

All the Prayers of God's People Prayers of Praise

Scripture repeatedly gives us examples of praising God, especially in our prayer life. Below are a few of these moments where God's people praised.

Deuteronomy 3:24: "O Lord GOD, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your mighty hand, for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do anything like Your works and Your mighty deeds?"

Job 37:22-24: "He comes from the north as golden splendor; with God is awesome majesty. As for the Almighty, we cannot find Him; He is excellent in power, in judgment and abundant justice; He does not oppress. Therefore, men fear Him; He shows no partiality to any who are wise of heart."

Job 42:1-2: "Then Job answered the LORD and said: 'I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.'"

1 Samuel 2:1-2: "And Hannah prayed and said: 'My heart rejoices in the LORD; my horn is exalted in the LORD. I smile at my enemies because I rejoice in Your salvation. No one is holy like the LORD, for there is none besides You, nor is there any rock like our God.'"

Psalms 8:1-9: "O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth, who have set Your glory above the heavens!"

Psalms 63:3-8: "Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You."

Even the prophets praised God.

Isaiah 25:1: "O LORD, You are my God. I will exalt You, I will praise Your name, for You have done wonderful things; Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth."

Daniel 4:37: "Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down." (Even evil kings can learn to praise God!)

Jonah 2:7-9: "When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the LORD; and my prayer went up to You, into Your holy temple. Those who regard worthless idols forsake their own Mercy. But I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD"

The New Testament offers multiple prayers of praise and thanksgiving Jesus taught that personal prayer should be done in private (Matthew 6:6). However, some important or public prayers are recorded in the New Testament as examples for us. Here are a few:

Luke 1:46-55: “And Mary said: ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior’.”

Luke 2:13-14: “And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!’”

Ephesians 1:15-19: “Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His might power.”

Revelation 4:9-11: “Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: ““You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.””

The Lord’s Prayer, “Hallowed be Your name”: Jesus teaches us to pray with praise considering His other instructions to avoid “vain repetitions” (Matthew 6:7), Jesus wasn’t telling us exact words to repeat over and over. He was giving us an approach to prayer, an outline to use by filling in our own heartfelt words and thoughts, beginning with praise!

Sometimes, though, we find ourselves simply struggling to keep praise on our lips, absorbed in the truth of our worldly environment instead. Isaiah 61:3 prescribes a "garment of praise" for this reality. When we are having trouble putting on that garment, we are called to claim the names and attributes of our Creator. Let's pray these words together and get our eyes off our worldly troubles and on our God who deserves our praise! The following prayer is adapted from **Rebecca Barlow Jordan**, *an inspirational author, speaker, and passionate follower of Jesus who loves to encourage others heart to heart.*

Abba, Father, you are the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. You are my Creator and my Counselor, guiding me daily to make wise decisions. You are my Comforter in sorrow, pain, or

distress. I praise you for drawing near to me when I draw near to you. You are the God and you are Eternal, Lord. You are my heavenly Father, and the father of the fatherless, my eternal mother who shelters me under your wings. How great are you and your faithfulness, God, day in and day out.

You are holy, yet you made a way for me to approach you in prayer. I praise you for being my Helper, and for your Holy Spirit's conviction, correction, and protection in my life. You are invisible, but I see you with eyes of faith. You are Jehovah God, the One who provides for all my needs. I praise you as my Jehovah Rapha, my God who heals, and for being Jehovah Rah, My faithful Shepherd. You are not just King, but you are King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. And yes, you are Jesus, the name above all names.

With my whole heart I praise you, God. You are Messiah, the soon and coming King. You are omniscient; you know all things. You are omnipresent; everywhere at all times. You are my Peace, my Protector, and the High Priest who became my Redeemer and Sacrifice forever. You died to set me free; you rose again and gave me victory over death. No longer am I enslaved in sin; you are my Salvation, my Rescuer and my Refuge. You give me hope within.

I praise you because you are trustworthy and true. You are my Teacher, and your understanding and wisdom is beyond finite minds; you promise wisdom to me when I ask. You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Lord, I love that you delight in me and that you rejoice over me with singing. You know the number of hairs on my head, and you are always thinking of me.

You are preparing a place for me so that one day I will live with you forever. Maybe then—and only then—will I be able to praise you adequately in a way not possible here on earth—the way you *truly* deserve. All my love, all my praise to you. Lord, oh, Lord. How excellent is your name in which I pray! Amen

Whenever we find ourselves in a difficult place, when anxiety, fear, depression or simply being overwhelmed is weighing on us, let us look to the Lord in proclaiming whom God is and don our garment of praise. Lord, hear our prayers.