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I will build you a House

Passport
To Worshipping
in Spirit
& in Truth

To those who search...

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INTRODUCTION

For some years now, the term “Tabernacle of David” has been embraced whole-heartedly by the world of evangelical Christians, and especially so in charismatic groups. We are seeing more and more churches who are discovering or rediscovering the importance of praise and worship in their meetings and who are now organising meetings entirely for the purpose of worship.

And it is true: what could be more natural than to consecrate some of our meetings exclusively to God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!

All over, teams of worshippers are gathering for 24-hour non-stop “Tabernacle of David” meetings.

This passion for praise and worship seems to me to be the result of a prophetic breath preparing for the return of Jesus Christ. Does the Bible not tell us that God is seated in the midst of the praises of His people?

But in order for this zeal not to be merely yet another fashion amongst Christians, I believe it is important to understand what praise and worship actually is. What is its purpose? How does it honour God? But more than that, what is at stake spiritually?

To understand this, we need to realise that since the beginning of creation, worship has existed, and the one who was put in charge of it was an angel named Lucifer, who after his fall, would become Satan!

Today, as people bought at a price, we are called to take up the place that Satan lost – that of bringing worship to the Lord. We have every reason, therefore, to be apprehensive of the spiritual battle resulting from this function entrusted to the Church.

Satan has certainly understood this issue, and that is why he is so keen to have the whole world bowing at his feet. He is even willing to give everything he possesses to get us to do this.

Let's read together Matthew 4 vs 8 and 9: *“Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. ‘All of this I will give you,’ he said, ‘if you will bow down and worship me.’”*

You and I know that all the earth belongs to Jesus Christ (Psalm 2), but we know, too, that for a set time, they were given to Satan (Luke 4 vs 6, John 12 vs 31).

We need to understand what this represents. The authority that Satan has over the nations allows him to keep some in the most extreme poverty, to fling one lot of people against another in bloody wars, to promote abortion, homosexuality, drugs, alcohol, prostitution throughout the world; to allow Islam to develop at a pace in the Arab world or the most selfish kind of materialism in the West! And he is willing to give up all of his power over the nations if we are prepared to worship him!

If all this is true, there must be a very good reason for it. In spite of his hatred for mankind created in God's image, the devil is prepared to allow those who worship him to prosper. Not because he loves them, but because he derives his very reason for being from their worship.

In the garden of Eden, before the fall, Adam and Eve were themselves an act of permanent worship to God, simply by being the perfect handiwork of God that had not yet been soiled. It was only after their fall that worship would become a sacrifice and would need to cost those who worship.

The Law of Moses would later institute sacrifices, and King David, submitted to the Spirit of God, would set apart men consecrated to maintain a state of worship permanently at the centre of the people of Israel.

Jesus, the perfect man, without sin, is Himself a permanent act of worship to God, as was Adam before the fall, and in all things, He worships His Heavenly Father.

But He goes even further than that since He becomes the complete Sacrifice! This implies that the victim is entirely consecrated to God; the offering that Jesus brings to the Father is, thus, an absolute gift of Himself, the visible sign of the magnitude of His worship to the Father. He brings together the worship from His perfect being in the very way that the Father had intended before sin came into the picture - the kind that costs - in the way God instituted after the fall.

Through His life of total worship, Jesus teaches the Church its role of "the Kingdom of those who sacrifice" as described in Revelation chapter 1, verses 4 - 6: *"John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God*

*and Father - to him be glory and power for ever and ever!
Amen."*

This position makes us, today, the main enemies of the devil. He cannot bear us taking his place in worship. This is why he will do everything in his power to stop us from entering into our calling of being those who bring a sacrifice.

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

It is the expected, normal manner of communication, established by God Himself from the beginning of time. It is a fundamental principle of the Kingdom of Heaven and never, ever has it been something that was created by man to honour God. It is, therefore, the appropriate, fitting way of expressing ourselves in our relationship with the Creator! It is also the way the three persons of the Trinity communicate with each other.

This means we can then assume that God Himself engages in worship.

He honours His Son in Matt 3 vs 17: *"And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased,'"* or again, in chapter 17 vs 5: *"While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!'"* This is very clearly worship.

Jesus does the same towards the Father in Luke 11 vs 21, in the "Our Father" which begins with worshipping God the Father: *"hallowed be your name!"*, just as He says when speaking of the Holy Spirit in John 16 vs 13 and 14: *"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and make it known to you."*

There are many other passages that can't all be noted here.

It is worth noting that worship is also the manner of communication that is used in the relationship between nature and its creator. Isaiah 44 vs 23: *"Sing for joy, oh heavens, for the Lord has done this; shout aloud, oh Earth beneath. Burst into song, you mountains, you forests and all your trees, for the Lord has redeemed Jacob; he displays his glory in Israel."*

We can therefore define worship in the kingdom of god as being the natural way of communicating in our relationship with god

God wants to restore a relationship between us and Him according to *His* relationship norms, not ours! This means we can be sure of the fact that right from the first chapters of Genesis and all through the Bible, that the Lord is a God of relationship. Let's read together a few verses from Genesis 2.

Verse 18: *"The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'"* Contemplating the human being, God realises that he can't be alone. God does not wonder about this problem with regard to the rest of His creation, but only in respect of the one He made in His image, and who, thus, has similar needs to his Creator's.

God, therefore, decides to give Adam a spouse who will be his "helper" and in so doing, brings in the first institution that will govern relationships between men: Marriage. *"For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."* (Verse 24)