

INSPIRED WORD
September 25, 2019

PRAYER

Lord, we thank You for calling us here tonight. It's a great privilege to be able to praise You tonight, to give You glory, to raise Your holy name, Jesus.

SCRIPTURE

I was prompted earlier to read **Tobit 12 and 13** and it confirms a lot of our praise songs, what we were praising and singing, and to make those praise songs a prayer. First, this is an angel and he's talking to a couple of gentlemen. The angel says: *"Praise God and give thanks to him; exalt him and give thanks to him in the presence of all the living for what he has done for you. It is good to praise God and to exalt his name, worthily declaring the works of God. Do not be slow to give him thanks. (And I like this next line.) It is good to guard the secret of a king, but it is glorious to reveal the works of God" (12:6-7).* And then just a little bit later, Tobit writes a prayer of rejoicing and says: *"Blessed is God who lives for ever, and blessed is his kingdom. For he afflicts, and he shows mercy; he leads down to Hades, and brings up again, and there is no one who can escape his hand. Acknowledge him before the nations, O sons of Israel; for he has scattered us among them. Make his greatness known there, and exalt him in the presence of all the living; because he is our Lord and God, he is our Father for ever. He will afflict us for our iniquities; but again he will show mercy, and will gather us from all the nations among whom you have been scattered. If you turn to him with all your heart and with all your soul, and do what is true before him, then he will turn to you and will not hide his face from you. But see what he will do with you; give thanks to him with your full voice. Praise the Lord of righteousness, and exalt the King of the ages. I exalt my God; my soul exalts the King of heaven, and will rejoice in his majesty. Let all men speak, and give him thanks (13:1-8). Give thanks worthily to the Lord, and praise the King of the ages, that his tent may be raised for you again with joy. May he cheer those within you who are captives, and love those within you who are distressed, to all generations for ever. Many nations will come from afar to the name of the Lord God, bearing gifts in their hands, gifts for the King of heaven. Generations of generations will give you joyful praise. Cursed are all who hate you; blessed for ever will be all who love you. Rejoice and be glad for the sons of the righteous; for they will be gathered together, and will praise the Lord of the righteous. How blessed are those who love you, God! They will rejoice in your peace; they will rejoice for you upon seeing all your glory, and they will be made glad for ever (13:10-14).*

SCRIPTURE

The song with the “hosannas” in it brought this to my mind. It’s from **Luke 19:35-40**: *Then they led the animal to Jesus and laying their cloaks on it, helped him mount. They spread their cloaks on the roadway as he moved along. And on his approach to the descent from Mount Olivet, the entire crowd of disciples began to rejoice and praise God loudly, for the display of power they had seen. They were saying, “Blessed is he who comes as King in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” He replied, “If they were to keep silent, I tell you, the very stones would cry out.”*

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come (**Revelation 21:8**). The same was in the beginning with God and the same was God (**John 1:2**). We praise You and exalt You, Almighty God, magnify and glorify and exalt Your holy name. Halleluiah to the Lamb, the holy risen Lamb of God. In **Hebrews 9:11-15**: *But Christ came as high priest of the good things to come, with a greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation, not of the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood, he entered the most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and ashes of a heifer sprinkling the unclean sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God. And for this reason, he is the mediator of the new covenant by means of death for the redemption of the transgressions of the first covenant that those who are called may receive the promise of eternal inheritance of the Lord. Thank You so much! Thank You for mediating our eternal forgiveness. We thank You that You have raised us up in our hearts. You have raised us up. We praise You and exalt You and magnify Your name, for You are the King, the holy King of kings.*

SCRIPTURE

I heard within myself: Your shepherd is waiting. And I thought, well, what does that mean Lord? And I opened up the Bible just now and He said, *“I myself will pasture my sheep. I myself will give them rest. The lost I will seek out; the strayed I will bring back; the injured I will bind up; and the sick I will heal (Ezekiel 34:15-16).*

CONFIRMATION / IMAGE

I can confirm that. I had an image of the Lord with a big shepherd’s hook riding on a cloud.

WORD OF WISDOM

This just came to me just now. There are people who are supposed to be here; people that were here and are no longer here. And we need to reach out to these people. They’re

supposed to be here. They were here just a short time ago and they're not here now. And they're supposed to be here. And the Great Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ, is reaching out to these people and we need to bring them in in these last days because the time is incredibly short.

SHARING / IMAGE

While we were singing Psalm 96, that last song, there's a line there that says, "The trees, the forests are free to sing" and it just took me right back to the retreat where we asked: What are our roots? What's our wings? What's our trunk? Where are our branches reaching to? Am I free to sing the praises of the Lord? And with that image also came the image of the cedars of Lebanon. If we thought the great redwoods of the Pacific Northwest or the California sequoias were great, imagine forest upon forest of the cedars of Lebanon, straight as an arrow, reaching to the sky. And those were the trees that are free to sing. God wants that from us too, to be strong in Him, rooted in Him, reaching for the sky, proclaiming His glory.

CONFIRMATION / IMAGE / SCRIPTURE

I confirm what CiCi said. When we were doing the song "Amazing Grace", I had the image of a tree, and there's a show on TLC; it's about finding your roots. And the exercise we did at the retreat was wonderful. But the exercise about the tree, the branches and the trunk, so solid, so tall, and we know who we are in Jesus. And He's constantly, continually making us grow in Him. From **Psalm 52:8-9**: *But I am like the olive tree flourishing in the house of God. I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever. I will praise you for ever for what you have done. In your name I will hope, for your name is good. I will praise you in the presence of your saints.*

SCRIPTURE

I think this is in line with what you were telling us about the changes in your church. This is **Micah 4:1-2**: *In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established higher than the mountains. It shall rise high above the hills and peoples will stream to it. Many nations shall come and say, "Come, let us climb the mountain of the Lord, to the house of God of Jacob; that he may instruct us in his ways. Then we may walk in his paths." From out of Zion shall go forth instructions and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.*

MESSAGE IN TONGUES

INTERPRETATION

Even the rocks cry out. But, my people, are your hearts as hard as the rocks? Or are they as soft as the sands? Bring my praise to the altar. Bring my praise to the people. Let me soften your hearts with oil that they would be truly malleable in my hands, truly formed to my will. Shout like the rocks. But don't be a rock.

INTERPRETATION

I invite you to come deeper with me. I invite you to a deeper place. There is glory in my presence. Don't stand at the threshold and be reluctant to enter. For you may say, "I am not worthy to enter that glory." But I say to you that my love, my love covers all. When you bring your heart to me, my love changes your heart. Come in, come deeper with me. Partake in my glory, that my glory may shine through you and touch all who come in contact with you.

SHARING / SCRIPTURE

When I was a kid, what came out of my mouth wasn't always pleasing. My mother would say she was going to wash out my mouth with soap. And it carried on into my adulthood. You know, sometimes did I say the right things, think the right things? And I was fearful with communication because of that. And just a little while ago my thought was that I was hearing God say, "Your thoughts are beautiful thoughts." And then everybody's giving a passage and I thought... I didn't bring a bible but I brought this and I opened up to... my eyes looked exactly at this: *The mouth of the just man utters wisdom and his tongue tells forth what is just. The love of his God is in his heart (Psalm 37:30-31)*. So I opened up to that. And then after that, if that wasn't enough, you know, we sang my favorite Christian song "Great Are You, Lord." And I really think God was there because it was really hard on me, thinking about my thoughts and my words and my struggle with them, and then all of that happened. I'm really grateful. Thank you everybody. I couldn't do this without being here in your love.