

Hallelujah

Part 2 – Hallelujah...Again

II Samuel 6

Intro

The word **hallelujah** is the joining of 2 Hebrew words: *hallelu* & *yah*.

Hallelu means to praise. Yah is short for Yahweh.

Praise Yahweh.

Yahweh is the name of God given by Himself. Used over 5,000 times in the Old Testament. It is a personal name. We almost always translate it as Lord.

We see it used when God instructed Moses to tell the people of Israel: ***Yahweh, the God of your fathers, has sent me to you. This is my name forever. Exodus 3:15***

This name *Yahweh* is connected to the Hebrew verb which means *I am*, which is what God declared of Himself in the previous verse.

I am who I am. Exodus 3:14

In this moment, God was declaring Himself simply to be – to have existed forever. Not a creation, but an infinite being. But God has never desired to stay distant and proper. He took His *being*, his *am-ness* [greatness] and wrapped it into a personal name – *Yahweh*. *I Am. And you can know Me, personally.*

So when we sing, we do so with a sense of power because of the greatness of the One in whom we sing. But we also sing with a secure sense of intimacy because of His personal nature toward us.

II Samuel 6

Last week, we looked at a moment in the life of Jehoshaphat, one of the good kings of Judah. In that, we referenced back to the greatest king Israel had known – David. Today, we're going to look at a time in David's life where he experienced the presence of God and learned what it meant to *raise his hallelujah* once again.

6:1-2

David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale-judah to bring up from there the ark of God

The ark of the covenant was the visible sign of the holy presence of the Lord. It was not merely a symbol of God's presence, but God Himself was present in a special way wherever the ark was.

The ark had been taken by the Philistines, one of the primary enemies of David and the people of Israel. In the recent past, David had since defeated the Philistines twice, and finally returned the ark back to the people of God. Now, David is planning to bring the ark into the city of Jerusalem – the political and spiritual center of the Israelite people.

6:5

And David and all the house of Israel were celebrating before the Lord, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

The presence of God [the ark] was now back with the people. With that presence, came power, joy, peace, comfort, all of which brings about worship to God for who He is and what He has done.

6:6-7

And when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him down there because of his error, and he died there beside the ark of God.

As the oxen who were pulling the cart stumbled, Uzzah reached out his hand and touched it – which was a direct violation of God.

***But they must not touch the holy things, lest they die.
Numbers 4:15***

The *anger of the Lord* burned against him because of his error, and he died beside the ark. It was an innocent, honest mistake, and really, he was just trying to keep it from falling and becoming *unclean*. Why would God kill him for it? Obviously, the command was to not touch it, but it goes deeper than that – back to the way they had chosen to transport the ark.

***And they carried the ark of God on a new cart
II Samuel 6:3***

David and the leaders were not properly transporting the Ark in the way God had directed them. The command was that the ark should be carried by the Levites, using poles placed through the rings on the side of the ark. As crazy as it might sound, they were in the presence of God improperly.

How many of us enter into His presence the same way, flippantly, without proper honor or respect?

6:8-10a

And David was angry because the Lord had broken out against Uzzah. And David was afraid of the Lord that day, and he said, “How can the ark of the Lord come to me?” So David was not willing to take the ark of the Lord into the city of David.

David was both afraid of and angry with God at the same time. It was a stark reminder to him how holy Yahweh truly is, and how we [as His creation] are to approach Him with awe and reverence.

After this incident, David was no longer interested in or willing to bring the ark of the covenant back to the city of Jerusalem. And, remember, this is not simply a figurine, cross necklace, or symbol. David is sending away the very presence of God.

So the ark, the presence of Yahweh, resides in a different household than the king’s.

6:10b-12a

But David took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. And the ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite three months, and the Lord blessed Obed-edom and all his household. And it was told King David, “The Lord has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God.”

Where God is honored, He brings blessing. Not physical prosperity, but blessing – peace, hope, joy, life, fulfillment, satisfaction. David caught a glimpse of what it meant to truly be in the presence of God; however, it happened from a distance. He watched it happen to *someone else*.

Unfortunately, David is not alone.

Barna Group Research

A Barna Group research study years ago reported that among those who regularly attend church worship gatherings, half of them admit they haven't experienced God's presence at any time during the past year. And one-third claimed to have never experienced the presence of God in a worship service.

Among those who attend church every week, 44% said they experience God's presence every week and 18% do so on a monthly basis.

Barna Group

The reason may be because our services are dull and boring, but at least part of the problem lies in the reality that we have only attempted to change our outward appearance. There hasn't been an inward transformation or move in our hearts – because we haven't truly been with Him.

The favor of the Lord will not rest where He is not honored.

David did not honor the Lord properly. Therefore, he had to watch as someone else receive the blessing of being in God's presence.

6:12b-15

So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing. And when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened animal. And David danced before the Lord with all his might. And David was wearing a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the horn.

As soon as David realized he had missed out on the holy presence of God, he raced back to Obed-edom's house in order to bring the ark back to the city of Jerusalem. But noticed how David responded. This time, they *bore the ark* in the manner set forth by God. David brought a sacrifice before God. He prepared himself physically to enter into the presence of God.

The first time, David attempted to move the ark on David's terms. Now, David's heart is prepared to meet God on God's terms. And the entire house of Israel came together to join in the presence of God together – raising their hallelujah.

6:16

As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, and she despised him in her heart.

As David danced before the Lord, his wife [Michal – referred to as Saul's daughter instead] watched him from a window and *despised him in her heart*. She hated her husband at that moment. Why? Because she did not know the joy of the Lord. She had not been in His presence. She simply could not understand.

Where's My Hallelujah?

Maybe, today, that's you? Wondering why *someone else* is singing, living with peace, and experiencing the blessing of God? Maybe you've simply been trying to do life your own way – hoping God would bless it. Maybe you simply haven't spent time in His presence.

The favor of God will not abide where the honor of God does not reside. The hallelujah comes through the blessing of being in the presence of God.