**Strong Tower Bible Study**

**Agenda**

**Lesson 30**

**Time 6:00pm -7:00pm**

**Study Topic: Praise**

****

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Scripture Text: 2 Chronicles 20:1-24

**War with Surrounding Nations**

**20**After this, the armies of the Moabites, Ammonites, and some of the Meunites[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+20&version=NLT#fen-NLT-11565a)] declared war on Jehoshaphat. **2**Messengers came and told Jehoshaphat, “A vast army from Edom[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+20&version=NLT#fen-NLT-11566b)] is marching against you from beyond the Dead Sea.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+20&version=NLT#fen-NLT-11566c)] They are already at Hazazon-tamar.” (This was another name for En-gedi.)

**3**Jehoshaphat was terrified by this news and begged the Lord for guidance. He also ordered everyone in Judah to begin fasting. **4**So people from all the towns of Judah came to Jerusalem to seek the Lord’s help.

**5**Jehoshaphat stood before the community of Judah and Jerusalem in front of the new courtyard at the Temple of the Lord. **6**He prayed, “O Lord, God of our ancestors, you alone are the God who is in heaven. You are ruler of all the kingdoms of the earth. You are powerful and mighty; no one can stand against you! **7**O our God, did you not drive out those who lived in this land when your people Israel arrived? And did you not give this land forever to the descendants of your friend Abraham? **8**Your people settled here and built this Temple to honor your name. **9**They said, ‘Whenever we are faced with any calamity such as war,[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+20&version=NLT#fen-NLT-11573d)] plague, or famine, we can come to stand in your presence before this Temple where your name is honored. We can cry out to you to save us, and you will hear us and rescue us.’

**10**“And now see what the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir are doing. You would not let our ancestors invade those nations when Israel left Egypt, so they went around them and did not destroy them. **11**Now see how they reward us! For they have come to throw us out of your land, which you gave us as an inheritance. **12**O our God, won’t you stop them? We are powerless against this mighty army that is about to attack us. We do not know what to do, but we are looking to you for help.”

**13**As all the men of Judah stood before the Lord with their little ones, wives, and children, **14**the Spirit of the Lord came upon one of the men standing there. His name was Jahaziel son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite who was a descendant of Asaph.

**15**He said, “Listen, all you people of Judah and Jerusalem! Listen, King Jehoshaphat! This is what the Lord says: Do not be afraid! Don’t be discouraged by this mighty army, for the battle is not yours, but God’s. **16**Tomorrow, march out against them. You will find them coming up through the ascent of Ziz at the end of the valley that opens into the wilderness of Jeruel. **17**But you will not even need to fight. Take your positions; then stand still and watch the Lord’s victory. He is with you, O people of Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid or discouraged. Go out against them tomorrow, for the Lord is with you!”

**18**Then King Jehoshaphat bowed low with his face to the ground. And all the people of Judah and Jerusalem did the same, worshiping the Lord. **19**Then the Levites from the clans of Kohath and Korah stood to praise the Lord, the God of Israel, with a very loud shout.

**20**Early the next morning the army of Judah went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. On the way Jehoshaphat stopped and said, “Listen to me, all you people of Judah and Jerusalem! Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be able to stand firm. Believe in his prophets, and you will succeed.”

**21**After consulting the people, the king appointed singers to walk ahead of the army, singing to the Lord and praising him for his holy splendor. This is what they sang:

“Give thanks to the Lord;
    his faithful love endures forever!”

**22**At the very moment they began to sing and give praise, the Lord caused the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir to start fighting among themselves. **23**The armies of Moab and Ammon turned against their allies from Mount Seir and killed every one of them. After they had destroyed the army of Seir, they began attacking each other. **24**So when the army of Judah arrived at the lookout point in the wilderness, all they saw were dead bodies lying on the ground as far as they could see. Not a single one of the enemy had escaped.

**Things to Know:**

There are 7 types of Praise: **Strong’s Concordance**

**These are Hebrew Words used in the Torah to describe different types of Praise**

**#1 Towdah** - *See Strong's #8426*

This word means "thanksgiving." In Hebrew texts such as the Psalms especially, it often appears in songs of thanksgiving and praise, which David offered in the midst of many of his trials. It can also sometimes denote an "offering or sacrifice of thanksgiving." Sometimes it can be helpful to remember to offer this form of praise especially in the hard times. Thank God for his sovereignty, power, and might-- that He knows what He's up to even though you may not.

**#2 Yadah** - *See Strongs #3034*

The root word of this form of praise, which is "yad," is a word meaning "hand." Yadah is very literally the "lifting of hands in praise, reverence, and worship." The meaning conveyed is one of outward expression of love towards God, for others to see. It also means "confession," but not necessarily in the general english sense you and I are used to hearing that word. When used or translated as "confession," it means a "outward confession of praise or worthiness" to God. Since Yadah involves the lifting of hands, one may understand it also with some connotations of "surrendering" or "confessing authority to" (as one under arrest puts up his hands to show submission to an officer). Strong's dictionary definition of this word was a rather exceptionally long entry, so for a complete picture you may want to refer there.

**#3 Baruch** - *See Strongs #1288*

This is a word which very commonly is known to mean "to bless" or "blessed" (if you have ever heard the beginning of a Hebrew blessing, 'Baruch atah Adonai…' which means 'blessed are You, Lord…'), so I was surprised in researching it that it also carries a secondary meaning, in some contexts, of "kneeling" or "bowing" as well. Baruch is usually the Hebrew word behind most blessings given in the Old Testament, either from God towards men (blessing), or men towards God (praising and bowing). Baruch is important to distinguish as strictly a verb (an action), not a noun (thing). Thus, the familial blessings of fathers towards their children, for example, come from a slightly-related, yet different Hebrew noun meaning "benediction" (see Strong's #1293).

**#4 Shabach** - *See Strong's #7623*

Shabach is a simple Hebrew word which literally means "to shout." In the context of worship, it's giving a shout of praise for the Lord!

**#5 Zamar** - *See Strong's #2167*

Zamar is a cool word which means basically the playing of an instrument, or "making music" to glorify the Lord, accompanied with singing. Personally, this is one of my favorite ways to praise!

**#6 Halal** - *See Strong's #1984*

This is one of the most active words I came across as a form of praise. Halal means "to make a show, rave, or boast." When used in the Bible in reference to the praise of the Lord, it is said that the sun, moon, stars, heavens, waters, and all creation "boast" of the Lord most High, proclaiming His Name and His glory to all the earth. Likewise we too, as humans, are called to boast of the Lord and His mighty works. Isaiah the prophet referenced this form of praise as being called for during times of festivals to the Lord. It is the root of the expression "Hallelujah!"

**#7 Tehillah** - *See Strong's #8416*

In a short summary, the word "tehillah" is somewhat of a combination of all the previous words and meanings of praise! Depending on it's usage grammatically in the Bible, it refers to all kinds of praise and worship activity. Strong's defines it as meaning "glory, praise, song of praise, or praiseworthy deeds." Secondarily, it also can be a technical-musical term (as in, David's song of tehillah, **Ps. 145**) Strong's even notes that the actual Hebrew name for the book of Psalms, for example, is the word "Tehillim" (the plural form of Tehillah, meaning "praises") and probably more accurately reflects the contents of that book than the word "Psalms" does, which has it's origin from the Greek word "psalmos" and means more exclusively just "songs."

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Which one is your favorite for of Praise? Why?
2. What is the difference between Praise and Worship?
3. Why is Praise important?
4. When should we Praise the LORD?
5. Does our Praise move GOD?

**Scriptures on Praise:**

Daniel 2:23

Psalms 69:30

Psalms 95:1-3

Psalms 100:4-5

Psalms 106:1

Ephesians 5:18-20

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Hebrews 12:28-29

Hebrews 13:15-16

Closing Prayer: