

Ceremony or Celebration? – 1 Chronicles 25:1-7

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Psalms – 95 A and B / 118 E / 31 B / 72 G

Introduction – the primary purpose of worship in the assembly of God

I Another layer of evidence for exclusive Psalmody in the Assembly – Exodus 15 or 24?

A Purpose of assembly – a dialogue between God and his people concerning his covenant

- The presence of the sacraments – Exodus 24 / Psalm 50:5, 14, 15, 23 (WCF 27.1)
- Other elements too especially praise

B Christ is present in his official role as mediator (Hebrews 12:22-24 / Revelation 1-3, 5)

- A priest and a king; what are his duties as a king with respect to worship?
- Responsibility for assembly in general and praise especially (1 Chron. 23-26 / 2 Chron. 29)
Supervising the content – 1 Chron. 25:1-7 (note – prophecy; 1 Peter 1:10-12 / Luke 24:44-47)
- A unique perspective (Psalm 22)
- Hearing his voice (Psalm 40:6-8, 12 / 1 Peter 2:22-24)

C A much more appropriate praise for the assembly's purpose

- Praise for his faithfulness to his covenant (78 / 105 / 106)
- Psalm 47; from Exodus and conquest to the dynasty of David, to the church (2 Cor. 1:20)
- A dialogue about the covenant: mediated praise (Psalm 118)

II A suggestion for a liturgical use of the Psalter in the assembly

- Psalms that call us into God's presence (95 / 100 / 122)
- Psalms that prepare us to hear God's word (119 / 25 / 143 B)
- Psalms that respond to the sermon's main point (sovereignty – 33; God's love – 116 A)
- Psalms that prepare us for communion (51 / 32 / 111 / 23)
- A response to the prayer of thanksgiving (102 / 31)
- A response of the blessing (doxology – 41 / 72 / 89 / 106 / 150)
- Summary – form serves function; facilitating a conversation (Exodus / 1 Samuel 18:6, 7)

Conclusion - A ceremony not a celebration?

- Fear and joy – Exodus 15 / 1 Samuel 18:6, 7
- His commitment and ours – vow# 7