

CHIEF MINISTRIES

July 2013

"In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple." (Isaiah 6:1) Have you ever noticed how a forest fire obliterates everything in its path, leaving a trail of destruction that looks un-repairable? Yet, a few years down the road, the vegetation is so rich, full and lush that one can hardly tell what was. It's a purging, a cleansing. Death has led to life! Much like when Isaiah was able to see the Lord. It took a death. First the natural and then the spiritual. Look at how Judges 1:1-2 relates: "Now after the death of Joshua, it came to pass that the children of Israel asked the Lord, saying 'who shall be first to go up against the Canaanites to fight against them?' And the Lord said, "Judah shall go up. Indeed, I have delivered the land into his hand."

Judah was selected as the tribe of divine preeminence in Jacob's patriarchal blessing. Genesis 49:8-10 gives us more insight; *Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies, your father's children shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's whelp; from the pray, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion and as a lion, who shall rouse him? Thus scepter shall not depart from Judah, not a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to him shall be the obedience of the people.*

Do you want victory in your life? Do you want to be the warrior God has called you to be? Then there has to be a death. A death to self. We have to get rid of what we know hinders us. What does the Scripture say? *"That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts." (Ephesians 4:22) Verses 25-32 go on to say: Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ^{v26} Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ^{v27} and give no opportunity to the devil. ^{v28} Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. ^{v29} Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ^{v30} And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ^{v31} Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ^{v32} Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you" (ESV) Colossians 3:8 says; " But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth". (ESV) Once you begin to let God take over, you begin to see just what he has done for you-and you need to be thankful. *"In everything give thanks for this is the will of God."* Your thankfulness should turn to praise!*

Remember back in Judges where Judah gets chosen by God to go first into battle? Why do you think that was? Because 1: God chose them - why? Because they were the Praisers! Did you know Judah means praise? Judah must go first. Praise must take its first place within our lives, prisons, churches, families, and nation. When this happens, the Scepter of authority (Genesis 49) is then in place for ultimate victory. Jesus is the lion of the tribe of praises (Judah). His roar will terrify and scatter the one who has sought to devour us. Joel 3:16 *"the Lord also will roar from Zion.... The heavens and the earth will shake..... The Lord will be a shelter for His people, and the strength of the children of Israel."*

"I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall continually be in my mouth" (Ps 34:1) DO YOU?

Worship causes us to move thankfully with our body toward our Creator. Praise is to worship God with extended hands. With hands lifted up, we declare the merit of God and we thank Him for everything He has put in our hands. Even when we don't get commissary, or "no mail again." When the specialty of the day is overcooked pork noodle casserole. When you get picked to get shook down. Despite our circumstance, God is waiting for you to praise Him through it all.

The word "Judah" also means to hold out your hand and throw or shoot a stone or an arrow at your enemy. Therefore, praise is a key weapon of the Spirit of God in our lives in the days ahead. Human praise of a holy God is a major theme throughout God's word. Praise is expressing to God our appreciation and understanding of His worth. Praise expands our awareness of God's character. We find other words related to praise in the Bible, including "blessing", "thanksgiving",

"glory" and "hallelujah". The Lord's prayer in Luke 2 "*Father, hallowed be thy name. Your kingdom come*". First, Jesus praised God, then He made His requests. Praising God puts us in the right frame of mind to begin to declare our needs to a Holy Father. Through worship we can be assured that our supply will always come to us in a timely manner. Praise and thanksgiving are the opposite of worry. God is not interested only in the praise that we give Him in times when things are going well. He is after the praise that comes in the midst of great trial, great difficulty, grief, sickness, demonic oppression, temptation, relational difficulties and financial problems. He still requires praise. He still demands it. When we give it to Him in times of difficulty it means all the more to Him. This is the sacrifice of praise He asks for and is pleased by.

Judah led the tribe of Israel in the wilderness (Numbers 2:3 ESV). They also led the conquest of Canaan, therefore praise will lead us forth into our battles and victories ahead.

Praise causes the presence of the Lord to come into our midst. So... It's time to start praising the Lord!

Knowing that we are entering a battle of uncharted territory, worship and praise seems to be the key to victory in the days ahead. We are entering a season of war! The beginning of this last millennium has brought accelerated change and conflict. Look at our nation and the crazy happenings just this year! We're groping for stability, footing and positioning. In warfare we must clash with an enemy. The church is being prepared for warfare, worship and harvest. 1 Corinthians 10:1-11 tells us that the accounts of Israel's journey were given to us as an example. God demonstrate something in the order of the tribes. It may seem that Ruben should have gone first, he was the oldest (with age should comes wisdom and experience). But this was not God's decisive factor. Joseph was the favorite as well is the most powerful and successful, but still not God's criterion. The example was that praise should lead the way. God gives us strategies that are not of the wisdom of this world. Send Judah first, not necessarily the wisest or the strongest. Let praise lead the way. Praise breaks through. Jehoshaphat was able to win the day by sending his praise team first. "*And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the LORD your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed."* ^{v21} *And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the LORD and praise him in holy attire, as they went before the army, and say, "Give thanks to the LORD, for his steadfast love endures forever."* ^{v22} *And when they began to sing and praise, the LORD set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed. (2 Chronicles 20:20-22 ESV)*

Revelation 5:5 tells us that *Jesus is the Lion of Judah.* That lion is living in us. Satan roams about "like" a roaring lion. He is a counterfeit. Jesus is a roaring lion. We have to let that aspect be in us. That lion in us is stronger, confident, aggressive and not to be roused. "*They will walk after the Lord, He will roar like a lion; indeed He will roar*" (*Hosea 11:10 NASB*). There is a sound of God being released in the earth right now through his people that is signifying the strength of God in these times. The enemy is walking around sounding accusations and producing fear. God is releasing His roar, which is much greater than the enemy's. Be a part of this season of warfare and victory. Begin to praise your God every chance you get. Open your mouth! Clap your hands all ye people, shout unto God with a voice of triumph! PRAISE HIM! PRAISE HIM! PRAISE GOD!

To all my fellow praisers:

I'm believing the best for you!

Be blessed!

Chief

If you want to know more about CHIEF Ministries or would like to be a part of this, please go to www.chiefministries.com and www.chiefshouse.org

Christ's Heart In Every Felon