

## THANKSGIVING

### I Chronicles 16:7-36

Reading: 1 Chronicles 16:7-10

#### **In 1 Chronicles 16, King David has brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem.**

The Ark of the Covenant was in Shiloh around 300 years. When Saul was king, the people of Israel had tried to use it like a magic charm when facing the Philistines in battle. Israel was defeated, Saul was killed, and the ark was captured. The Ark proved too hot to handle for the Philistines and they returned it to Israel. The Ark then stayed at the home of Abinadab for some time. But now, David has prepared a place and a new Tabernacle for the Ark in Jerusalem. After one false start, the Ark has now been brought to Jerusalem amid great celebration.

Vs. 7 “On that day David first delivered this psalm into the hand of Asaph and his brethren, *to thank the LORD*”

***We have so many blessings that it takes an entire vocabulary to describe all the ways we can respond!***

*Some of these terms are listed in this Psalm. Let’s look at some; we’ll make it a baker’s dozen!*

#### **1. Give Thanks**

Vs. 8 “Oh, *give thanks* to the LORD!

- To worship with extended hands.
- This is using body language to signify that we acknowledge God as the source of all the blessings.

The Masai tribe in West Africa have an unusual way of saying *thank you*.

Translators tell us that when the Masai express thanks, they bow, put their forehead on the ground, and say “My head is in the dirt.”

When members of another African tribe want to express gratitude, they sit for a long time in front of the hut of the person who did the favor and literally say, “I sit on the ground before you.”

These Africans understand well what thanksgiving is and why it's difficult for us: at its core, thanksgiving is an act of humility. It says, "You did something for me I couldn't have done for myself."

## **2. Call on His Name**

Vs. 8 "Call upon His name"

"Properly address by name"

The Message: "Thank GOD! Call out his Name!"

Not just say His name, *call!*

Jack Taylor: *Praise is always active, assertive, demonstrative, and open. It is not passive, presumptuous, undemonstrative, or secretive. Wherever it is mentioned, movement, actions, sounds and songs are seen and heard.*

## **3. Make Known**

Vs. 8 "Make known His deeds among the peoples!"

The word has the idea, *to publicize*.

There are those in the church who have an eye to see how God is moving around them... and there are those who don't see God at work so easily. But some of them will rejoice if we tell them. And, we all need to share with each other how God is moving in our areas of life and influence.

## **4. Proclaim**

Vs. 23 "...Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day."

- Different Hebrew word
  - To announce and publish *good news*

## **5. Sing**

Vs. 9 "Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him"

Some do not sing because they don't have a song.

To Him: Worship has a "to Him" factor. It's not just about Him, it's *to Him*.

## 6. Talk About and Brag On

Vs. 9 “Talk of all His wondrous works!”

This speaks of talk that is “loud, enthusiastic, emotionally laden speech.”

Ludwig Koehler et al., The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1994–2000), 1320.

## 7. Glory In

Vs. 10 “*Glory* in His holy name”

- To glory and boast in – from the same root word as *Hallelujah*
- The fans of the winner of the Iron Bowl will do the secular equivalent

## 8. Rejoice

Vs. 10 “...the hearts of those *rejoice* who seek the LORD!”

- To brighten up, to be cheerful about, be glad, have joy, be merry
- John Piper: “Delight confers more honor than duty does”

## 9. Seek

Vs. 11 “*Seek* the LORD and His strength; *Seek* His face evermore!”

Two different Hebrew words are used for *seek*

Amplified: “Seek the Lord and His strength; yearn for and seek His face and to be in His presence continually!”

## 10. Remember

Vs. 12 “*Remember* His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth”

To recall and be consciously mindful of, to mark the occasion.

How quickly we can forget! God answers our prayer regarding a huge need, and quickly we’re back to “normal.” There are blessings we forgot about and there’re blessings we’ve failed to pick up on as blessings. We need to see them, recognize them as blessings from the hand of God, and *remember!*

## **11. Declare**

Vs. 24 “*Declare His glory among the nations, His wonderful works among all peoples.*”

Declare: To list in order and enumerate

To be able to describe in specific ways the qualities of our God. We want to be specific and not merely say something fuzzy that comes off sounding like, “Lord, we praise You for who You are, and all that jazz.”

## **12. Offering**

Vs. 29 “...*Bring an offering* and come before Him...”

A gift or present

2 Samuel 24:24 “I will not offer to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.”

## **13. Worship**

Vs. 29 “...*Worship* the LORD in the splendor of His holiness”

Worship: To bow down, fall on one’s face before another in recognition of His superior rank.