



5 CHAMPIONS OF PRAISE



Become a Champion of Praise and Grow Your Faith!

One of the ways we grow in faith is to praise God. Over and over in Scripture, we see ordinary people giving praise to our extraordinary God.

Psalm 22:3, in the King James Version, says of God, "Thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel." The New King James Version says God is "enthroned" in His people's praises. If God lives in our praises, or is enthroned in our praises, then we are strengthened in our faith as we praise Him. How can we keep silent?

Over the next five days, Love Worth Finding will send you an email describing a Champion of Praise from God's Word. These are people who sang "songs of praise" that are recorded in Scripture for our benefit. As you read what these champions have to say about God's love for them and His work in their lives, may you be encouraged to praise Him for all He is and all He does in and through you and your circumstances.

GRATEFUL SIBLINGS

Here's your first of five champions of praise we'll look at, siblings Moses and Miriam:

READ THE SONGS OF PRAISE

The Song of Moses from Exodus 15:1-11 (partial)

"I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously! ...The LORD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; my father's God, and I will exalt Him. ...Your right hand, O LORD, has become glorious in power; Your right hand, O LORD, has dashed the enemy in pieces. And in the greatness of Your excellence You have overthrown those who rose against You. ...The waters were gathered together; the floods stood upright like a heap; the depths congealed in the heart of the sea. The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my desire shall be satisfied on them. ...You blew with Your wind, the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters. Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?"

The Song of Miriam from Exodus 15:20-21

"Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took the timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. And Miriam answered them: 'Sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!'"

REFLECT ON THE STORY

Moses was at the beginning of the wilderness journey in Exodus 15, but He had already seen God's miracles—in a burning bush, in staffs writhing as snakes, in plagues of frogs and locusts, and in rivers turned to blood. He had witnessed the rescue and release of God's people from a powerful Pharaoh and a ruthless regime. But this miracle—the parting of the Red Sea—clearly astounded Moses as he exclaimed, **"Who is like You, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?"**

Miriam had seen God work in her little brother's life since the day Moses was born. She had walked the shores of the Nile, watching him float in a basket and find refuge with a princess. She had seen God keep Moses alive and connect him to his people, Israel. Now she has seen God part the sea and vanquish the mighty enemy! She can't contain herself any longer and leads the women in singing and dancing their praises to God.

CONSIDER YOUR STORY

This is more than a Bible story when you connect it to your own life. Has God set you free from something? Has He worked in the life of someone you love—restoring relationships? Severing the bonds of anxiety, depression, or addiction? Perhaps He has defeated a powerful enemy in your life. Perhaps He's led you out of sin and into wholeness.

WRITE YOUR SONG

Write a song of praise to God about the ways in which He has delivered you or those you love.

NOTES



A BEAUTIFUL MOTHER

Today we meet a woman overcome with gratitude for the gift of a child.

READ THE SONG OF PRAISE

Hannah's song from 1 Samuel 2:1-3, 8-9

"My heart rejoices in the LORD; my horn is exalted in the Lord. I smile at my enemies, because I rejoice in Your salvation. No one is holy like the LORD, for there is none besides You, nor is there any rock like our God. Talk no more so very proudly; let no arrogance come from your mouth, for the LORD is the God of knowledge; and by Him actions are weighed." ... "For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and He has set the world upon them. He will guard the feet of His saints, but the wicked shall be silent in darkness."

REFLECT ON THE STORY

When we first meet Hannah in 1 Samuel 1, she is on the brink of despair. Though she is deeply loved by her husband, she has no children. To compound matters, her rival "provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb." Year after year, Hannah wept and prayed for a child. She also promised God that if He would give her a son, she would dedicate him back to God for his entire life. In the above song from 1 Samuel 2, Hannah expresses her gratitude and admonishes people not to be proud or arrogant about what they've been given. No matter what we believe we possess, the Earth is the Lord's, she tells her hearers.

CONSIDER YOUR STORY

Is there something God has given you that you have taken for granted—your spouse, children, or other family members? Your friends? Home? Job? Has your heart grown so fond of what you possess that it fails to "rejoice in the Lord" who gave you everything to enjoy? Is there in you a shred of arrogance that looks down on others who seem to be less "blessed"?

WRITE YOUR SONG

Write a song of praise thanking the Lord, first, for giving Himself to you, and thanking Him also for your blessings. If you have children, write a prayer for them, asking as Hannah did that those children would be holy, set apart for God.

NOTE: Whether you have children are you are hoping to have children, it would be our privilege at Love Worth Finding to pray for you when you [submit a request](#).

NOTES



A LIFE UNDER SIEGE

Today's songs of praise come from a man who arguably endured more unjust suffering than any other person in Scripture, with the exception of Jesus Christ Himself. Job offers the following praise to God during his anguish BEFORE his fortunes are restored at the end of the Book of Job.

READ THE SONGS OF PRAISE

Job 1:20-21

"Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said: 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord.'"

Job 2:9-10

"Then his wife said to him, 'Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!' But he said to her, 'You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?'"

REFLECT ON THE STORY

Job had lost all of his children, his livestock, his crops, the barns and other improvements to his land, and his health. He was alone in his loss. His three good friends had accused him of sinning and bringing catastrophe upon himself, and his own wife had told him to "curse God and die." Yet through this unimaginable suffering, exhausted and in pain, and though anxiety and depression must have besieged him, he was able to say of the Lord in Job 13:15, **"Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him."** He was able to prophesy about the coming Savior. Even if God chose to take his life, Job proclaimed in chapter 19, verses 25-26, **"For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God."**

CONSIDER YOUR STORY

Has there been a point when you despaired even of life but were able to look up and proclaim, "though He slay me, yet will I trust Him"? Are you under siege now? Faith grows under pressure. Job learned to be patient, he held firmly to his trust in God's character, and he was ultimately rewarded. How are you faithing? Can you be patient under duress a while longer? Can you say with Job, "I know that my Redeemer lives"?

WRITE YOUR SONG

Write a song of praise in suffering, either to thank God for being with you through a challenging time you have already endured or to express your faith in Him in troubling circumstances you are facing now.

NOTES



A WITNESSING KING

Today we'll look at another familiar biblical character, David, the shepherd boy God chose as king to be a "man after His own heart." (See 1 Samuel 13:14.)

READ THE SONG OF PRAISE

David's Song from Psalm 18:1-6, 46-49

"I will love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies. The pangs of death surrounded me, and the floods of ungodliness made me afraid. The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; the snares of death confronted me. In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, and my cry came before Him, even to His ears."

The LORD lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted. It is God who avenges me, and subdues the peoples under me; He delivers me from my enemies. You also lift me up above those who rise against me; You have delivered me from the violent man. Therefore I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the Gentiles, and sing praises to Your name."

REFLECT ON THE STORY

The psalm was written after David became king, and after he found himself safe from Saul's evil plans to kill him. You can get a fuller picture of David's gratitude by reading the entirety of Psalm 18.

David had grown up loving God. He'd also grown up knowing how to protect his own sheep. He was good with weapons. Yet we see in this psalm that David gives God complete credit for his protection and for every victory he has experienced. As David rehearses these victories, his faith is strengthened. Yet he is concerned here about even more than his own faith. Notice in verse 49 that David says he will give thanks to God and sing praises to His name "among the Gentiles." David is a champion of praise as a witness to those who do not know the Lord.

CONSIDER YOUR STORY

In what way has God protected you? This could be physical, emotional, or spiritual protection or all of the above. It could be protection from an unwise decision or a relationship that would have been destructive. Have you given Him credit for keeping you from evil, or for rescuing you from harm?

WRITE YOUR SONG

Write a song of praise to God for the ways in which He has protected you. Consider sharing this song of praise as a witness to someone who needs to know about the goodness of God. If you can't think of anything from which you've been protected, write a song requesting God's protection from sin for yourself or for someone else, praising Him in advance for His faithfulness.

NOTES



A HUMBLE HANDMAIDEN

Mary the mother of Jesus was in the unique position of giving birth to, training, and serving Jesus for His entire earthly life. Today we look at the praise song she sang while anticipating the birth of her Savior.

READ THE SONG OF PRAISE

Mary's song from Luke 1:45-55

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.”

REFLECT ON THE STORY

We see humility and holiness linked in Mary's song. She can “magnify” and “rejoice in” the Lord because she has not magnified herself in her own eyes. She considers herself lowly and God exalted. She looks back over the years of her people's history, at those who have been waiting for the Messiah for generations, and praises God for His mercy and faithfulness. She understands that the proud and mighty who defy God and prefer sin are being overthrown by the promised One she carries in her peasant womb. And she knows what true riches are, that those who believe they have everything they need through their own sufficiency will starve, and those who hunger for God will be satisfied.

CONSIDER YOUR STORY

Think about times when humility and submission brought you close to God and about times when supposed self-sufficiency kept you from Him. How might you need to start fresh—to humble yourself so that God may lift you up? (See James 4:10.) Is there a promise from God you are waiting for? How might you praise God while waiting...even before the promised outcome is birthed?

WRITE YOUR SONG

Write a song of praise to God thanking Him for your Savior. Tell Him all that Jesus means to you and the ways in which your life has changed for the better since you met Him.

NOTE: If you have not yet accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, or if you're not certain you belong to Him, we'd love to help. [Start your exploration here.](#)

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