

Pine Knoll Sabbath School Study Notes

First Quarter 2024: *The Book of Psalms*

Lesson 12 “Worship That Never Ends”

Read for this week’s study

Psalms 134; Isaiah 42:10–12; Revelation 14:3; Psalm 15; Psalm 101:1–3; Psalm 96; Revelation 14:6–12; John 4:23, 24.

Memory Text

“I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being” (Psalm 104:33, NKJV).

Lesson Outline from Adult Sabbath School Study Guide

- I. Introduction
- II. Lift Up Your Hands in the Sanctuary
- III. Sing to the Lord a New Song
- IV. Lord, Who May Abide in Your Tabernacle?
- V. Declare His Glory Among the Nations
- VI. When God Does Not Delight in Sacrifices
- VII. Further Study

Questions and Notes for Consideration

Facilitator: Daniel Duda

1. “Israel’s primary calling was to praise God and to bear witness about Him to other nations, because the Lord wants all the world to join His people in worship. [...] Praising the Lord in the congregation is perceived as ideal worship. This does not mean that the prayer and praise of the individual in Israel assume a secondary meaning. By contrast, the individual’s worship of God feeds the communal worship with renewed praise (Ps. 22:22, 25), while in turn individual worship develops its fullest potential in close relationship with the community.” (Sabbath Afternoon)
2. Read Psalm 134. The worshipers are depicted as “lifting up hands in the sanctuary”. What is the significance of this (cf. 1 Timothy 2:8)? (Sunday’s lesson) The temple in the ancient world functions as a microcosmos – a little picture of the world. This made perfect sense within the creational and covenantal monotheism of ancient Israel, but it makes little sense in post-Enlightenment thinking.

3. How does the New Testament express the same ideas presented in Psalms (18; 36; 113; 134; 135) and apply them to God's people, the new holy priesthood (1 Peter 2:4, 5)? (Monday's lesson)
4. Singing to the Lord a new song is the common motif in Psalm 33:3; 40:3; 96:1; 98:1; 144:9, and 149:1. What is the meaning and reason for this "new song"? (Tuesday's lesson)
5. How is this metaphor picked up in Isaiah 42:10–12, Revelation 5:9, and 14:3? Why can no one but the 144,000 learn the "new song"? Is it the lyrics, or the tune or something else? There is both a corporate and individual dimension to our worship. How can we ensure that we distinguish them, but that we don't separate them?
6. Read Psalm 15. Who are the people worthy of worshiping in God's presence? "The sanctuary was a holy place, and everything in it, including the priests, was consecrated. Thus, holiness is a mandatory requirement for entering the presence of God. Israel's holiness was to be comprehensive, uniting worship with ethics and exercised in all aspects of life." (Tuesday's lesson)
7. If Psalms 15 & 24 invite us to think of the holiness required to enter God's temple, where do we go to attain it? Is this a case of catch-22, where the solution to a problem is impossible because it is also the cause of the problem? Explain!
8. Read Psalm 96. Singing (vss. 1, 2), praising (vs. 2), bringing gifts (vs. 8), and proclaiming God's goodness and greatness (vss. 3, 4) are not separate actions but are varied expressions of worship. However, Psalm 96 highlights one not so obvious aspect of worship, i.e., the evangelistic dimension in proclaiming the Lord's kingdom to other peoples (vss. 2, 3, 10). (Wednesday's lesson) God who will come to put all things right at last is to be worshiped by the whole earth.
9. How do the psalmists decry various misuses of worship in Psalm 40:6–8; 50:7–23; 51:16–19? (Thursday's lesson) If God does not delight in the sacrifices, why did He prescribe them in His Word (Exodus 20:24)? How do we avoid the trap of thinking that merely knowing truth and going through the rituals of the truth is enough?
10. **Worship is the intentional turning to God and seeing all the greatness, goodness and glory that belongs to Him. Worship is giving God the place that rightfully belongs to Him.**
11. Everybody worships somebody or something. Does our worship lift us up or bring us down?
12. The first duty of all created beings is worship. All else flows from our worship and from our perception of who God is. Evangelism is the overflow [consequence] of worship. The church does not exist for its own sake or to impose something on others, but to create a worshipping community of connected people. How can we make it a reality in our own lives and in the communities where we live?

Thoughts from Graham Maxwell

What I like about this is, the kind of worship God desires is described as rational, intelligent, spiritual worship; not mechanical, not ritualistic, not ceremonial. We worship an intelligent God. He wants us to worship Him in spirit and in truth, Jesus said. So to do something mechanical, learned by rote, is a terrible misrepresentation of the truth about God. Remember Isaiah? “Your worship of Me is but the commandments of men learned by rote.” You come into the temple, but your hearts aren’t in it. Remember the Sabbath keepers in Amos? All that kind of unthinking obedience suggests an unthinking God. {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio series, The Picture of God in all 66 – Romans, recorded May 1982, Riverside, California} *To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct link:*

<http://pkp.cc/61MMPOGIA66> (Part 1) <http://pkp.cc/62MMPOGIA66> (Part 2)

And that’s the point, you see, that it is a law that we become like the person we worship and admire. And the number one act of worship is trust. To trust God, and to demonstrate that trust, that admiration for His wise and gracious ways, is really the greatest act of worship we can perform. And as we perform that act of worship in trusting Him and showing that we trust by our admiration and the way we treat each other, that produces the very results that we want. Healing and perfection are the fruit of faith. We’re not just justified by faith; we’re sanctified by faith. Everything comes by faith. Every good thing you can name, it is the result of trusting God. {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio series Romans, chapter 12, recorded January 1978, Loma Linda, California} *To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct links:*

<http://pkp.cc/22MMROMANS66> (Part 1) <http://pkp.cc/23MMROMANS66> (Part 2)

A most significant verse about God is in Isaiah 29:13. What was wrong with their worship? They were busy with their worship. Just as when Jesus came, they were never more religious. They tithed, they health-reformed, they kept their Sabbaths, they memorized the scriptures. But it wasn’t doing them any good! Jesus quotes this later on in Isaiah 29:13. “The Lord said: ‘Because this people draw near with their mouth.’” Remember He also says, “Who requires you to trample My courts?” They came, and Amos says they sang a lot. “They honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me.” The heart is where a man does his thinking, his best thinking! Amos continues, “And their fear of Me”, and that is their reverence, their worship of Me, “is but a commandment of men learned by rote.” Unthinking, mechanical worship is an utter insult to our intelligent, gracious God. And it doesn’t do us any good! It destroys us to

simply do these things because we're supposed to. And if we Adventists, when we're asked why we do something or don't do it—if all we can say is, "Well, because God said so, and I believe it, and that's all there is to it," that's something learned by rote. {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio series, The Picture of God in all 66 – Isaiah, recorded January 1982, Riverside, California} *To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct link:*

*Audio links to the West Covina series recorded in 1984:

<http://pkp.cc/33MMPOGIA66> (Part 1) <http://pkp.cc/34MMPOGIA66> (Part 2)

Further Study with Ellen White

Christ has made provision that His church shall be a transformed body, illumined with the light of heaven, possessing the glory of Immanuel. It is His purpose that every Christian shall be surrounded with a spiritual atmosphere of light and peace. There is no limit to the usefulness of the one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart and lives a life wholly consecrated to God. {8T 19.3}

God would not have His children, for whom so great salvation has been provided, act as if He were a hard, exacting taskmaster. He is their best friend; and when they worship Him, He expects to be with them, to bless and comfort them, filling their hearts with joy and love. {SC 103.2}

God desired to bring all peoples under His merciful rule. He desired that the earth should be filled with joy and peace. He created man for happiness, and He longs to fill human hearts with the peace of heaven. He desires that the families below shall be a symbol of the great family above. {COL 290.2}

He finds His faithful ones, and holds communion with them, encouraging and strengthening them. And angels of God, that excel in strength, are sent forth by God to minister to His human workers who are speaking the truth to those who know it not. {8T 17.3}

We are witnesses for God as we reveal in ourselves the working of a power that is divine. Every individual has a life distinct from all others, and an experience differing essentially from theirs. God desires that our praise shall ascend to Him, marked by our own individuality. These precious acknowledgments to the praise of the glory of His grace, when supported by a Christ-like life, have an irresistible power that works for the salvation of souls. {DA 347.3}

Our confession of His faithfulness is Heaven's chosen agency for revealing Christ to the world. {MH 100.2}

It is the love of God continually transferred to man that enables him to impart light. Into the hearts of all who are united to God by faith the golden oil of love flows freely, to shine out again in good works, in real, heartfelt service for God. {COL 418.5}

The Sun of Righteousness did not burst upon the world in splendor, to dazzle the senses with His glory. It is written of Christ, “His going forth is prepared as the morning.” Hosea 6:3. Quietly and gently the daylight breaks upon the earth, dispelling the darkness and waking the world to life. So did the Sun of Righteousness arise, “with healing in His wings.” Malachi 4:2. {MH 32.3}

The mighty power of the Holy Spirit works an entire transformation in the character of the human agent, making him a new creature in Christ Jesus. {6BC 1117.17}

God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as co-workers with Him. {MH 479.2}

Our trust must be wholly in God. He will be to us a present help in every time of need. Let us wait upon the Lord and exercise faith in His promises. He will hear us. Only believe. The Captain of our salvation will not leave us to guide our own bark. We shall have His help and His wisdom just when He sees we need it.—Letter 24, Dec. 18, 1882, to W. C. White. {TDG 361.6}

The character of God as revealed by Christ invites our faith and love, for we have a Father whose mercy and compassion fail not. At every step of our journey heavenward He will be with us to guide in every perplexity, to give us help in every temptation. {HP 16.4}

Christ has given us no promise of help in bearing today the burdens of tomorrow. He has said, “My grace is sufficient for thee” (2 Corinthians 12:9); but, like the manna given in the wilderness, His grace is bestowed daily, for the day’s need. Like the hosts of Israel in their pilgrim life, we may find morning by morning the bread of heaven for the day’s supply. {MB 101.1}

The Lord’s care is over all His creatures. He loves them all and makes no difference, except that He has the most tender pity for those who are called to bear life’s heaviest burdens. . . . {MH 199.3}

By prayer, by the study of His word, by faith in His abiding presence, the weakest of human beings may live in contact with the living Christ, and He will hold them by a hand that will never let go. {MH 182.1}

If you ask the help of God, you will not ask in vain. The Lord is at work in many ways to win your hearty confidence. In nothing does He take more delight than to have you unburden, come to Him for light and strength, and He has promised that you shall find rest to your soul. If you will find heart and voice to pray, He will be sure to hear, and an arm will be reached down to save

you. There is a God that hears prayer, and when all other resources fail, He is your refuge, a very present help in time of trouble. . . . {TDG 184.4}

God's ideal for His children is higher than the highest human thought can reach. "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." This command is a promise. The plan of redemption contemplates our complete recovery from the power of Satan. Christ always separates the contrite soul from sin. He came to destroy the works of the devil, and He has made provision that the Holy Spirit shall be imparted to every repentant soul, to keep him from sinning. {DA 311.2}

The leaven hidden in the flour works invisibly to bring the whole mass under its leavening process; so the leaven of truth works secretly, silently, steadily, to transform the soul. The natural inclinations are softened and subdued. New thoughts, new feelings, new motives, are implanted. A new standard of character is set up—the life of Christ. The mind is changed; the faculties are roused to action in new lines. Man is not endowed with new faculties, but the faculties he has are sanctified. The conscience is awakened. We are endowed with traits of character that enable us to do service for God. {COL 98.3}

When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness. {COL 311.4}

By beholding Jesus we receive a living, expanding principle in the heart, and the Holy Spirit carries on the work, and the believer advances from grace to grace, from strength to strength, from character to character. He conforms to the image of Christ, until in spiritual growth he attains unto the measure of the full stature in Christ Jesus. Thus Christ makes an end of the curse of sin, and sets the believing soul free from its action and effect. {1SM 395.1}

Christ might, because of our guilt, have moved far away from us. But instead of moving farther away, He came and dwelt among us, filled with all the fullness of the Godhead, to be one with us, that through His grace we might attain perfection. {RC 17.5}

As the will of man co-operates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings. {COL 333.1}

Our Lord Jesus Christ came to this world as the unwearied servant of man's necessity. He "took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses," that He might minister to every need of humanity. Matthew 8:17. The burden of disease and wretchedness and sin He came to remove. It was His mission to bring to men complete restoration; He came to give them health and peace and perfection of character. {MH 17.1}

Jesus came to restore in man the image of his Maker. None but Christ can fashion anew the character that has been ruined by sin. He came to expel the demons that had controlled the will. {FLB 142.2}

God speaks to us in nature. It is His voice we hear as we gaze upon the beauty and richness of the natural world. We view His glory in the beautiful things His hand has made. We stand and behold His works without a veil between. God has given us these things that in beholding the works of His hands, we may learn of Him. {TDG 241.2}

God has given us these precious things as an expression of His love. The Lord is a lover of the beautiful, and to please and gratify us He has spread before us the beauties of nature, even as an earthly parent seeks to place beautiful things before the children that he loves. The Lord is always pleased to see us happy. Sinful as it is with all its imperfections, the Lord has lavished upon this earth the useful and the beautiful. The beautiful tinted flowers tell of His tenderness and love. They have a language of their own, reminding us of the Giver. {TDG 241.3}

The truth is all powerful and far reaching. It will unite nationalities in one great brotherhood. . . . Christ in men unites them on one grand platform, preparing for the uniting in one family in heaven. It is the truth that makes men one and removes national prejudice. . . . {OHC 171.4}

The truth will have the same molding influence upon hearts whatever the nationalities. Every human heart that accepts the truth will bow to the majesty of its sway, and when Christ is abiding in the heart by faith they will be of one mind, for Christ is not divided. They will be strong in His strength, happy and united in His peace. The truth is the same in its subduing power upon all hearts. It will refine and ennoble the heart of the receiver. {OHC 171.5}

God bids us fill the mind with great thoughts, pure thoughts. He desires us to meditate upon His love and mercy, to study His wonderful work in the great plan of redemption. Then clearer and still clearer will be our perception of truth, higher, holier, our desire for purity of heart and clearness of thought. The soul dwelling in the pure atmosphere of holy thought will be transformed by communion with God through the study of Scriptures. {COL 60.1}