

THE SACRIFICE OF PRAISE

Scripture: Psalm 95

March 16, 2020

"...let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise..."
~ Hebrews 13:15 (NIV)

During the season of Lent, or at any time in our lives, it is appropriate that we respond to the call to praise God (Ps. 95:1-7) and the call to align our hearts genuinely with our words of praise (Ps. 95:8-11); thus, living our lives in loving obedience to our Lord God.

There are helpful reminders within Psalm 95, incomplete though the list is, of WHO GOD IS, that we should praise him in both private and corporate worship:

- the Creator of all (in Hebrew - Elohim)
- King of kings, Lord of lords (1 Timothy 6:15)
- Most High God/Sovereign (in Hebrew - El Elyon - Genesis 14:18; Luke 1:76)
- Almighty (in Hebrew - El Shaddai)
- Rock of our Salvation (Savior/Deliverer/Redeemer - Luke 2:11; John 4:42)
- Shepherd (in Hebrew - Rohi - Psalm 23; John 10:14; Hebrews 13:20)

I am grateful to lyricists and vocalists, whose work enhances praise efforts. I offer some samples, though I'm certain each reader may already have favorites.

- "Age to age, you're still the same, By the power of the name. El Shaddai, Erkam Ka, na adonai (Online information says Erkam Ka is a blend of Hebrew and Aramaic that would be Eracham cha in Hebrew.) Phrase translates in English, "I love thee, O Lord, my strength." My favorite is Amy Grant's rendition of *El Shaddai* penned by M. J. Card and J. W. Thompson.
- From Rich Mullins, both lyricist and vocalist of *Awesome God*: "I hope that you have not too quickly forgotten that Our God is an awesome God...He reigns from heaven above With wisdom, power and love. Our God is an awesome God."
- And there's lyricist and vocalist, Hezekiah Walker's *Every Praise*. You will be able to find the flash mob interpretation on You Tube.

As we move through this Lenten season, may we find ourselves remembering the abundant life our Lord provides us, regardless of our earthly circumstances and renew our living in praise to Him daily.

Prayer: Almighty God, quicken our hearts that we will live in praise and loving obedience to You. Thank you in the holy Name of Jesus. Amen.

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