

2 Chronicles 5 — “The Majestic Presence of God in the Assembly of Worshipers!”*Introduction*

*How sweet and awful is the place with Christ within the doors,
while everlasting love displays the choicest of her stores.*

*While all our hearts and all our songs join to admire the feast,
each of us cries, with thankful tongue, "Lord, why was I a guest?
— Isaac Watts (hymn: "How sweet & awful is the place", 1700's)*

2 Chron 5 also teaches us about Solomon's worship of God & more than that -- of the majestic glory & awesome wonder of this GOD who calls us to worship Him!

Background of 2 Chronicles 5

- 2 Chronicles 5-7 is a unit. Chapters 5-7 comprise 4 movements...
 1. The transfer of the ark to the Temple (ch.5)
 2. Solomon's prayer of dedication (ch.6)
 3. God's glory & the many sacrifices (7.1-10)
 4. The Lord's answer/approval to Solomon's prayer (7.11-22)

THESIS — From 2 Chron 5, we'll receive 2 admonitions so that we can stand in awe of the majestic God.

1. We as God's People Must Prioritize the Worship of God! (1-10)
2. We as God's People Must Revere the Presence of God! (11-14)

I. PRIORITIZE THE WORSHIP OF GOD! (1-10)

- Ours is a day when God's worship is not often highly *prioritized*.
- Never is it a waste to gather with the saints! *Never is there something more important than this!*

A. Assembling the congregation (2-4)

B. Bringing the ark (4-7)

C. Describing the Place (8-10)

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For the hurting, for the despairing, for the confused, for the struggling, for the suffering, for the afflicted, for the lonely
 -- prioritize & assemble for worship!

Don't run away from the corporate assembly; rather, determine to run to the assembly of God's people in worship!

II. REVERE THE PRESENCE OF GOD! (11-14)

- When God's people meet together, God dwells WITH us.
 - Let's not come with trivial thoughts but with lofty praise, humble hearts, reverent attitudes!
 - **Nothing in 10,000 worlds could surpass the importance of God's presence!**

A. The purity of the men (11)

B. The praising of the men (12-13)

What can we learn?

****9 distinctives of the singing of God's people (from verses 12-13):**

- It's **CONGREGATIONAL** — many priests, leaders, 120 priests, the singers
- It's **PURE** — they sanctified themselves
- It's **LOFTY** — they were dressed/clothed in fine linen (Rev. 19.8)
- It's **ORCHESTRAL** — cymbals, harps, lyres, trumpets, cymbals, instruments of music
- It's **LOUD** — cymbals and trumpets
- It's **VOCAL** (singing/once voice) — singers were to make themselves heard
- It's **GOD-CENTERED** — with one voice to praise and to glorify the LORD
- It's **WORSHIPFUL** — they praised the LORD
- It's **BIBLICAL** — quoting previous biblical truth from Psalms (e.g., Ps 136:1, etc).

C. The presence of the Lord (14)

Note how **God's glory** takes central place, not a priest, a man, a leader, an individual -- **but God!**
 House of God was about the GLORY OF GOD!!

“Our job is to worship God in spirit and in truth, and not look for outward physical phenomena as a sign of his blessing NOR should we seek some emotional reaction. Thus we should worship God according to His Word and with sincere hearts and NOT seek for some special sign or feeling.” (Cyril Barber)

Holy Holy Holy

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
 Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.
 Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty!
 God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, Holy, Holy! All the saints adore Thee,
 casting down their golden crowns around the glassy
 sea;
 cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
 who was and is and evermore shall be.

Holy, Holy, Holy! though the darkness hide Thee,
 though the eye made blind by sin Thy glory may not
 see,
 only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
 perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
 All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky
 and sea.
 Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty!
 God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

The Reformation Hymn

We will trust **God's Word alone**,
 Where his perfect will is known;
 Our traditions shift like sand
 While his Truth forever stands.

We will live by **faith alone**,
 Clothed in merit not our own;
 All we claim is Jesus Christ
 And his finished sacrifice.

*Glory be, **glory be to God alone**,
 Through the church he redeemed and made his own.
 He has freed us, he will keep us till we're safely home
 Glory be, glory be to God alone!*

We are saved by **grace alone**—
 Undeserved, yet freely shown;
 No accomplishment on earth
 Can achieve the second birth.

We will stand on **Christ alone**,
 The unyielding Cornerstone;
 Nations rage and devils roar,
 Still he reigns forevermore!

The Gospel Song

Holy God in love became
 Perfect man to bear my blame
 On the cross he took my sin
 By his death I live again!