

Praising God Among the Nations

The Bible is full of commands to sing praise to God. For example:

Psalm 9:11: “Sing praises to the Lord, which dwelleth in Zion: declare among the people his doings.”

Psalm 47:6-7: “Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding.”

Psalm 68:4: “Sing unto God, sing praises to his name: extol him that rideth upon the heavens by his name Jah, and rejoice before him.”

Psalm 68:32: “Sing unto God, ye kingdoms of the earth; O sing praises unto the Lord; Selah:”

Psalm 135:3: “Praise the Lord; for the Lord is good: sing praises unto his name; for it is pleasant.”

Psalm 147:1: “Praise ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely.”

Since God is the great King of all the earth, we *must* sing His praises. The Lord is worthy of all our praises:

Psalm 18:3: “I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from

mine enemies.”

Since the Lord Jesus Christ redeemed us with His own blood, we must praise Him. The most high God is worthy of all our praise. Praising God is something that His people will be doing for all of eternity.

Christians regularly sing praises to God in church, when they're among other believers. However, the Bible doesn't limit praising God to church services. Instead we're commanded to also sing God's praises among those who *don't believe in Him*:

Psalm 18:49: “Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O Lord, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name.”

Psalm 57:9: “I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations.”

Psalm 108:3: “I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: and I will sing praises unto thee among the nations.”

Jeremiah 31:7: “For thus saith the Lord; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O Lord, save thy people, the remnant of Israel.”

It makes a lot of sense for God's people to sing His praises, and it's natural for them to do so when they gather together in groups. But why would we be told to sing God's praises when we're among the heathen? It's because all the nations of the world need to be told who God is and what He's done:

Psalm 96:2-5: “Sing unto the Lord, bless his

name; shew forth his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people. For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the Lord made the heavens.”

The reason it's important to sing God's praises among those who *don't* know Him is so they'll come to know Him and fear Him. They need to be told about His greatness and His wonders. The whole world need to be told about the coming judgment:

Psalm 96:9-10: “O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth. Say among the heathen that the Lord reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the people righteously.”

It's true that God has chosen to use preaching to spread the gospel (1 Corinthians 1:21). However, the songs of praise that we sing can be part of that. There are psalms which are full of deep theology. Some talk about the person and work of Christ. Others speak of forgiveness and redemption. There are many that boldly proclaim the power and the grace of God – and those psalms weren't intended to be hidden from the world.

The world needs to hear about God so that they'll abandon the false gods that they worship and seek the Lord Jesus Christ. It's certainly vital for us to continue to preach the whole word of God, but we must not neglect singing either. The songs that glorify God must be proclaimed *outside* of our churches because the world needs to hear them.