

# Rhythm . . .

## in worship

### **The first act of worship in the bible: Gen 8:20 – 9:1**

<sup>20</sup> Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. <sup>21</sup> The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: “Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though<sup>[a]</sup> every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. <sup>22</sup> “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease. <sup>1</sup> Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.

### **The first words of worship in the bible: Gen 15:1-6**

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”

<sup>2</sup>But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” <sup>4</sup>But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

### **A vision of heavenly worship: Isaiah 6:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. <sup>3</sup> And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

<sup>4</sup> At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup> “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.” <sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup> With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.” <sup>8</sup> Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

## **Voicing creations praise: Ps 148**

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD.<sup>[a]</sup>

Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights above.

<sup>2</sup> Praise him, all his angels;

praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

<sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup> Praise him, you highest heavens  
and you waters above the skies.

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for at his command they were created,

<sup>6</sup> and he established them forever and ever—  
he issued a decree that will never pass away.

<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,

<sup>8</sup> lightning and hail, snow and clouds,  
stormy winds that do his bidding,

<sup>9</sup> you mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars,

<sup>10</sup> wild animals and all cattle,

small creatures and flying birds,

<sup>11</sup> kings of the earth and all nations,  
you princes and all rulers on earth,

<sup>12</sup> young men and women,  
old men and children.

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for his name alone is exalted;

his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

<sup>14</sup> And he has raised up for his people a horn,<sup>[b]</sup>

the praise of all his faithful servants,  
of Israel, the people close to his heart.

Praise the LORD.

## **Worship at the hands of a mediator through divinely prescribed rituals: Lev 16:3-5**

<sup>3</sup> “This is how Aaron is to enter the Most Holy Place: He must first bring a young bull for a sin offering<sup>[a]</sup> and a ram for a burnt offering. <sup>4</sup> He is to put on the sacred linen tunic, with linen undergarments next to his body; he is to tie the linen sash around him and put on the linen turban. These are sacred garments; so he must bathe himself with water before he puts them on. <sup>5</sup> From the Israelite community he is to take two male goats for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.

## **Worship through Christ as mediator: John 17:19, Heb 7:23 – 8:2**

<sup>23</sup> Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; <sup>24</sup> but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. <sup>25</sup> Therefore he is able to save completely<sup>[c]</sup> those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

<sup>26</sup> Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. <sup>27</sup> Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. <sup>28</sup> For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

<sup>1</sup> Now the main point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, <sup>2</sup> and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by a mere human being.

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