

The Sound of Worship

(given starting on July 11, 2024)

OPEN SERVICE:

Welcome to Destinyland Christian Center! Whether you are here in person or tuning in online, we thank you for joining with us tonight to worship The Lord! And, we have entered His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise tonight, amen! As you can see, I am not Pastor Bill or the First Lady of the house, Miss Britain. As you know, they are out of town currently for a business meeting, but as Pastor Bill said on Sunday, they will be back in town Saturday, so come to church Sunday ready for Pastor Bill to continue his teaching on the tabernacle, talking about the holy of holies!

Let's open up in prayer. (Pray)

We do have a few announcements tonight...(do announcements)

Brother Jerry is going to open us up with a song tonight before we get into the rest of our service. (brother Jerry does a song)

TEACHING:

(Thank you brother Jerry for that song and your willingness to allow The Lord to use you and your gift. We as a church appreciate it, and God is proud of you.)

I have the honor and privilege to teach tonight, and I want to thank God, my husband, and Pastor Bill for their covering and this opportunity. I am excited to share what God has put on my heart for tonight which is to look at the prophetic word for the nation and then a Bible story to talk about worship. If it is important to God, it should be important to us. I am going to spend a good portion of this teaching breaking down a portion of the prophetic word for this year and then transition into some key points from The Bible story we will look at.

Today July 24, 2024 is a prophetic date, and God has a word for us tonight! Remember before God releases a miracle, He gives us a word that has instructions, and our obedience (or disobedience) to the word is what determines the outcome in our life. Will we go about business as usual, or will we hear and apply what God has been speaking to us? The word for the nation in 2024 is right behind me -it is worship. We know 24 is about worship, and we also know 24 is connected to the presence of God.

God has given our pastor a vision for the year which is based on the heart and the will of God for this year.

A **VISION** can be defined as: the ability to see and have insight to plan for the future based on wisdom

Proverbs 2:6 tells us, *“For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.”* KJV

God gives us wisdom and knowledge and understanding in order to give us insight for what a year will entail, so we can plan accordingly based on the insider-knowledge God gives us. God has given our pastor the PA2024 book God to release, giving us divine revelation for this year.

Amos 3:7, *“Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.”* KJV

SECRET there in the original can mean: counsel to lay a foundation

2 Chronicles 20:20c, *“...Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.”* KJV

If we want instructions on how to lay a foundation, so we can be established and prosper, we need to listen to God and listen to what God has given our pastor who has a prophetic gift.

We only have about 23 weeks left in this year! It has been on my heart to revisit and dig into a portion of the vision for the year and then talk about a Bible story to see what we can learn about worship. Have we made the progress we have wanted to make up to this point? Are we where we want to be? Have we done what God has called us to do? Are we worshiping God in the midst of life being tough? I saw a quote that said, “We don’t worship God because life is good, we worship God because He is good.” He is worthy to be praised. Worship is for us to look more like God, not for us to try to get God to cater to our desires.

American, Christian Pastor A.W. Tozer once said, “God can be experienced only in the heart that creates the atmosphere of praise and worship in adoration.” God is a Gentleman and won’t force Himself on us. Are we creating an atmosphere of adoration and praise and worship in our life, or does God not feel welcome in our life? Are we singing or sighing? Are we having communion with God or complaining? Dancing or being depressed? Worshiping or whining? Praising or pouting?

Judges 20:18 says, “*And the children of Israel arose, and went up to the house of God, and asked counsel of God, and said, Which of us shall go up first to the battle against the children of Benjamin? And the LORD said, Judah shall go up first.*” KJV

JUDAH: means praise

Are we running to the house of God to ask God for counsel?! And, then are we listening to what God tells us to do?! The Lord told the children of Israel to send praise ahead of the battle! We are in a spiritual battle daily; is our praise going before us? Praise paves a path for victory! As our pastor has taught us, praise contains the word raise. When we praise, we get raised up, amen!

The prophetic word for this year according to The PA2024 starts off by saying, “A new sound is coming from the church that is not some man-made, soulish noise that stirs the flesh but a heaven-sent sound that will shake the earth in preparation for the coming of the Lord...with every new move of God, there is a new sound of God...this new sound of worship will change you and release My shekinah glory on the earth.”

Worship is important to God. There are lot of things God goes on to mention that worship will do in the prophetic word to the nation, but within that portion I just read, there are five things about worship we are going to look at tonight:

One, God said this worship will be **A NEW SOUND** coming from the church: how many of you are ready for something new?!?

It is **NEW**: which means it has either not existed or been made or introduced before or It has been discovered recently or now for the first time.

It is a new **SOUND**: a sound conveys an impression when heard. A sound proclaims something.

Isaiah 43:19a, “*Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it?...*”
KJV

This sound is something we either haven’t experienced before or it will be something we have experienced but will experience again as if we are experiencing it for the first time! Tonight we are talking about worship. We are talking about the sound of worship. Worship conveys an impression of something when it is heard. Worship proclaims something. What is our life conveying or proclaiming? Worship is a lifestyle.

The second thing we see is that it isn't going to be something we conjure up in our flesh because it is not a man-made, soulish noise that stirs the flesh. So, it isn't something we will only do when we feel like it. Worship is a sacrifice. Worship is death because worship requires death to our flesh and life to The Spirit. Galatians 5:16-17a says,

“16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other:...” KJV

Worship is about laying down our will, not trying to get God to bend to ours. We need to let this new sound spring forth out of the depth of intimacy with God.

American Theologian RC Sproul once said, “It is the pleasing of God that is at the heart of worship.”

I saw another quote this week that said, “You can't walk with God holding the devil's hand.” Are we all in, or do we have one foot in and one foot out?

The third thing that stood out to me is that this new sound of worship is a heaven-sent sound that will shake the earth in preparation for the coming of The Lord!

We have to let God fill us up with a Heaven-sent sound, amen! We shouldn't be shaken by the shaking that is going on in our world because God declared to us before the year ever started that this would happen!

SHAKE means:

To tremble or vibrate or tremble uncontrollably from a strong emotion.

To move (an object) up and down or from side to side with rapid, forceful, jerky movements.

To upset the composure or confidence of; meaning to shock or astonish.

To cause a change of mood or attitude by shocking or disturbing (someone).

To successfully deal with or recover from (an illness, injury, or negative feeling).

After going through those definitions, The Lord said,

“While this season may cause you to have anxiety, make you feel weak at times, make you feel like you're on a jerky roller coaster, and may even shock you in some ways, the sound of this time, the sound of worship being released is to disturb the norm in your life to bring a change in your attitude -in your settled way of thinking and behavior that will ultimately cause a change in your altitude and cause you to recover from whatever illness, injury, or negative feelings you've been having. Worship will give way to winning.”

God has called us to win, and worship gives way to winning, amen! Then the fourth thing that stood out to me about this new sound of worship is that it will change *us*. Yes, worship changes things, but worship changes *us*!

CHANGE: to make (someone or something) different; alter or modify.

Remember, we have to go to the altar to be altered. Altar = alter

And, Pastor Bill and I did not collaborate on our teachings. God gave me this teaching before Pastor Bill started talking about the tabernacle and the process of going to the brazen altar first before entering His presence. The altar alters us! God is emphasizing this to us by repeating it, so it must be important for us to get this in this season of worship.

Psalms 51:10, *“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”* KJV

Not only will this sound of worship change us, but the fifth and last thing that stood out to me is that this new sound of worship will release His **SHEKINAH GLORY**: The Bible dictionary defines shekinah as the visible sign of God's presence on the ark of testimony in the holy of holies. I am not going to elaborate on that; that is for Pastor Bill to do. But, God wants to release His tangible presence. He wants us to worship Him.

John 11:40 says, *“Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?”* KJV The Lord wants to release His glory; are we believing for it to happen?

John 4:24, *“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”* KJV

WORSHIP there in the original means: To do reverence to, (meaning to kiss, like a dog licking his master's hand), to crouch to (prostrate oneself in homage (reverence, adore) -- worship.

Interestingly enough, worship there means homage rendered: to either God, to Christ, to heavenly beings, or to demons! So, let's make sure we are worshiping God and worshiping God correctly. John 4:24 tells us that to worship God, we must worship Him how? -it is right behind us -in spirit and in truth!

IN SPIRIT in the original there means: spirit, soul (mind, will, emotions), heart, living being, desire, passion, appetite, emotion

IN TRUTH in the original there means: According to truth

My Webster Dictionary app defines truth as: according to fact; but it also defines Truth as God!

We have to worship God with every part of who we are and according to God's Word, God's way, amen! Revelation 7:15 says, *"Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them."* KJV

SERVE there in the original means: To serve, to minister to God, worship

If worship is going on in Heaven, it should be going on here on Earth. We have to be in tune with what God is saying and doing and ask Him to give us eyes to see and ears to hear, so we hear God correctly.

In Exodus 32, when Moses had been with God on the mountain (and his aid Joshua was with him), his time with God was interrupted because of the Israelites' corrupt actions. So, God told Moses to go down to the people because of their craziness. Listen to verses 17-18 of Exodus 32:

Exodus 32:17-18,

"17 And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp.

18 And he said, It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome: but the noise of them that sing do I hear." KJV

In Exodus 32, Joshua thought the sound in the camp was a sound of war, whereas Moses discerned and knew the sound in the camp was of singing.

Remember, a sound gives an impression when heard. The Prophetic Almanac for 2024 tells us, "With every new move of God, there is a new sound of God." Are we hearing the sound of the time and impression correctly? We are in a season where God is moving, and in this time that God is moving, there is a new sound of God which is bringing an impression when we hear it!

But, listen to these other definitions for **SOUND**:

To be free from injury, disease, flaw, defect, error, or decay

To be solid, firm, stable, secure, and reliable

To be based on thorough knowledge and experience

To be legally valid

To be deep and undisturbed

Taking these other definitions of sound, we see:

God wants to use this season of worship to free us from dis-eases that are decaying us.

God wants to use this season of worship to stabilize us and validate His work inside of us.

God wants to use this season of worship to equip us with knowledge and understanding and wisdom and give us experience with Him in order to validate His work inside of us.

God wants to use this season of life to get us to the point where no matter what disturbances are going on around us, we aren't disturbed within.

When I think about worship in The Bible, I think about several examples in The Bible, but tonight, I want to talk about Paul and Silas while they were in prison because someone here tonight or watching online has either felt bound up in some things, unable to get free in this season or just stuck and confined.

PRISON is defined as: a building in which people are held as a punishment for a crime

BOUND is defined as: restricted to a certain place

Being bound sounds a lot like being imprisoned, huh? Bondage is like being in a prison, but God doesn't want us bound. We don't have to stay bound. God wants us free!

When we are **STUCK** in life, we are unable to move. We may spin our wheels and think we are moving, but motion doesn't mean movement! Motion denotes something not being still, but it doesn't mean we are moving which implies going from one place to another.

When we feel **CONFINED** in life, we feel restricted with limits. Have you ever been moving along in life, but you just haven't gotten breakthrough?! God doesn't want us imprisoned, bound, stuck, or confined. He wants us free!!

2 Corinthians 3:17, *"Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."* KJV

LIBERTY there in the original means: to be free as in not a slave or not under restraint

God doesn't want us restrained by the enemy. Jesus died on The Cross for our freedom. We don't have to stay in bondage. We know worship will be a new sound, not a fleshly, man-made sound, but a sound that is a heaven-sent sound that will bring a shaking, which will change us and release His shekinah glory! Now, go to Acts 16. This is not an exhaustive list, so you can read this story in its entirety on your own, but we are going to look at four things we can learn about worship from Paul and Silas' experience that will help us in this season of worship:

1) **One, Pain Is Not An Excuse For Us Not to Worship:**

Verses 23-25a,

“23 And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely:

24 Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God:...” KJV

Paul and Silas had been beaten, thrown not only in prison but in the inner prison, and their feet were in stocks. I read a commentary that said the inner prison was a dark, cavern-like cell, which was below the ground, and it probably had damp and nasty walls and was where the vilest outcasts were held. It was the area that would be the hardest to escape from. Have you ever felt like your situation is just too difficult and impossible to get out of?

Their feet were in stocks. Stocks were an instrument for punishment. It confined them to a particular position. Have you ever felt like you just can't seem to break loose? But, notice Paul and Silas didn't sit and whine and complain and curse God; they were praying and singing songs to God at midnight! Pain is not an excuse not to worship God.

1 Thessalonians 5:18, *“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” KJV*

Are we giving thanks to God *in* everything we experience? That verse may be easier than the next one, Ephesians 5:20,

“Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;” KJV

Are we giving thanks always? -and for all things in life we go through? We overcome through Christ Who gives us strength to do so! And, it isn't by might or power but by His

Spirit, amen!

God said in the prophetic word over the nation, “This sound is rising from a place of pain in the hearts of people who have been tested and tried and have not quit or given up.

They have held onto God through situations where others have let go.”

Our flesh doesn’t want us to worship when we are hurting, but it isn’t a man-made, soulish sound, right! It’s a Heaven-sent sound, and we are going to hold onto God and let God hold onto us in the midst of pain. Not only is pain not an excuse not to worship, but the next thing we learn from Paul and Silas’ experience is:

2) **Second of all, Worship Brings Freedom:**

Verses 25b-26,

“25 ...and the prisoners heard them.

26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.”
KJV

Ya’ll should have shouted on that one!

Other prisoners heard Paul and Silas praying and praising. And, what happened? Suddenly there was a great earthquake!

SUDDENLY there in the original means: unexpected

EARTHQUAKE in the original means: commotion, shaking, to agitate

An earthquake is defined as the shaking of the Earth's surface resulting from a sudden release of energy in the lithosphere that creates seismic waves.

Our worship is making some waves that are causing things to unexpectedly happen and shake loose because of God’s glory being released!!

When the earthquake happened in verse 26, notice the three things that took place:

The foundations of the prison were shaken

Immediately all the doors of the prison were opened

Everyone's bands were loosed

This move of God not only will free people at their core, but it'll shake foundations and bring freedom to institutions that are driven by underlying principles of bondage. This move of God causes a sudden change in our life and gives us freedom to step out of bondage and not have to carry the weight of bondage around with us anymore! We don't have to look like what we've been through! And, it'll bring freedom to those who are around us also! It'll be contagious!

This makes me think about the man who was demon possessed and cut himself and lived among the tombs. Remember him? Mark 5 talks about him, and when Jesus set him free from the legion of demons he had...and, let me interject here and say we don't know the magnitude of what a person is dealing with on the inside; by the grace of God, there goes us...but, when Jesus set that man free, four things happened that happens in our life when we are set free:

One, the man was no longer living in the tombs, in darkness -

worship brings us outa darkness!

Two, he was clothed -in the original, it means outwardly and inwardly! Worship

Will clothe us and insulate us from some things we have been through in our past.

Three, he was in his right mind! Worship sets wrong things right! And, worship

Brings sanity to insanity! Someone here or watching online -you've not had peace

in your mind and felt like it has been hard to focus and that you've been

“scatter-brained”-that's the word I heard. The Lord said, “Worship Me.”

And, fourth, the people were afraid -afraid there means fear as in being in awe,

and have reverence -the freedom worship brings in our life will cause others to be

in awe of God's power! Worship changes things, and it changes us, amen!

God has said in the prophetic word on the nation, “They have not wasted their

pain, but have allowed the things that are sometimes unexplainable and

uncomfortable to produce a power of God that is releasing a new level of

anointing.”

Not only is pain not an excuse not to worship, and we will see worship produce an anointing that destroys the yoke of bondage bringing freedom from worship, but the third and last thing I am going to touch on tonight that we can learn about worship from Paul and Silas’ experience is that:

3) **Worship Awakens What Has Been Asleep:**

Verse 27a, “*And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep,...*” KJV

This guy was asleep on the job! How many of us are asleep on our spiritual job!

Notice the devastation that can take place if we are asleep and miss out on what God is doing in the midst of worship; look at verse 27b, “*...and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.*” KJV

This guy was asleep, but woke up because worship caused the foundations of the prison to shake, and then he saw the prisoners no longer locked in, and he was ready to kill himself because he didn’t know what had gone on because he had been asleep and wasn’t a part of the worship. Are we going to miss out on what God is doing because we are asleep, or are we going to praise and worship God in the midst of pain and see God release freedom and an awakening as a result of our worship?! Let’s not be asleep in this season.

Listen to the definitions of **ASLEEP:**

One, asleep means we are in a state of sleep where our eyes are closed, muscles are relaxed, along with brain activity -worship doesn’t let us lie dormant and be relaxed when we should be active.

Two, asleep also means altered, and having your awareness of surroundings suspended-worship alters our minds to get in line with God’s perspective to where we are aware and kept aware of our surroundings.

Third, asleep means not attentive or alert; to be inactive -worship makes us

Attentive to God and alert to what He is doing and alert to the attacks of the enemy to stay on the offensive, not the defensive. We have been given dominion, but too often we walk around defeated.

Alseep also means having no feeling, being numb -how many of us are walking around just unresponsive and desensitized? Worship makes us feel what we should be feeling!

Asleep last of all means to be dead -worship resurrects dead things!

God's shekinah glory when released awakens us!

God said in the prophetic word for the nation that, "this sound is life."

John 10:10, *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."*
KJV

We know God has told us that "the devil hates this sound and to prepare for war because we will be attacked." Satan is out to steal, kill, and destroy, but let's be more God-conscious than devil-conscious and remember that Jesus came to give us life and life more abundantly, amen!!

We can't let pain stop us from worshiping. We have to remember that worship brings freedom, and it will awaken the dead things in our life, amen! And, the fourth and last thing we can learn about worship from Paul and Silas is:

4) Worship Helps Us to Handle Pain and People Correctly:

Verses 28-31,

"28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.

29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,

30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." KJV

This was the keeper of the prison, yet Paul told him not to harm himself and shared the Gospel with him for him to be able to have household salvation! Are we walking in forgiveness or holding grudges against those who have harmed us?

Matthew 6:14, *“For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.”* KJV We have to keep things in proper perspective when we go through things in life. We don’t wrestle against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places, right.

PA2024 tells us that this new sound of worship will, “cause you to love the unlovable, forgive the unforgivable, and not care about the things you do not understand.”

CLOSING:

How many of you tonight want to heed to God’s instructions and produce a sound of worship that will: Be new, not a man-made sound from our flesh but one where it is from Heaven that will change us and release His shekinah glory in our life and in the world. The shaking hasn’t caught God off guard. The shaking shifts things in place to set us up for a reset!

(Pray this with me:)

Lord, I yield myself to You. All I am and all that I am not, I yield to You. I come to You and ask You to forgive me of my sins. I sacrifice my heart upon the altar as a living sacrifice to You, so I can be holy and acceptable in Your sight. Wash me clean by Your blood Jesus. Help me to live for You all the days of my life. Write my name in The Lamb’s book of life. And, help me to worship you in Spirit and in truth. Let my worship be new and from Heaven, and let it change me. Let my worship cause You to release Your tangible presence in my life, and help me not to be shaken in the shaking. Help me to remember that pain is not an excuse not to worship. Worship brings freedom. Worship awakes the dead things, and it’ll help me to handle pain and people correctly. In Jesus name, amen.

Don’t forget, Pastor Bill will be here Sunday. And, don’t forget...(do the announcements) Thank you again for joining us tonight. Lord, give us a good night and keep us safe going home and bring us back safely next week. In Jesus name, amen. Have a good night, everyone!