

Discipleship Training Course

This course contains 23 chapters and is released freely to the public domain for the purpose of discipling new believers and strengthening those older in the faith.

All Bible quotations are given in italics with their book, chapter and verse(s), followed by an abbreviation for their translation as follows:

AMP	The Amplified Bible © 2015 The Lockman Foundation
AMPC	The Amplified Bible (Classic Edition) © 1987 The Zondervan Corporation and the Lockman Foundation
ESVUK	English Standard Version Anglicised © 2001 Crossway Bibles
HCSB	The Holman Christian Standard Bible © 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2009 Holman Bible Publishers
MSG	The Message © 1993, 2002, 2018 Eugene H. Peterson. Used by permission of NavPress.
NASB1995	The New American Standard Bible © 1960, 1971, 1977, 1995 The Lockman Foundation
NHEB	New Heart English Bible, Edited by Wayne A. Mitchell 2008-2026, Public Domain
NIVUK	The New International Version® Anglicized © 1979, 1984, 2011 Biblica, Inc.®
NKJV	New King James Version® © 1982 Thomas Nelson
NLT	New Living Translation © 1996, 2004, 2015 Tyndale House Foundation
WEBPB	The World English Bible® Protestant British Edition, Public Domain

The use of Bible quotes within this course conforms to the copyright exceptions of all these publishers.

The following systematic adjustments have also been made to Bible quotes:

- The Old Testament tetragrammaton name of God (derived from the four Hebrew letters translated into English as YHWH) has been rendered LORD unless translated Jehovah or Yahweh
- Pronouns referring to the Trinity and some specific terms relating to the Trinity (such as Name and Word) have been capitalized
- Speech marks around entire quotes and at the beginning of new paragraphs have been omitted
- Anglicised spellings have been used
- All quotes begin with a capital letter and end with a full stop
- Some weights, measures and times have been replaced with easier to understand terms given in the footnotes using square brackets
- All verse numbers, footnote numbers and symbols have been removed
- Poetry has been indented and only new sentences start with a capital letter

Published in electronic format by Pastor Peter Samuels, Morecambe, UK

Version 2.5, July 2026

ISBN 978-0-9956916-1-2

Chapter 13. Praise and worship

Contents

1. Key Scriptures
2. The stages of praise and worship
3. Lessons from Biblical examples
 - 3.1 True worship is costly and from the heart
 - 3.2 We were created with an innate desire to worship
 - 3.3 True worship as entering the Most Holy Place
 - 3.4 True praise and worship is beyond circumstances
 - 3.5 Satan longs to be worshipped
 - 3.6 Worship and godly jealousy
 - 3.7 Praise and warfare

1. Key Scriptures

***Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!***

*For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In His hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are His also.
The sea is His, for He made it,
and His hands formed the dry land.*

***Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!***
*For He is our God,
and we are the people of His pasture,
and the sheep of His hand.*

Psalms 95:1-7a (ESVUK)

***Shout for joy to the LORD, all you lands!
Serve the LORD with gladness.
Come before His presence with singing.
Know that the LORD, He is God.
It is He who has made us, and we are His.
We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.
Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
and into His courts with praise.
Give thanks to Him, and bless His Name.***
*For the LORD is good.
His loving kindness endures forever,
His faithfulness to all generations.*

Psalms 100 (WEBPB)

Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship

*what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. **But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.***

John 4:21-24 (ESVUK)

*Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, **to present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, which is your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship.** And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed and progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you].*

Romans 12:1-2 (AMP)

2. The stages of praise and worship

Psalms 95 and Psalm 100 indicate that there is a progression of degrees of offering ourselves to God as a living sacrifice as we approach His presence. These can be likened to the different levels of the temple: the outer court, the inner court, the holy place and the holy of holies. The outer form of offering is **thanksgiving** in which we recall how the Lord has been good to us. The next form of offering is **praise**. Praise may include thanksgiving but it goes further in declaring the works and greatness of the Lord. Praise requires an attitude of faith and a desire to magnify the Lord.

The final stage of offering is **worship**. Once we sense that we have drawn closer to God we can offer our hearts fully to the Lord and express our love and devotion towards Him.

Worship literally means “worth-ship”: that is, **to attribute worth to God**. Two Hebrew words for worship are to **prostrate yourself before God** and to **gain the ear of the king**. These words combine the image of complete devotion with that of intimacy and favour from the almighty God. Worship is truly a privilege, especially under the New Covenant where every born again believer can approach God by faith.

Our thanksgiving, praise and worship should not be limited to parts of church services. We should offer God sacrifices in our personal devotional times and at all other times when we have an opportunity. God is seeking for true worshippers who will worship Him in spirit and in truth (see passage from John 4 above). The level of our praise and worship is not defined or limited by the level of corporate praise and worship in the church services that we attend. We should seek to be true worshippers at all times whether or not the rest of the congregation is at the same level.

3. Lessons from Biblical examples

3.1 True worship is costly and from the heart

The first mention of worship in the Bible is the sacrifices of Cain and Abel:

When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground. When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the LORD. Abel also brought a gift – the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The LORD accepted Abel and his gift, but He did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.

Genesis 4:2b-5 (NLT)

Abel's offering was accepted, not because it was an animal, but **his attitude of heart towards God** distinguished his offering from Cain's. This might be indicated by the fact that

Abel offered the firstborn of his flock whereas Cain's offering was some of the fruits of the soil rather than the firstfruits. However, this does not mean that when we offer the firstborn or the firstfruit we can assume that God will accept our offering. It is possible to give a big offering with pride but a small offering with humility:

Just then He looked up and saw the rich people dropping offerings in the collection plate. Then He saw a poor widow put in two pennies. He said, "The plain truth is that this widow has given by far the largest offering today. All these others made offerings that they'll never miss; she gave extravagantly what she couldn't afford – she gave her all!"

Luke 21:1-4 (MSG)

God has the right to choose which sacrifice to accept or reject. His choice in this case led to the first murder in the Bible. True worship is costly to give:

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

Genesis 22:1-2 (ESVUK)

The king said to Araunah, "No; but I will most certainly buy it from you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God which cost me nothing."

2 Samuel 24:24a (WEBPB)

Sometimes, as we saw above with Abel, true worship is also costly in its consequences because of the jealousy of others when they see the favour of God upon us:

But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him.

Acts 7:55-58a (ESVUK)

However, Jesus encourages us to rejoice because we are blessed when other people mistreat us because of our relationship with God:

Blessed are you when men insult you, persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:11-12 (NHEB)

3.2 We were created with an innate desire to worship

The second example of worship in the Bible is also from Genesis 4:

At that time men began to call on the LORD's Name.

Genesis 4:26b (WEBPB)

Here we see that within every person there is an innate and unprompted desire to worship which is only satisfied in worshipping God. This contrasts with Paul's exposition at the beginning of his letter to the Romans:

Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship Him as God or even give Him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.

Romans 1:21-23 (NLT)

Here we see a connection between a renewed mind and worship: people's choice not to praise and worship God leads to futile thinking, which in turn leads to idolatry and then all other forms of wickedness. This is also seen in the key passage above from Romans 12:1-2. This is also seen in the change of mindset of the writer of Psalm 73 when he entered the sanctuary:

*Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain,
and washed my hands in innocence,
for all day long I have been plagued,
and punished every morning.
If I had said, "I will speak thus";
behold, I would have betrayed the generation of Your children.
When I tried to understand this,
it was too painful for me,
**until I entered God's sanctuary,
and considered their latter end.***

Psalm 73:13-17 (WEBPB)

We should not worship created things because all of creation was created for the praise of God:

*Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD from the heavens!
Praise Him in the heights!
Praise Him, all His angels!
Praise Him, all His army!
Praise Him, sun and moon!
Praise Him, all you shining stars!
Praise Him, you heavens of heavens,
you waters that are above the heavens.
Let them praise the LORD's Name,
for He commanded, and they were created.
He has also established them forever and ever.
He has made a decree which will not pass away.
Praise the LORD from the earth,
you great sea creatures, and all depths;
lightning and hail, snow and clouds;
stormy wind, fulfilling his word;
mountains and all hills;
fruit trees and all cedars;
wild animals and all livestock;
small creatures and flying birds;
kings of the earth and all peoples;
princes and all judges of the earth;
both young men and maidens;
old men and children:
let them praise the LORD's Name,
for His name alone is exalted.
His glory is above the earth and the heavens.
He has lifted up the horn of His people,
the praise of all His saints,
even of the children of Israel, a people near to Him.*

Praise the LORD!

Psalm 148 (WEBPB)

3.3 True worship as entering the Most Holy Place

The Bible teaches the importance of purity in approaching God:

Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?

Who may stand in His holy place?

*The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not trust in an idol
or swear by a false god.*

Psalm 24:3-4 (NIVUK)

This is also seen in the regulations for entering the Most Holy Place within the tabernacle:

The LORD spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron who died when they approached the LORD. The LORD said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron that he is not to come whenever he chooses into the Most Holy Place behind the curtain in front of the atonement cover on the ark, or else he will die. For I will appear in the cloud over the atonement cover.

This is how Aaron is to enter the Most Holy Place: he must first bring a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. He is to put on the sacred linen tunic, with linen undergarments next to his body; he is to tie the linen sash round him and put on the linen turban. These are sacred garments; so he must bathe himself with water before he puts them on. From the Israelite community he is to take two male goats for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.

'This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: on the tenth day of the seventh month you must deny yourselves and not do any work – whether native-born or a foreigner residing among you – because on this day atonement will be made for you, to cleanse you. Then, before the LORD, you will be clean from all your sins. It is a day of sabbath rest, and you must deny yourselves; it is a lasting ordinance. The priest who is anointed and ordained to succeed his father as high priest is to make atonement. He is to put on the sacred linen garments and make atonement for the Most Holy Place, for the tent of meeting and the altar, and for the priests and all the members of the community.

This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: atonement is to be made once a year for all the sins of the Israelites."

And it was done, as the LORD commanded Moses.

Leviticus 16:1-5, 29-34 (NIVUK)

Under the Old Covenant, only the high priest could enter the Most Holy Place once a year. However, under the New Covenant the New Covenant we are all allowed to enter the presence of God with confidence:

Since then we have a Great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the Throne of Grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:14-16 (ESVUK)

This hope [this confident assurance] we have as an anchor of the soul [it cannot slip and it cannot break down under whatever pressure bears upon it] – a safe and steadfast hope that enters within the veil [of the heavenly temple, that most Holy Place in which the very

presence of God dwells], where Jesus has entered [in advance] as a forerunner for us, having become a High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 6:19-20 (AMP)

The picture here is of a large vessel being anchored to a solid rock at the shore by a small vessel called a forerunner. It is Jesus' priesthood that enables us all to approach God in the Most Holy Place through our worship. This Most Holy Place is not within a temple made by man in Jerusalem which is only a copy of the true spiritual temple but the presence of God Himself:

But when Christ came as High Priest of the good things that are now already here, He went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but He entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, so obtaining eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

Hebrews 9:11-14 (NIVUK)

3.4 True praise and worship is beyond circumstances

The elders of Israel worshipped God before they were delivered:

Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel. Aaron spoke all the words which the LORD had spoken to Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people. The people believed, and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that He had seen their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.

Exodus 4:29-31 (WEBPB)

Job offered God a costly sacrifice of worship when he lost everything:

One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the eldest brother's house, a messenger came to Job and said, 'The oxen were ploughing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, and the Sabeans attacked and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!'

While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, 'The fire of God fell from the heavens and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!'

While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, 'The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!'

While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, 'Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the eldest brother's house, when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!'

At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said:

***"Naked I came from my mother's womb,
and naked I shall depart.
The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away;
may the Name of the LORD be praised."***

Job 1:13-21 (ESVUK)

Through his worship Job valued God more than any person or thing God had given him.

Habakkuk chose to rejoice in the LORD despite nothing encouraging him in his circumstances.

*Though the fig tree should not blossom,
nor fruit be on the vines,
the produce of the olive fail
and the fields yield no food,
the flock be cut off from the fold
and there be no herd in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the LORD;
I will take joy in the God of my salvation.
God, the LORD, is my strength;
He makes my feet like the deer's;
He makes me tread on my high places.*

Habakkuk 3:17-19a (ESVUK)

Silas and Paul offered God praise and worship when beaten and placed in chains in a jail in Philippi:

Her masters' hopes of wealth were now shattered, so they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities at the marketplace. "The whole city is in an uproar because of these Jews!" they shouted to the city officials. "They are teaching customs that are illegal for us Romans to practice."

A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden rods. They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn't escape. So the jailer put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks.

Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening.

Acts 16:19-25 (NLT)

David wrote many psalms when he was in trouble, choosing to praise God and to seek a deeper experience of Him that would enable him to overcome his circumstances. Examples from Book I are Psalms 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40 and 41. David also worshipped God when his son born from Bathsheba died after praying and fasting for a week (2 Samuel 12:1-25).

Finally, Paul encouraged the Thessalonians to, "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18, ESVUK).

3.5 Satan longs to be worshipped

Satan was cast out of heaven because of his pride. True worship is the opposite of Satan's five "I will" declarations in Isaiah 14 – instead we should declare, as Jesus did, "not My will, but Yours, be done" (Luke 22:42b, WEBPB):

*How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn. How you are cut down to the ground, who laid the nations low. You said in your heart, "**I will** ascend into heaven. **I will** exalt my throne above the stars of God. **I will** sit on the mountain of assembly, in the far north. **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds. **I will** make myself like the Most High." Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the depths of the pit.*

Isaiah 14:12-15 (NHEB)

Discipleship Training Course

In fact, Satan's sin can be seen as assuming one rank above the one given to him by God.

Satan became proud because of his beauty, wisdom and splendour. We should never focus on ourselves in worship but always upon God:

God's Message came to me: "Son of man, raise a funeral song over the king of Tyre. Tell him, A Message from God, the Master:

*You had everything going for you.
You were in Eden, God's garden.
You were dressed in splendour,
your robe studded with jewels:
Carnelian, peridot, and moonstone,
beryl, onyx, and jasper,
Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald,
all in settings of engraved gold.
A robe was prepared for you
the same day you were created.
You were the anointed cherub.
I placed you on the mountain of God.
You strolled in magnificence
among the stones of fire.
From the day of your creation
you were sheer perfection . . .
and then imperfection – evil! – was detected in you.
In much buying and selling
you turned violent, you sinned!
I threw you, disgraced, off the mountain of God.
I threw you out – you, the anointed angel-cherub.
No more strolling among the gems of fire for you!
Your beauty went to your head.
You corrupted wisdom
by using it to get worldly fame.
I threw you to the ground,
sent you sprawling before an audience of kings
and let them gloat over your demise.
By sin after sin after sin,
by your corrupt ways of doing business,
you defiled your holy places of worship.
So I set a fire around and within you.
It burned you up. I reduced you to ashes.
All anyone sees now
when they look for you is ashes,
a pitiful mound of ashes.
All who once knew you
now throw up their hands:
'This can't have happened!
This has happened!'"*

Ezekiel 28:11-19 (MSG)

Satan offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world in exchange for His worship but Jesus overcame him through the Word:

The devil, leading Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. The devil said to Him, "I will give You all this authority, and their glory, for it

has been delivered to me; and I give it to whomever I want. If You therefore will worship before me, it will all be Yours."

*Jesus answered him, "**Get behind Me Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and you shall serve Him only.'**"*

Luke 4:5-8 (WEBPB)

Satan was thrown out of heaven along with his fallen angels. The Bible states that a third of the angels fell with him, indicating that he was in charge of them, possibly as an archangel like Michael. He has a very detailed understanding of worship from his experience:

There was war in the sky. Michael and his angels made war on the dragon. The dragon and his angels made war. They didn't prevail. No place was found for them any more in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, the old serpent, he who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. He was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Revelation 12:7-9 (WEBPB)

3.6 Worship and godly jealousy

God is jealous for our worship with a holy jealousy:

*Be careful, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be for a snare amongst you; but you shall break down their altars, and dash in pieces their pillars, and you shall cut down their Asherah poles; **for you shall worship no other god; for the LORD, whose Name is Jealous, is a jealous God.***

Exodus 34:12-14 (WEBPB)

Paul was jealous for the Corinthians with a godly jealousy that they might have a pure devotion to Christ:

For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy.** For I married you to one husband, that I might present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve in his craftiness, so your minds might be corrupted from **a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:2-3 (NHEB)

God jealously longs for us to receive all He has given us through the Holy Spirit:

*You adulterers and adulteresses, don't you know that friendship with the world is hostility towards God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "**The Spirit who lives in us yearns jealously**"?*

James 4:4-5 (WEBPB)

God's jealousy is for our worship of Him to be undivided. According to Matthew 6:24, you cannot serve God and money. We can also pray that God will make our hearts undivided:

Teach me Your way, LORD.

I will walk in Your truth.

Make my heart undivided to fear Your Name.

Psalms 86:11 (WEBPB)

3.7 Praise and warfare

Jehoshaphat used praise in warfare, throwing his enemies into confusion:

After this, the children of Moab, the children of Ammon, and with them some of the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle. Then some came who told Jehoshaphat,

saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea from Syria. Behold, they are in Hazazon Tamar" (that is, En Gedi). Jehoshaphat was alarmed, and set himself to seek to the LORD. He proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. Judah gathered themselves together to seek help from the LORD. They came out of all the cities of Judah to seek the LORD.

Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the LORD's house, before the new court; and he said, "LORD, the God of our fathers, aren't You God in heaven? Aren't you ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand, so that no one is able to withstand You. Didn't You, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and give it to the offspring of Abraham Your friend forever? They lived in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your Name, saying, 'If evil comes on us – the sword, judgement, pestilence, or famine – we will stand before this house, and before You (for Your Name is in this house), and cry to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.' Now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom You would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned away from them, and didn't destroy them; behold, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of Your possession, which You have given us to inherit. Our God, will You not judge them? For we have no might against this great company that comes against us. We don't know what to do, but our eyes are on You."

All Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.

Then the LORD's Spirit came on Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, the Levite, of the sons of Asaph, in the middle of the assembly; and he said, "Listen, all Judah, and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, king Jehoshaphat. The LORD says to you, 'Don't be afraid, and don't be dismayed because of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's. Tomorrow, go down against them. Behold, they are coming up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, before the wilderness of Jeruel. You will not need to fight this battle. Set yourselves, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Don't be afraid, nor be dismayed. Go out against them tomorrow, for the LORD is with you.'"

Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground; and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the LORD, worshipping the LORD. The Levites, of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites, stood up to praise the LORD, the God of Israel, with an exceedingly loud voice.

They rose early in the morning, and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. As they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, Judah, and you inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the LORD your God, so you will be established! Believe his prophets, so you will prosper."

When he had taken counsel with the people, **he appointed those who were to sing to the LORD, and give praise in holy array, as they go out before the army, and say, "Give thanks to the LORD; for His loving kindness endures forever."** When they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushers against the children of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were struck. For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy them. When they had finished the inhabitants of Seir, everyone helped to destroy each other.

When Judah came to the place overlooking the wilderness, they looked at the multitude; and behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and there were none who escaped. When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take their plunder, they found amongst them in abundance both riches and dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away. They took plunder for three days, it was so much. On the fourth day, they assembled themselves in Beracah Valley, **for there they blessed the LORD.** Therefore the name of that place was called "Beracah Valley" to this day. **Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, with Jehoshaphat in front**

of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy; for the LORD had made them to rejoice over their enemies. They came to Jerusalem with stringed instruments, harps, and trumpets to the LORD's house. The fear of God was on all the kingdoms of the countries, when they heard that the LORD fought against the enemies of Israel. So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around.

2 Chronicles 20:1-30 (WEBPB)

Whenever the ark moved the Israelites made a proclamation:

*They marched for three days after leaving the mountain of the LORD, with the Ark of the LORD's Covenant moving ahead of them to show them where to stop and rest. As they moved on each day, the cloud of the LORD hovered over them. And whenever the Ark set out, Moses would shout, "**Arise, O LORD, and let Your enemies be scattered! Let them flee before you!**" And when the Ark was set down, he would say, "**Return, O LORD, to the countless thousands of Israel!**"*

Numbers 10:33-36 (NLT)

This declaration later became the basis for a psalm of praise:

Let God arise!

Let His enemies be scattered!

Let them who hate Him also flee before Him.

*As smoke is driven away,
so drive them away.*

*As wax melts before the fire,
so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.*

But let the righteous be glad.

Let them rejoice before God.

Yes, let them rejoice with gladness.

Psalms 68:1-3 (WEBPB)