6

Praise is the joyful recounting of all God has done for us.

It is closely intertwined with thanksgiving.

- Praise can be a feature of other relationships as well.
- Praise does not require anything of us. It is merely the truthful acknowledgment of the righteous acts of another. Since God has done many wonderful deeds, He is worthy of praise.
 - I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies. Ps.18.3

Worship:

- Worship should be reserved for God alone.
 - “You shall have no other gods before me. “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God... Ex.20.3-5
 - And Jesus answered him, “It is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.” Lk.4.8

- Worship is the art of losing self in the adoration of another.
- Worship goes beyond praise.
- Worship gets to the heart of who we are.
- To truly worship God, we must let go of our self-worship.
- It requires:
 - humbling ourselves before God,
 - surrendering every part of our lives to His control,
 - adoring Him for who He is, not just what He has done.
- Worship is a lifestyle, not just an occasional activity.
- Worship is more sombre than praise:
 - [Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!](#)
Ps.96.9
 - [Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!](#)
Ps.96.5
- It is through true worship that we invite the Holy Spirit to speak to us, convict us, and comfort us.
- Through worship, we realign our priorities with God's and acknowledge Him once more as the rightful Lord of our lives.
- Worship is intertwined with surrender.
- Worship is an attitude of the heart.
 - [The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.](#) Ps.51.17

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⁸And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Note the immediate response when the Lamb takes the scroll: WORSHIP

- They fell down, all of them, before the Lamb!
- Each holding a harp,
 - [David also commanded the chiefs of the Levites to appoint their brothers as the singers who should play loudly on musical instruments, on harps and lyres and cymbals, to raise sounds of joy.](#) 1Chr.15.16
- ...and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.
 - [And Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it \('it' being the altar of incense\). Every morning when he dresses the lamps he shall burn it, and when Aaron sets up the lamps at twilight, he shall burn it, a regular incense offering before the Lord throughout your generations.](#) Ex.30.7-8
 - [Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!](#) Ps.141.2

Worship is here accompanied by praise and prayer.

⁹ ***And they sang a new song, saying,***

***“Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,
¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”***

- Singing of a new song demonstrates **acknowledgement**:
 - Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. Ps.98.1
- **Acknowledgement of what the Lamb is worthy**:
- Taking the scroll and opening its seals:
 - All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. John 6.37-39
- **Acknowledgement of what the Lamb has done**:
- Offering Himself as a sacrifice to ransom people for God:
 - ...knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. 1 Pe.1.18-19
- Making us a kingdom and priests to our God:
 - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1 Pe.2.9

¹¹ ***Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,
¹² saying with a loud voice,***

- The choir singing this anthem of praise becomes innumerable!

***“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!”***

- Again, a statement of worship, acknowledging the Lamb with a 7-fold tribute acknowledging His Deity!

¹³ ***And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,***

- The choir now expands outside the throne room and into all creation!
- Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Phil.2.9-11

***“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”***

Echoes v.12: ...power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Is.9.6

¹⁴And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

And so should we!!!

All Heaven declares
The glory of the risen Lord
Who can compare
With the beauty of the Lord
Forever He will be
The lamb upon the throne
I gladly bow to Thee
And worship Him alone
I will proclaim
The glory of the risen Lord

Who once was slain
To reconcile man to God
Forever You will be
The lamb upon the throne
I gladly bow to Thee
And worship You alone
Forever You will be
The lamb upon the throne
I gladly bow to Thee
And worship You alone
Lord, I worship You alone