



# Entering God's Presence

"in thy presence is fulness of joy" (Ps 16:11)

We have recently studied how God spoke through Paul and said, "***I will dwell in them,***

and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (2 Cor 6:16). Therefore, we comprehend that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to literally reside (*or dwell*) in our human bodies.

There is no denying that God dwells in us; however, many of us lament that we do not continually experience His presence. Why? We understand where the Almighty dwells; perhaps we should reverse the question and ask, "Where, and upon what are we dwelling?"

Adam and Eve dwelt in Eden the Garden of God Almighty, "the LORD God ***planted*** a garden eastward in ***Eden***; and there he put the man" (Gen 2:8). When we study that verse, the Hebrew word translated, "planted" means to "strike in" or "to fix;" as a result, we get only a hint of what is intended by the word "planted." However, the very next Hebrew word translated, "garden" embellishes the events a little better. "Garden" (gaw-n'), is a prime Hebrew root meaning "to fence in" or "to hedge about." As a final point of reference, the word ***Eden*** means delicate, delight, or pleasure. Therefore, another way of understanding the Gen 2:8, passage is as follows: Upon the earth, God ***secured*** (*planted*) a ***protected*** (*garden*) and ***pleasurable*** (*Eden*) region in which the man would make his dwelling place. If we think about that truth very long we become aware of the conclusion that God has likewise created a ***secured, protected, and pleasurable*** place for regenerate humanity to dwell!

The Hebrews think about the environ known as the "Garden of Eden" as more of a place where God's presence resides. The concept being: Wherever God goes a holy atmosphere escorts His presence! The Jews actually envision Eden as more of an atmosphere of God's presence than a specific location upon the earth!

In a previous ***Rivkah Ministries*** Bible Study entitled "***God's Dwelling Place***" we learned about God's presence. The information from that Bible Study may be helpful. You can obtain a written copy and or sound file from <http://Rivkah.org> on the World Wide Web.

There is something powerful and important that we need to get informed about as regards God's presence. Perhaps we can best begin by learning something about the absence of His Holy presence. Let's consider what the Bible means as it describes that, "***Cain went away from the presence*** (*paw-neem' – the face*) of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, east of Eden" (Gen 4:16). Jude describes Cain's disgraceful exit from the presence of the Almighty as, "Woe unto them! for ***they have gone in the way of Cain***" (Jude 11). Cain's way was, "***away from the presence*** of the LORD!" There is a saying, "Familiarity breeds contempt." We need to realize that the only thing that Adam and Eve knew was God's presence. It is very plausible that they failed to realize that the Garden of Eden actually became a location of God's divine presence! In other words, they took the



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presence of the Almighty God for granted and did not realize that He was the solution to every problem they may encounter! Despite that magnificent dwelling presence of which they had unlimited access, they chose to listen to another voice! As a result they sinned and ended up hiding, "themselves from the presence of the LORD" (Gen 3:8).

We have observed that the Bible describes the Garden of Eden as the environment or secure protected and pleasurable region where God met with Adam and Eve; nevertheless they chose to exit from that presence. Twenty Centuries later, King David wrote of his desire to enter into God's divine presence, "**How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty! 2 My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD!**" (Ps 84:1-2) Here, David described that he yearned for God's dwelling presence and to enter into His courts. We first need to realize from David's words that God's presence is directly tied to His courts. God functions from within His courts as He performs His kingly duties! We learn from the Bible that all kings function from within their courts; notice Solomon's, "**house where he dwelt had another court** within the porch, which was of the like work. Solomon made also an house for Pharaoh's daughter, whom he had taken to wife, like unto this porch. 9 All these were of costly stones, according to the measures of hewed stones, sawed with saws, within and without, even from the foundation unto the coping, and **so on the outside toward the great court**" (1 Kings 7:8-9). Here we find Solomon using multiple courts. There were also courts associated with the temple, "And the great **court** round about was with three rows of hewed stones, and a row of cedar beams, both for the inner **court** of the house of the LORD, and for the porch of the house" (1 Kings 7:12).

We may think of a courtyard as a place enclosed by a wall; we would naturally think of the court in our minds as a protected area. This idea should bring us back to concept in early Genesis regarding a "garden" meaning "to fence in" or "to hedge about." We will discover the concept of why God chose, "to hedge about" Adam's place of dwelling.

Let's take careful notice how King David described God's dwelling place as His courts. In David's mind he expected that God would function from within His courts as He performs His kingly acts! Notice David's description of God's courts, "**How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty! 2 My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD;** my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. 3 Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young--a place near your altar, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God. 4 **Blessed are those who dwell in your house;** (Notice that David talks about dwelling in God's house!) they are ever praising you. Selah 5 Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage. 6 As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools. 7 They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion. 8 Hear my prayer, O LORD God Almighty; listen to me, O God of Jacob. Selah 9 Look upon our shield, O God; look with favor on your anointed one. 10 **Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere;** I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. 11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless. 12 O LORD Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you" (Ps 84) NIV.



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We who live in the United States of America are less fortunate than those who dwell within a benevolent kingdom. Our republic form of government does not readily demonstrate the virtues of a ruling kingdom. Therefore, let us carefully attempt to get a concept of what kingdom living is all about. In order to get a proper understanding we need to discover what the courts of a king are actually like. The most complete insight that we can acquire about a kingdom would naturally come from the lips of a King! Let us endeavor to understand these things from kings David, Solomon and Ahasuerus.

David would have naturally understood a kingdom as a king over his domain exercising his governing influence (*meaning his will, values, and purposes.*). The word, "**kingdom**" would therefore be a shortened version of the words "king" and "domain!" By definition, the king must have a domain where he exercises his dominion! The kingdom then is a king within his domain; every kingdom exhibits these characteristics: (1) a King; (2) a Territory; (3) a Constitution; (4) Citizens, (5) Governing Laws; (6) Rights and Privileges of the subjects; (7) an Army and Court Servants; and (8) a Commonwealth of the people. These items are all characteristic of every true kingdom. We need to realize that Jesus came to this earth with the good news message of a soon coming **kingdom**, "Jesus came into Galilee, preaching *the gospel of the kingdom of God*, 15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and *the kingdom of God is at hand*: repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:14-15). Even during the very last few moments of Jesus' earthly ministry, His disciples anticipated the establishment of that kingdom, "they asked of him, saying, Lord, *wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom?*" (Acts 1:6).

Notice characteristic number eight listed above; every benevolent kingdom will have a commonwealth. The concept embodied within commonwealth means that the king's wealth is common to everyone. The central idea is that the resources that come into the kingdom from the outside territories enrich everyone in the kingdom. This is quite different from how a president or prime minister governs in a republic. Nevertheless, this is how the king rules his kingdom. In a kingdom, the king himself is responsible for the prosperity of his subjects. When everyone prospers the king is considered to be a great king! The king's job is to acquire wealth for his citizens. A king whose citizens are poor is considered a bad king! Solomon wrote that it is righteousness that causes any kingdom to succeed and prosper, "Take away the wicked from before the king, and *his throne shall be established in righteousness*" (Prov 25:5). A great prophet went on to explain, "a king shall reign *in righteousness*, and princes shall rule in judgment" (Isa 32:1). Another great prophet saw the time when, "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and *a King shall reign and prosper*, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth" (Jer 23:5).

With these concepts in mind, let's try to get an idea of why Jesus said, "Which of you (*subjects of the kingdom*) by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? 28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: 29 And yet I say unto you, That even *Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these*. 30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, *shall he not much more clothe you*, (*meaning the citizens of the kingdom*) O ye of little faith? 31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?



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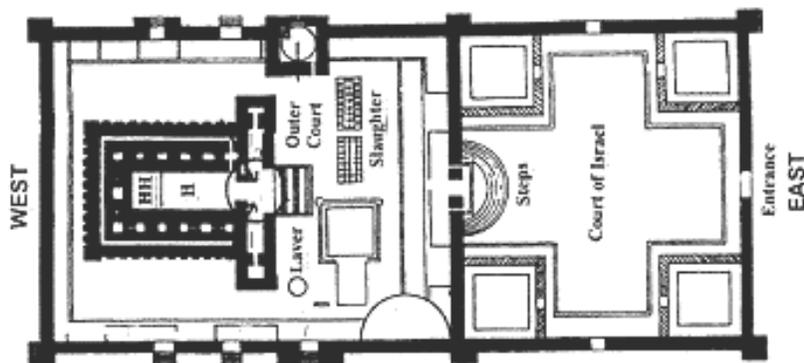
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32(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33 But ***seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you***" (Matt 6:27-33).

In a great kingdom, the king is so rich that you can tell just by observing his servants that they too are rich! This was one of the very reasons that the queen of Sheba traveled such a long distance to see King Solomon! "And when the queen of Sheba ***heard of the fame of Solomon*** concerning the name of the LORD, she came to prove him with hard questions. 2 And she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart. 3 And Solomon told her all her questions: there was not any thing hid from the king, which he told her not. 4 And when the queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom, and the house that he had built, 5 And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel, and his cupbearers, and his ascent by which he went up unto the house of the LORD; ***there was no more spirit in her.*** (The grandeur of Solomon's kingdom literally took the breath out of the Queen of Sheba!) 6 And she said to the king, It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom. 7 Howbeit ***I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard.*** 8 Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom. 9 Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel: because the LORD loved Israel for ever, therefore made he thee king, to do judgment and justice. 10 And ***she gave the king an hundred and twenty talents of gold, and of spices very great store, and precious stones: there came no more such abundance of spices as these which the queen of Sheba gave to king Solomon***" (1 Kings 10:1-10). We must recognize that the Queen of Sheba understood

exactly how to approach a king; it is expected that in order to approach a king one must bring gifts! We can learn a great deal from this queen.

As an individual draws near to a great king's court they can tell they are getting closer by simply observing the increasing glory of the things along the way! Are we beginning to get a concept why the courts of the Almighty are so important?



SCHMATIC OF THE TEMPLE II : Holy Place III: Holy of Holies

Imagine the court of the women and the court of the gentiles even beyond this Eastern entrance!

David wrote that, "In Salem also is his tabernacle, and ***his dwelling place in Zion***" (Ps 76:2). We of the New Testament era understand that "ye are come unto ***mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God***, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels. 23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn" (Heb 12:22-23). Since we

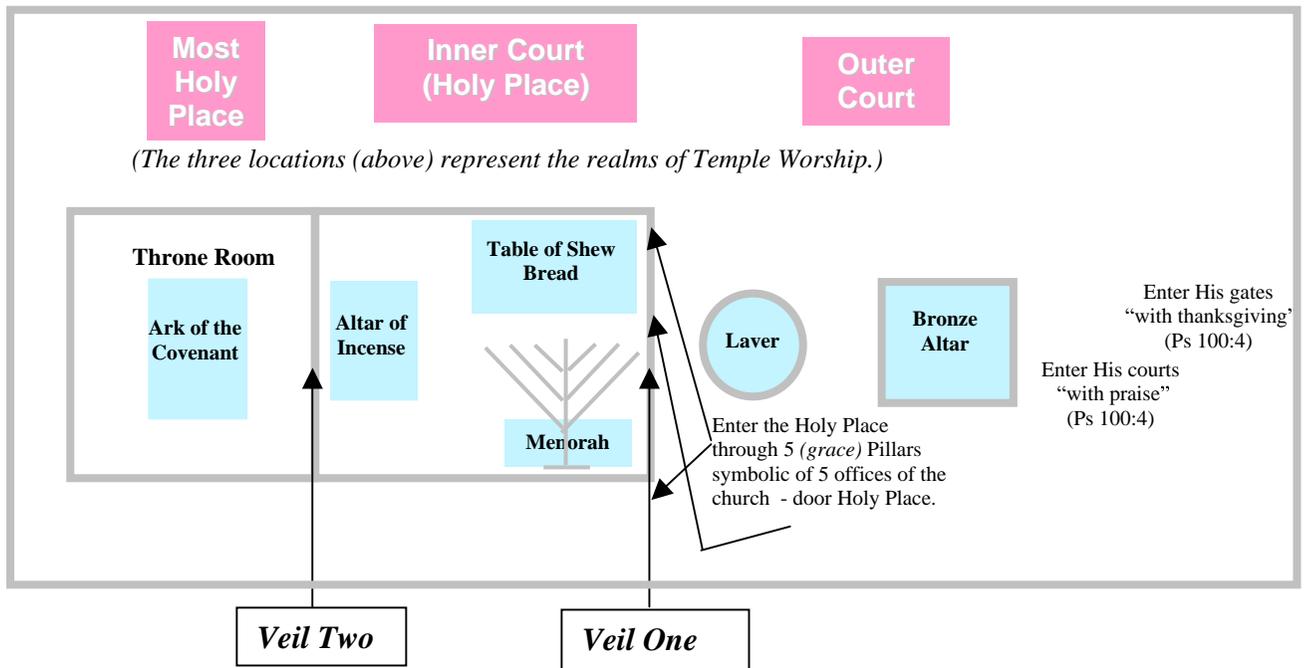


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are come to Mount Sion, (*the city of the living God,*) when we approach God's courts, we don't just want to stay in the outer areas of the King's court. We have come into the Lord's domain. We are admonished to, "Enter into his gates (*territory*) with thanksgiving, **and into his courts** (*where the king sits and rules*) **with praise**: be thankful unto him, and bless his name" (Ps 100:4). We are actually, "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation" (1 Peter 2:9); unto our god. This means that as priests we are authorized to eat bread from the King's table, "thou shalt set upon the table shewbread before me always" (Ex 25:30). Shewbread means (*the bread of presence.*) The Old Testament regulation was that "it be eaten in the holy place; in the court of the tabernacle of the congregation they shall eat it" (Lev 6:16). (*See H last page*).

We need to recognize that a king's court is his personal and private environment. Every king has various levels through which visitors are obliged to show evidence of their authorization in order to advance to the next level! Christians are given unlimited access to God, "Let us therefore come boldly **unto the throne of grace**, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb 4:16); **nevertheless**, we need to reflect on protocol before we enter his presence. Israel is our example, "all these things **happened unto them for ensamples**: and they are written **for our admonition**" (1 Cor 10:11). With this in mind let's consider that only the high priest could go into the holy of holies and even then just once a year! Through this example God is clearly teaching us that we need to contemplate protocol as we enter the Most Holy Place.



Notice Daniel's use of protocol; he said, "unto the king, **O king, live for ever**" (Dan 6:21). Through those words Daniel employed a common protocol of his time. Even today the British say, "Long live the Queen!"

When one enters into the court and comes before the throne, they have reached the king. In this place one has: access to his presence; access to his favor; access to his wealth; access



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to his protection; access to his pleasure; access to his blessing; and access to his goodwill! Who wouldn't want to get into the king's presence? Just like Solomon answered

every question of the Queen of Sheba, the sovereign glories in the fact that he has answers to all of our problems. When someone gets into the king's presence their needs are taken care of meticulously. Consider Esther. We will remember that Mordecai had been counseling Esther to go unsolicited before the King even if it meant death! When Esther had fasted for three days she decided to approach the king, "Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house. 2 And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So *Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre*. 3 Then said the king unto her, *What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request?*" (Est 5:1-3). Even though Esther approached the king without an invitation she still was mindful of protocol. In like fashion, Christians who have been given mercy to approach the Most High God in His court should be mindful of the king's court etiquette.

We need to understand the proper protocol even before we get into His presence! Scripture teaches that, "The arrogant cannot stand in your presence" (Ps 5:5) NIV. It also teaches that those who seek to approach the King of Kings remain humble, "***Do not exalt yourself in the king's presence***, and do not claim a place among great men; 7 it is better for him to say to you, "Come up here," than for him to humiliate you before a nobleman" (Prov 25:6-7) NIV. Jesus Himself taught this basic court etiquette, "When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him; 9 And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room. 10 But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee" (Luke 14:8-10).

God is concerned about etiquette and court protocol; God is a God of order. Order is the root of the word "ordination;" notice the Psalmist's words, "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ***ordained***" (Ps 8:3). The word of God reveals that He establishes order!

Even earthly kings require order; if you were to somehow receive an initiation to see Queen Elizabeth you would first need to go through the *Royal Protocol Training!* No commoner can see the queen without first receiving this training! In that training one learns: how to act; how to curtsy; and how to extend their hand. They also learn when to speak, when to leave!

God told Moses how to build a mobile sanctuary so he could dwell with the people. The Tabernacle (*habitation*) of God needed to be setup! God wanted to be in the presence of the people but he needed a special place first to be set up! True, God dwells everywhere but He was establishing an earthly home! The point is that the tabernacle in the wilderness had built in order and many strict rules were established to maintain its holiness!



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We have learned about God's dwelling places; but let's call to mind our original questions, "Where, and upon what are we dwelling?" The reason that we need to know where we dwell is directly related to God's court protocol!

Different from the Queen of England, King David wrote, "Blessed is the man whom thou chooseth, and causeth **to approach unto thee**, that **he may dwell in thy courts**: we shall be satisfied with **the goodness of thy house**, even of **thy holy temple**" (Ps 65:4). David understood the powerful concept that, "**Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere**" (Ps 84:10). We need to realize with David that one day in the presence of the Almighty God has the potential of satisfying our every need!

All kings are sensitive about their courts! Don't be surprised by this notion; you too have rules of your own house! The court is the King's personal and private environment! His environment affects the proceedings that issue from His throne! See if you can understand proper environment by the following: if a seed were to stay in a jar for 100 years it would remain a seed! But change its environment to water or earth and the seed will begin to change dramatically! Likewise, as long as you remain in an improper environment then you will not experience any suitable changes. Our King is so holy that He does not allow an improper environment to surround His throne!

If we are to enter into the presence of the king then our environment must reflect the king's environment! So how are we supposed to come before Him, "Enter into his gates (*plural*) with thanksgiving, and into his courts (*plural*) with praise" (Ps 100:4)? These courts are various multiple locations within God's dwelling; from time to time, we are allowed to navigate from one place into another.

In the days of King David, a loyal servant named Uzzah reached out one day to steady the Ark and to keep it from falling; instead of protecting the Ark, he died because he was not carrying the Ark as had been prescribed by Moses. Further, Uzzah was not anointed with blood on his ear, thumb and toe; this anointing was established to set apart the priests who were the only ones that were allowed to bear the Ark, "And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and **God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God**" (2 Sam 6:7). This all happened because protocol setup by the Lord was not followed! He broke protocol and an angel of the Lord killed him! This is story is intended to teach us something important.

Royal protocol is a requirement; the purpose of court protocol is to maintain the proper environment for the King's presence! The preferred position of the King while in His court is for Him to be seated; on the other hand, if the King ever stands up, then everybody must likewise stand up! We earlier read how Queen Esther violated the protocol of King Ahasuerus' court, "All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that **whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live**" (Est 4:11). Indeed, death was a very real consequence for anyone failing to show proper respect to the King Ahasuerus' protocol.



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We might realize that when Adam sinned and subsequently hid himself from the presence of the Lord, he essentially violated proper protocol with the King! As a result he was put out of the garden, "Therefore the LORD God **sent him forth from the garden of Eden**, (Adam was banished from the unrestricted presence of the Lord) to till the ground from whence he was taken. 24 So **he drove out the man**; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden" (Gen 3:23-24).

We must learn to remain in the proper environment, "I will bless the LORD **at all times**: his praise **shall continually be in my mouth**" (Ps 34:1). Notice how often we are to speak his praise. Continually! Why, because speaking his praise gives us joy and, "**the joy of the LORD is your strength**" (Neh 8:10). We need to maintain the proper atmosphere in order to delight the king. This sustains the King's attitude. Nobody wants to be around a king whose wrath has been stirred, "The fear of a king is as the roaring of a lion: **whoso provoketh him to anger sinneth against his own soul**" (Prov 20:2).

When I was an administrator with the Pueblo School District I had a relationship with the man who eventually became Superintendent of Schools prior to the time that he obtained that office. Because of our previous relationship, after he became superintendent I never wanted him to feel that I was taking advantage of our friendship; however, I overreacted and began to avoid his presence! To avoid the superintendent was a real mistake; instead of appropriately taking advantage of his personal knowledge of my abilities, I avoided him! The same situation can be true of our relationship with the King! We must continually maintain our relationship with the King. We can also be careful to leave his presence only when He is ready, "**Be not hasty to go out of his sight**" (Eccl 8:3). The point is that one does not leave the King's presence until the king is ready! If you visit a king you must stay there until he indicates that it is time for you to leave. As long as the king is talking his subjects must attentively listen to his words. Who or what do you allow to take you out of the presence of the king?

There is a good reason for staying in the presence of the king! The king always sends you away with gifts! The word benediction means a blessing: bene (*means good*) and diction (*means words*)! To receive **good words** is to receive a blessing! Let's consider the King's presence in the life of David.

Notice the story from 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel Chapter 21: "Then came David to Nob to Ahimelech the priest: and Ahimelech was afraid at the meeting of David, and said unto him, Why art thou alone, and no man with thee? 2 And David said unto Ahimelech the priest, The king hath commanded me a business, and hath said unto me, Let no man know any thing of the business whereabout I send thee, and what I have commanded thee: and I have appointed my servants to such and such a place. 3 Now therefore what is under thine hand? **give me five loaves of bread in mine hand, or what there is present**. 4 And the priest answered David, and said, **There is no common bread** under mine hand, but there is hallowed bread; (*Receive this in the spirit: When King David went to the tabernacle in search of food, he did not receive common bread but Holy Bread of presence!*) if the young men have kept themselves at least from women. 5 And David answered the priest, and said unto him, Of a truth women have been kept from us about these three days, since I came out, and the vessels of the young men are holy, and the bread is in a manner common, yea, though it



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were sanctified this day in the vessel. 6 So **the priest gave him hallowed bread: for there was no bread there but the shewbread**, (bread of presence) that was taken from before

the LORD, to put hot bread in the day when it was taken away. 7 Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the LORD; and his name was Doeg, an Edomite, the chiefest of the herdmen that belonged to Saul. 8 And David said unto Ahimelech, And is there not here under thine hand spear or sword? for I have neither brought my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste. 9 And the priest said, **The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom thou slewest in the valley of Elah**, behold, **it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod**: (*Weapons from God's are always wrapped in holiness!*) if thou wilt take that, take it: for there is no other save that here. And David said, There is none like that; give it me. (*Receive this also in the spirit: When King David went to the tabernacle in search of weapons, he received the reminder of his greatest victory!*) 10 And David arose, and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath" (1 Sam 21:1-10). Needless to say, David's life circumstances substantially changed after this event! Up to this point he had been constantly running from Saul. Not long after this event David began to more thoroughly trust in the Lord and to act more and more like a king! Notice David's words, "One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; **that I may dwell in the house of the LORD** all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire **in his temple**. 5 For in the time of trouble he shall hide me **in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle** shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock" (Ps 27:4-5).

So we will ask the question, "LORD, **who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?** (*Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion* " (Ps 2:6)) 2 **He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart**. 3 He that **backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach** (*shame*) against his neighbour. 4 In whose eyes a vile person is contemned (*despised*); but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. 5 He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved" (Ps 15).

So how are we supposed to approach Mount Zion or God's Holy Hill? We cry out to the Almighty, "**I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah**" (Ps 3:4). We ask Him, "O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; **let them bring me unto thy holy hill**, and to thy tabernacles" (Ps 43:3). However, and here is a major key! We are to approach him with **joy in our hearts!** God is the answer to everything that could possibly be wrong in our lives! Therefore, we should never approach him with sorrow and distress, "Serve the LORD **with gladness: come before his presence with singing**" (Ps 100:2).

The opposite of joy, gladness and singing is sorrow, distress and moaning! These latter expressions of mood are completely improper in the presence of the Lord! Upon hearing about Haman's evil intentions against the Jews, Mordecai put on sackcloth as a sign of sorrow fasting and mourning; nevertheless, he understood that "none might enter into the king's gate **clothed with sackcloth**" (Est 4:2). From this passage we learn that mourning is entirely improper in the king's court.



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The point that we must realize is that the king's court is representative of his attitude! Therefore, the proper atmosphere must exude from the court. This ensures that the king's actions truly display his personal values.

Instead of crying tears of sorrow from a perspective of fear, we must cry out concerning His Glory! You either choose fear-based prayer, "Oh God, Oh God, what am I going to do? I am about to be evicted from my house! My eldest child is on drugs! My health is failing! I have been told that I have only 6 months to live! Don't you even care? Boo Hoo Hoo!" Or we can faith-based prayer as we approach his court, "I thank you Lord God of heaven and earth! I know that you completely understand all of my personal situations that must look so puny in your sight! Father I know that you are always with me therefore, "I shall fear none evil!" I thank you Father that you always "supply all my needs according to his riches in glory! Therefore since we have a covenant, I will trust in the Lord!"

The king's court reflects his atmosphere. The following things characterize the king's court: Dancing, singing, music, celebration and praise toward the king! The king looks forward to this form of expression from his subjects. He wants his court to be splendidous! "**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness**" (Ps 29:2) NIV; "**Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary**" (Ps 96:6) NIV. We are to give voice to praising the Lord, "**O bless our God, ye people, and make the voice of his praise to be heard**" (Ps 66:8); "Come and **hear, (they can only hear if we give voice to our praise)** all ye that fear God, and **I will declare what he hath done for my soul. (God is anxious to work mightily in our lives; the only thing we need to do is praise Him!) 17 I cried unto him with my mouth, and he was extolled with my tongue**" (Ps 66:16-17).

When God takes you to a new and wonderful place in His presence, He desires that you to get your mind ready to live continually in that new place. Our problems are solved in His presence; when the king is happy he naturally gives things away! Do not ever allow yourself to be depressed in the presence of the Lord! He is a great king and he wants you to be joyful in his presence, "**in thy presence is fulness of joy**" (Ps 16:11). We should **never** come before the King and begin to moan and complain!

We are supposed to make the king happy; we are to tell Him how wonderful He is! We are to exclaim what wonderful things the Lord does for his people! When you tell a king how awesome he is, then the king will act to prove what you have just said! He will become what your praise says he is! This is the reason that Jehovah God added many other characteristics to His name! Notice those characteristics below:

1.	Gen 22:14	Jehovah Jireh	(My) Provider, (My) Vision	14 And called Abraham the name of that place 'Yahweh-yir'eh' <b>Jehovah-jireh</b> "
2.	Ex 15:26	Jehovah Rophe	(My) Healer	" <b>I am 'Yahweh rop'ekaa' the LORD that healeth thee.</b>
3.	Ex 17:15	Jehovah Nissi	(My) Victory	"And built Moses an altar, and called the name of it 'Yahweh-Nicity' <b>Jehovah-nissi</b> "
4.	Judg 6:24	Jehovah Shalom	(My) Peace	"Then built there Gideon an altar unto the LORD, and called it ' <b>YAHWEH-SHAALOWM</b> ' Jehovah-shalom"
5.	Psalms 23:1	Jehovah Rohi	(My) Shepherd	" <b>The LORD 'Yahweh ro'iy' is my shepherd; I shall not want</b> "
6.	Isa 44:24	Yahweh Go <sup>a</sup> lekaa	(My) redeemer	"Thus saith <b>the LORD, thy redeemer</b> "



# Entering God's Presence

"in thy presence is fulness of joy" (Ps 16:11)

7.	Ezek 48:35	Jehovah Shammah	Presence He's There	"And the name of that city shall be from that day 'YAHWEH SHAAMAAH' <b>The LORD is there.</b>
8.	Jer 23:5-6	Jehovah Tsidqenuw	(My) Righteousness	"His name whereby he shall be called, 'Yahweh-Tsidqenuw' <b>THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.</b> "

God continually dwells in the Garden of Eden! That is the location of his presence. This means that He has "hedged in" a secure and protected environment. We can never change His dwelling place; rather, we must change ourselves to conform to the environment that He has established! Come before his presence with praise and thanksgiving!

Paul teaches us, "let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, *the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name*" (Heb 13:15). Our job is to, "Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise" (Ps 98:4). All of His subjects enter into His courts, "To declare the name of the LORD in Zion, and his praise in Jerusalem; 22 When the people are gathered together, *and the kingdoms, to serve the LORD*" (Ps 102:21-22). This then becomes our enduring future, "But I will declare for ever; I will sing praises to the God of Jacob" (Ps 75:9). What praises do we sing? "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for *the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song*; he also is become my salvation. 3 Therefore *with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation*. 4 And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. 5 Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth. 6 Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee" (Isa 12:2-6).

That is the Lord our God! To declare anything else would be utterly inappropriate!

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