

Praying in Colour: July 2010
Week Three: Singing our Prayers

Checking out Scripture

We have two readings this week. First, 1 Chronicles 25 reads like minutes from a meeting rather than uplifting spiritual reading. We have two books of Chronicles, simply because in early writing, the volume of words couldn't fit on one scroll and had to be divided onto two scrolls. 1 Chronicles spans the time period from Adam to David and 2 Chronicles deals with Solomon's reign.

We might want to view 1 & 2 Chronicles as history but the main purpose was to glorify the Jews in Jerusalem at a time of low morale. And one way to glorify a people of faith and their God is through music and musicians. Read on . . .

1 Chronicles 25: The Musicians for Worship

Next David and the worship leaders selected some from the family of Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun for special service in preaching and music. Here is the roster of names and assignments:

From the family of Asaph: Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah, and Asarelah; they were supervised by Asaph, who spoke for God backed up by the king's authority.

From the family of Jeduthun there were six sons: Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshaiiah, Shimei, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah; they were supervised by their father Jeduthun, who preached and accompanied himself with the zither—he was responsible for leading the thanks and praise to God.

From the family of Heman: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shubael, Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, Romamti-Ezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, and Mahazioth. These were the sons of Heman the king's seer; they supported and assisted him in his divinely appointed work. God gave Heman fourteen sons and three daughters.

Under their father's supervision they were in charge of leading the singing and providing musical accompaniment in the work of worship in the sanctuary of God (Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman took their orders directly from the king). They were well-trained in the sacred music, all of them masters. There were 288 of them.

They drew names at random to see who would do what. Nobody, whether young or old, teacher or student, was given preference or advantage over another.

- The first name from Asaph's family was Joseph and his twelve sons and brothers
- second, Gedaliah and his twelve sons and brothers
- third, Zaccur and his twelve sons and brothers
- fourth, Izri and his twelve sons and brothers
- fifth, Nethaniah and his twelve sons and brothers
- sixth, Bukkiah and his twelve sons and brothers
- seventh, Jesarelah and his twelve sons and brothers
- eighth, Jeshaiiah and his twelve sons and brothers
- ninth, Mattaniah and his twelve sons and brothers
- tenth, Shimei and his twelve sons and brothers
- eleventh, Azarel and his twelve sons and brothers
- twelfth, Hashabiah and his twelve sons and brothers
- thirteenth, Shubael and his twelve sons and brothers
- fourteenth, Mattithiah and his twelve sons and brothers
- fifteenth, Jerimoth and his twelve sons and brothers
- sixteenth, Hananiah and his twelve sons and brothers
- seventeenth, Joshbekashah and his twelve sons and brothers
- eighteenth, Hanani and his twelve sons and brothers
- nineteenth, Mallothi and his twelve sons and brothers
- twentieth, Eliathah and his twelve sons and brothers
- twenty-first, Hothir and his twelve sons and brothers
- twenty-second, Giddalti and his twelve sons and brothers
- twenty-third, Mahazioth and his twelve sons and brothers
- twenty-fourth, Romamti-Ezer and his twelve sons and brothers

Checking out Scripture

Our second scripture is from the book of Psalms, a collection of poems that were probably sung in worship. Psalm 98 is a celebration of God's faithfulness. Not only do human creatures offer music of joy but all the earth claps and sings. Read on . . .

Psalm 98

Sing to our God a new song,
who has done marvelous things;
God's right hand and holy arm
have worked salvation.

Our God has made salvation known
and revealed righteousness to the nations.
God has remembered to offer love
and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

Shout for joy to our God, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;
make music to our God with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,
with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—
shout for joy before our God, the King.

Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.

Let the rivers clap their hands,
Let the mountains sing together for joy; let them sing
before God,
who comes to judge the earth.
and all the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity.



Reflecting Further

Interested in exploring a little further? Check out an interesting article on psalms from The Centre for Christian Ethics:

<http://www.baylor.edu/christianethics/SingingOurLivesArticleMorgan.pdf>

Do you have a favourite psalm? What memories or events are connected to that psalm?

Two psalms that are considered the most well-known are Psalms 23 & 139.

Praying in Colour

This week we are singing our prayers with our colourful voices. This week, take a moment and sing a song to God. You may feel comfortable singing out loud or you may be fine with singing in your head, or even humming a favourite tune. But what shall we sing?

How about “Amazing Grace”

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a soul like me
I once was lost but now am found
was blind but now I see

Or, “Morning has Broken”

Morning has broken like the first morning
blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing. Praise for the morning.
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!

If you have a hymn book at home, take some time to pray by singing hymns. Whether our voice is clear or husky, we can sing our praise and lament to God who listens to all prayers however they are offered.

Shalom,
Abigail

