



Praise as Warfare

Psalm 149

Praise and worship are an essential preparation for meditation and prayer. They bring you into God's presence where you feel His peace and can hear what the Spirit is speaking; but more importantly it declares who God is as the One who answers our asking.

Basics: Your praise exalts God but is warfare to the enemy.

Psalm 149 is another picture of what happens in the spiritual realm when we worship.

Psalm 149 starts with the command, "Hallelujah!" which means "Praise the LORD!" and extends to the singing of a new song, a song directed by the Spirit of God.

v1 "Sing to the LORD a new song, and His praise in the assembly of saints." In the new song both words, **new** and **song** refer to a minstrel singer singing out of the inspiration of his heart. For us it could be singing with the spirit and with the understanding. (1Corinthians 14:15)

Praise here is halal praise, lavish poured out praise that boasts in Who God is. **Assembly** is a gathering of **saints**, those devoted to God are the praisers. As you read on, you see this praise being used in spiritual battle.

v2 "Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. Creator and King are themes given for the new song.

v3 "Let them praise His name in the dance: let them sing praises unto Him with the timbrel and harp." Here, the first **praise** is the dance, an expression of halal praise. (David praised God in dance, 2 Samuel 6:14.) The second **praise** word is singing with musical instruments.

v4 "For the LORD takes pleasure in His people: He will beautify the humble (meek) with salvation."

v5 "Let the saints be joyful in glory; Let them sing aloud on their beds." **Glory** is the weighty presence of God. **This singing aloud** is joyful, triumphant song, even with shouts.

This psalm gives us a picture of different expressions of praise, a fresh spontaneous song, the dance, singing with instruments and now even on your bed sensing God's glorious presence.

v6 “Let the high praises of God (El, Strong One) be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand “ **The high praise exalts**, lifts up on high the God of power, glorifies Him alone as these praises are sung. High praises can also indicate great volume. **Your two-edged sword comes out of your mouth** and is **for war** as it does with Jesus. (Revelation 1:16, 2:16). The two edged Sword is the **rhema**, the specific word for the specific prayer or praise. (Ephesians 6:17, the sword/rhema is the spoken, specific word of God here used in praise.)

With verse 2 giving themes of **Creator, King**, you can sing and declare your rhemas as part of your praise/prayer. That God is Maker, Creator and King proclaims His right of ownership over all the people created by Him and for Him. Because Jesus paid the price for their release at the cross, the praise declares they are set free from oppression and domination of the enemy.

Read verses 7 and 8 together.

v7 (The high praises and the swords/rhemas are used) **“to execute vengeance upon the heathen and punishments (correction) upon the people;**

v8 (the high praises and the swords are) **to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron.”**

Vengeance; God **avenges** the oppressing of His created people, He avenges Himself as the enemy’s kings and nobles are bound, restricted by the high praise of His people.

Kings and nobles can represent powers of darkness, wickedness, principalities and the lesser spiritual powers pictured in Ephesians 6. God uses your praise against these wicked powers to bind their influence and see the unsaved set free and saved. (Fetters are a picture of binding the feet, hindering the activity of the demonic powers.)

This is the spiritual battle behind the scenes. Believers to Christ are not won by the literal sword, but by the good news of the gospel. The sword of warfare is in the spiritual realm where these high praises and swords/rhemas are used by God against the oppressors to set people free to be saved and know God as their Creator and King.

Verse 8 says the high praises bind the enemy.

Visualize what is happening as praise binds, restricts the enemy.

v9 “to execute on them the written judgment – This honor have all His saints! Praise the LORD! (Hallelujah!)” This is something you do through praise, individually and corporately as the Church.

As part of our meditation and in our understanding of what Jesus did at the cross, we can now declare:

- that Jesus delivered us as believers from Satan and the kingdom of darkness, into His kingdom,

- that Jesus is the King of the Kingdom of God and appointed King of all the Earth by His Father
- that believers are set free from the curse of sin, disease, poverty through Jesus' death on the cross,
- that godly directed praise triumphs.

Application: Declare it, lift it in praise for yourself and for the Church, all believers worldwide and for those who will be saved.

