

Breakthrough To Glory

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Revival Is Here!

Awesome manifestations of God's glory are being experienced as God is moving in revival around the world. Believers are feeling an overwhelming drawing to come, live and abide in the presence of God. Lives are being transformed as believers are overwhelmed by the awesome glory of God's presence.

Unbelievers are being supernaturally drawn to meetings. They are running to the altars to repent and meet Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

Churches are hungering and thirsting for more of God. They are lifting Jesus up in high praise and prolonged intimate worship. We are in the time of fulfillment of Jesus' words, "If I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all peoples to Myself" (John 12:32).

Years ago, we parked our car at a large church in Southern California on Sunday morning. As we got out, we felt a powerful desire to be in the church, and we almost ran across the parking lot and into the building. The service started as usual with the choir singing, but this morning the presence of God was so strong, we were almost in tears. One of the pastors prayed, and the presence of God became even stronger. Almost in a whisper, the senior pastor asked, "Is there anyone here who would like to receive Jesus as your Savior?" Instantly the aisles were full of people streaming forward to get right with God.

People are longing for a real touch from God. They are in desperate need for breakthroughs in their marriages, families, health and finances. They long to experience God in a new way.

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As David exclaimed, our God is the God of the Breakthrough

God of the Breakthrough

One spring we had an unusual amount of rain in our mountain valley. The large man-made lake was full almost to the point of overflowing, and they opened the flood gates of the dam, to relieve the pressure. Soon the people in our valley were talking about the unusual sight. The calls went from one house to another. "Have you seen the front of the dam? You must take time to go to the look-out point! You must see what is happening!"

The water was not just flowing through the gates and down the face of the dam. It was bursting through the gates with such tremendous force that it was shooting into the air at least forty feet and then tumbling down to the stream below.

When David was anointed king over all Israel, it was his third and highest anointing. As a young man, he was anointed by Samuel to be the future king. Years later, he was anointed the King of Judah. But now, he was anointed King of all Israel. What an honor! Now he could sit back and relax. He had it made. The struggle was over – or was it?

The minute the Philistines heard of this anointing, they came against David – not against the nation of Israel, but against David personally. They knew his anointing, his strength, and their goal was to destroy him.

Just as the demonic forces knew the power of David's anointing in that day, they know the power of God's

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anointing to break every yoke of bondage in our time, and they still try to stop those anointed by God.

But let's read the story in 2 Samuel, Now when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David.

And David heard of it and went down to the stronghold.

The Philistines also went and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim.

David knew with God's help, he could defeat the enemy. But he also knew, that to win, he must first hear from God.

David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand?"

And the LORD said to David, "Go up, for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into your hand."

How exciting! God is still saying to His people, "Go up! Have faith in me and I will deliver your enemies into your hands!"

Baal Perazim

So David went to Baal Perazim, and David defeated the Philistines there. He said, "The LORD has broken through my enemies before me, like a breakthrough of water." Therefore he called the name of that place Baal Perazim (2 Samuel 5:17-20).

Imagine the mighty forces of God, breaking through the enemies. The force we saw as the water burst through the dam in our valley, was nothing compared to this!

Samuel said, "David defeated them there," but notice that David immediately gave the glory to the Lord. He said,

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“The Lord has broken through my enemies before me, like a breakthrough of water.”

The name of the place of David’s victory, Baal Perazim means “He is Lord of the Breakthrough!” David knew the Lord of the Breakthrough.

The enemy may be coming against us from all directions. Spirits of poverty, depression and discouragement, those things that war against our mind, doubt and unbelief, spirits of sickness and pain, are the Philistines in our lives.

When they come, it’s time for us to run to the stronghold, to inquire of the Lord, and then to go out and defeat the enemy. It’s time for us to know the God of the Breakthrough in our lives!

It’s encouraging to talk about a breakthrough, but what is it we need to break through?

The Veil of Darkness

The prophet Isaiah tells us that there is a veil of darkness that has been cast over this earth. He wrote about this covering of darkness in two passages:

For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people... (Isaiah 60:2a).

And He will destroy on this mountain the surface of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations (Isaiah 25:7).

We’ve been in over sixty nations of the world including places of great spiritual darkness. We’ve experienced evil, depressed, spiritually dark places! We have been in villages

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where no one has ever heard of Jesus, where there were idols and idol worship everywhere we looked.

But idolatry is not only erecting statues and bowing down before them. Even where the gospel is known, there are other types of idolatry. Idolatry is anything that exalts itself above God – anything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.

There is a spiritual darkness that covers our cities, our states and our countries. It covers our nation as well as the other nations of the earth.

Lucifer Created to Cover

The prophet Ezekiel, going back to eternity past, wrote that Lucifer was the anointed cherub that covers.

You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones (Ezekiel 28:14).

Lucifer was created to cover; to be a covering was his nature. In heaven, he provided a covering of praise and worship before the throne of God. We have come to despise the name Lucifer, but it actually means “Hallelujah.” At one time, Lucifer was praise, but then, he rebelled against God. He was cast out of heaven to the planet Earth. It’s still his nature to cover. But the covering he now has is not a beautiful covering of radiant light, reflecting the glory of God before the throne of God, it’s a covering of spiritual darkness.

What is the veil of darkness?

The apostle Paul wrote, **But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has**

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blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them (2 Corinthians 4:3,4).

It's a covering of darkness designed to prevent the glory of God from shining through.

In Ephesians we are told, **We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12).**

The god of this world, Satan, has assigned rulers of darkness over every territory. But we are the church of Jesus Christ. We are His body. We are to be territorial, cutting-edge believers. Our main function is to cut through the darkness so that the light of the glory of the gospel of Christ can shine through to the unbelievers in our territory.

How can we cut through the veil of darkness?

Daniel's Breakthrough

God has given us an example of the battle in the heavenlies in the tenth chapter of Daniel. Remember how Daniel set himself to pray and fast before God? He fasted and prayed all day, and there was no answer. He fasted and prayed another day, and another day, until a whole week had passed. But nothing seemed to happen. Daniel didn't give up. He went on eight, nine, ten days and the second week passed and still nothing seemed to happen.

Daniel continued to pray and fast. He didn't say "I guess this doesn't work." Twenty days and still no answer, but Daniel remained faithful and on the twenty-first day, breakthrough came!

What did the angel tell Daniel?

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Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me” (Daniel 10:13,14a).

Through Daniel we see the importance of continuing faithfully to seek God. Day after day, week after week, year after year, if need be, until the breakthrough comes. It’s not always easy, but we can win, if we don’t give up.

The Glory of the Lord

Isaiah wrote, For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Lift up your eyes all around, and see: they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be nursed at your side. Then you shall see and become radiant... (Isaiah 60:2-5a).

From Isaiah, we learn that the glory of God will arise upon you and upon us. The glory of God that is going to arise and break through is going to be on us!

What is this glory of God?

We used to try and picture the glory of God. Maybe it would be a radiance in the sky like a special cloud, or a shimmering haze. Perhaps, the glory of God would be like an unbelievably large spotlight in the sky that focused here and there on the earth.

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But Isaiah wrote that the glory was something that was going to arise upon us. The glory of God which is going to break through, is going to be seen upon us!

Earth Will be Full of His Glory

In Numbers we read, ...but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD (Numbers 14:21).

Isaiah wrote, The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea (Isaiah 11:9b).

Habakkuk expanded on this when he wrote, For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14).

We used to assume that when God's glory came it would flow like a huge wave over the whole earth. It would fill the earth as the waters cover the seas. We thought the glory of God would come as a sovereign act of God and have nothing to do with what we did.

But Isaiah wrote that the glory of the Lord was going to arise upon you – upon us – upon believers. We are very much involved!

It's time we ask ourselves if we're ready for His glory. This move of the Spirit of God, this last great wave of revival, this last great harvest, will be the glory of God. And this glory will be on the lives and faces of His people.

What a wonderful promise! The glory of the Lord is going to fill the whole earth as the water covers the sea. Is there any dry place in the sea? Is there any nook or cranny under the sea that is dry? When God fulfills this promise, there will not be any place on earth that is not filled with the glory of God!

The Presence of God

What is the glory of God? It's the presence of God. It's His presence shown clearly, and demonstrated plainly. The glory of God can also be called the anointing. It's the radiance of God. It's light.

And the city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it, and the Lamb is its light (Revelation 21:23).

But, how can it be that the radiant glory of God's presence can arise upon us? Is there any biblical illustration of this?

Shown on Moses' Face

Moses is a wonderful example. He came into the presence of God and stayed there for forty days and forty nights. And we read that when he came down from God's presence, the glory of God was all over him. It so radiated from him that he covered his face with a veil.

Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the Testimony were in Moses' hand when he came down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him. So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face (Exodus 34:29,30,33).

Moses was in God's presence and the glory of the Lord radiated from his face! The glory of the Lord had arisen upon him!

Breakthrough to Glory Shown on Stephen's Face

We have another example of the glory of the Lord being on someone's face in the New Testament. Before Stephen was stoned, he was speaking to the council and, all who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel (Acts 6:15).

Stephen knew and referred to "the God of glory." He said, "Men and brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory... (Acts 7:2a).

Stephen's breakthrough came in the midst of great persecution. They were gnashing at him with their teeth and preparing to stone him.

But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" (Acts 7:55,56).

An Example for Today

Moses and Stephen are examples of what will still happen when we come and linger in God's presence.

We were created to radiate God's glory. Adam and Eve were clothed in that glory until they sinned.

Isaiah told us we were created for glory. ... everyone who is called by My name, whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him (Isaiah 43:7).

Soon after we received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, we went through a heavy transition time. We lost most of our friends, our church family, and even our jobs since we worked for a Christian, but "non-Pentecostal" organization. It was not an easy time, but because of our new-found

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relationship with God, it was a joyful time. We spent hours praising God for who He was, for the new-found reality that He was in our lives, for the miracles He was doing around us, and through us.

During this time, A.L. and I had gone to our new church about half an hour before the service started and I was spending this time in prayer. Suddenly I felt everyone around me turn and look up the aisle. Since Hollywood celebrities often visited, I turned to look, too. I was so surprised. The people were looking at A.L. as he came down the aisle to join me. I saw him, as they were seeing him, and a supernatural glow was radiating from his face. God was so present for us in the midst of our personal time of trouble that His presence could actually be seen on A.L.'s face that morning.

I never wear perfumes or colognes, but during this same time, people often asked me what fragrance I was wearing. Until they asked, I wasn't even aware of the fragrance.

Now we know these were two manifestations of God's presence.

Often, you can see a glow coming from the face of people when they are ministering. It's the anointing of God, the glory of God, or the presence of God visible on their faces.

The reports of this glory on the faces of Bible characters may be the reason so many early artists depicted them with halos over their heads.

The Priests in the Temple

The glory of God is described in another place in the Old Testament.

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Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim.

And it came to pass when the priests came out of the Most Holy Place ... and the Levites who were the singers ... clothed in white linen, having cymbals, stringed instruments and harps, and with them one hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets.

Indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying: “For He is good, for His mercy endures forever,” that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God (2 Chronicles 5:7,11-14).

Notice the words – the house of the Lord was filled. The presence of the Lord filled the building and the priests couldn’t even stand to minister. They were overwhelmed – overpowered – by the glory of God’s presence.

This is still happening. One time, when we were visiting a church in Texas, the minister was using a glass of water to illustrate how we were to come back to the Word, back to the Lord, over and over, just like we would get another drink of water every time we were thirsty. Each time he wanted to illustrate this point, he would return to the pulpit and take another sip from the clear glass of water.

But something supernatural was happening. Every time he took a drink of water, he was being more and more overwhelmed by the power of the Holy Spirit. For a time, he didn’t seem to notice. But as he took one more sip of water, he suddenly stopped teaching and clung to the

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pulpit. He couldn't stand by himself. "Honestly," he declared, "There's nothing in this glass but water!"

When the morning service ended, no one left. Spontaneously, everyone stood and began to praise and worship God. The praise team quickly took up their instruments, and one person after another lead in praise and worship and this continued for about an hour and a half.

When we truly come into the presence of God, it's life-changing – transforming us more and more into the image of God.

In Malaysia, after we had taught on *Breakthrough to Glory*, we entered a time of high praise and prolonged intimate worship. Suddenly, the power of God surged through the auditorium. Almost everyone was slain under the power of God. The pastor and his wife fell forward on the floor and they didn't get up for about an hour and a half. The assistant pastor fell backwards. His body balanced across the backs of three theater seats and he remained there for about forty-five minutes. In the natural, this would have been painful, and it would have been impossible for him to stay there.

In city after city where we have taught on this subject and then led the people into breakthrough worship, hundreds have been healed as they came and began to walk through the "power spot" of God's glory at the front of the auditorium.

God is Baal Perazim; He is the God of the Breakthrough. And when the breakthrough comes, the glory of God takes over.

When we come into the presence of God, we are changed!

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Paul wrote, But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Isaiah wrote, Arise, shine; For your light has come! and the glory of the LORD is risen upon you (Isaiah 60:1).

Even though there is gross spiritual darkness covering the earth, we have a promise that God's glory is going to arise, that there is going to be a breakthrough in the Spirit.

Building Altars of Worship

Everywhere Abraham, Isaac and Jacob went they built altars and worshiped God. And almost every time, there's a record of an appearance of angels, or of a theophany – an appearance of God – in the very place where they built the altar. Could it be that it is a coincidence that this happened right after they built an altar and worshiped God? No!

When we worship God we are making a spiritual sacrifice. We are building spiritual altars. Something very real, powerful and tangible happens in the spirit realm when we build altars through worship.

David wrote, I will freely sacrifice to You; I will praise Your name, O LORD, for it is good (Psalm 54:6).

Jeremiah wrote, The voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voice of those who will say: "Praise the LORD of hosts, for the LORD is good, for His mercy endures forever" – and of those who will bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the LORD (Jeremiah 33:11).

In a Soccer Stadium

One time we were ministering with some evangelists in Brazil. Thousands had just received the baptism with the Holy Spirit and they were standing shoulder to shoulder praising God in their new language. The atmosphere became electrifying as they continued on and on, shouting praises to God. Suddenly, it was as if a crack of thunder came from the clear blue sky. And at that instant, a paraplegic young man whose spinal column had been completely severed, leaped from his wheelchair. He hit the ground running and ran about two-thirds of the way around the soccer field to the platform. He was completely healed by the power of God!

An Awesome Place!

When Abraham left Ur and journeyed to Canaan, he came to Bethel.

Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him (Genesis 12:7).

This is the first time we are told that Abraham built an altar.

Over three hundred years later, Abraham’s grandson, Jacob, came back to Bethel. He took one of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep (Genesis 28:11 KJV).

Picture what happened. Jacob hadn’t planned to spend the night at a certain place. He was just tired and this “happened” to be where he was. Sounds a little like the “just happened” in our lives, doesn’t it? Jacob was so tired,

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he used a rock for a pillow! We always wonder at these little, seemingly insignificant details in the Bible. Why is it important that Jacob put his head on a stone? Why is this fact recorded for us to read thousands of years later? We believe that so many years had passed since Abraham built the altar that it had broken apart and the stones had become somewhat scattered. Jacob took one of these very stones and used it for his pillow.

Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants" (Genesis 28:12,13).

God renewed His promise of the land to Jacob at the same place He had first given it to Abraham.

Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it."

And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!" (Genesis 28:16,17).

When Abraham built the first altar and offered a sacrifice to God, there was a breakthrough in the veil of darkness that covered that place. It took time to gather the stones and build the altar. It took time to prepare and make the sacrifice. But Abraham took the time and there was an opening in the heavenlies.

When Abraham built the altar and worshiped God something real and tangible happened in the spirit realm.

When Jacob woke up he said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I didn't know it! How awesome is this place."

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Jacob recognized this opening. He knew it was a gate to heaven – a place where the angels were ascending and descending – that God was there and that God spoke to him.

For years, we have read this passage and never considered the Bible might mean exactly what it said – that this was an awesome place – a house of God – a gate to heaven.

Something definite happens in the spirit realm when we truly worship God. When we build spiritual altars of worship, we tear a hole in the veil of darkness that is cast over our territory to hold back the glory of God.

In Isaiah God said, **He will destroy on this mountain the surface of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations (Isaiah 25:7).**

As we go where God sends us, we have a key for breakthrough in that area and it makes no difference how strongly the rulers of darkness have held back the gospel. We can tear a hole through the veil of darkness in that place and let the King of Glory come in.

David Opened the Gates

David wrote about Jacob and then about the gates. This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, **Who seek Your face.**
Selah

Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle.

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Lift up your heads, O you gates! And lift them up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah (Psalm 24:6-10).

David knew how to worship. It is interesting to note that first David was a mighty worshiper of God, and then he became a mighty warrior.

It's Happening Today!

If we spend time building spiritual altars by worshiping God and being in His presence, we have a promise – the King of glory shall – not might – shall come in. The King of glory will fill the territory once ruled by the prince ruler of darkness.

Years ago, when we were still in the business world, we had a group of friends meeting in our home on Tuesday nights. We would share what God was doing in our lives and give praise and worship to God, and the glory of God would come week after week. People started bringing their friends and they were being saved, delivered, baptized in the Holy Spirit, and healed. We didn't think about it, but there was one area in our living room where we usually prayed and ministered.

One Wednesday morning, Joyce was on her way to the kitchen to fix breakfast and as she passed through this area in the living room she had her hands up praising the Lord when she suddenly fell to the floor.

I felt a strange bump in the house and then heard her calling me. I came running to see what had happened.

“A.L.,” she said, “start praising the Lord with your hands in the air and walk over here.” I did, and I too fell to the floor. From that morning until we moved away, you had

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to be careful if you were praising the Lord in that area of the house, or you would be on the floor. Something real and tangible had happened to the area where we spent hours in praise and worship. From that morning on, we called it our “power spot” and loved to put people who needed ministry right in the middle of our special place.

A church we have visited in Baguio, The Philippines, met in a rented building. They started every service singing the chorus, “What a Mighty God We Serve.” This continued for years until they moved to a larger building. A few months later, the missionaries’ daughter was at a political banquet and the man across from her asked if she was connected with the church. “Yes,” she replied, and he told her he had rented the building for his business and some “strange” things were happening. He didn’t tell her, but she knew his business was prostitution. He said they couldn’t keep a cook because when they came downstairs in the morning to get breakfast they heard the walls singing “What a Mighty God We Serve.” Every time they hung their sexually enticing pictures on the walls, they would be on the floor the next morning. He was bemoaning the fact, that this building was “haunted” and his business was being forced to move!

We were in a civic auditorium in Canada where years before a friend had an awesome vision of the Holy Spirit coming in as a wondrous dove whose wingtips touched both sides of the building. As we spoke of her vision and let our minds imagine again what had happened, the power of God became so real we had to catch the seats near us to stay on our feet.

There is something awesome about the places where we build altars and offer sacrifices of praise and worship to

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God. The places where we continue seeking God, He will visit and His glory will break through!

When we open gates in praise and worship, God's glory will come and fill the place, fill the town or city, fill our state, and fill our nation. Oh, we have His promise – His glory will some day fill the earth as the waters cover the sea.

Watch the Sheep and Worship

As a boy, David watched the sheep in the fields outside the town of Bethlehem where he lived with his family. Most of the time, this could be considered a boring job. But David was a worshiper of God. He would sit with his harp, watching the sheep while he praised and worshiped God hour after hour.

Is it just a coincidence that it was in the same shepherds' field, hundreds of years later, that the angels broke through singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill toward men?"

Was it just a happenstance, or had David opened the gates to heaven in that place? There was a breakthrough in the heavenlies, and the angels appeared in that place at the birth of Jesus.

A friend of ours was going through a hard time in his personal life one Christmas season. He took a job with the Salvation Army supervising others, and also manning one of their kettles for donations. He loves to play the trumpet and took it with him to play Christmas songs. He played the usual Christmas songs, but sometimes he would just point his trumpet to the heavens and begin praising and worshipping the Lord.

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One day, a man walked up to him and said, “You’re breaking holes in the veil!” Our friend finished the short phrase he was playing and turned to thank the man, but – he was gone. There hadn’t been enough time for him to walk into one of the stores, or to his car, but he was nowhere in sight. Could he have seen an angel? “You’re breaking holes in the veil,” what an encouragement!

Just as David, just as our friend, we can be doing our normal work and praising God at the same time.

David wrote, I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth (Psalm 34:1).

The writer of the book of Hebrews wrote, Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name (Hebrews 13:15).

Sacrifice Your Son

The first time worship was mentioned in the Old Testament, was when Abraham was to offer his son Isaac in the land of Moriah. What an awesome act of worship! This intense sacrifice is so important that we have included the entire scripture reference.

And He said, “Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”

So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off.

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And Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.”

So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father!”

And he said, “Here I am, my son.”

And he said, “Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?”

And Abraham said, “My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.” And the two of them went together.

Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!”

And he said, “Here I am.”

And He said, “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.”

Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. And Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, “In the Mount of The LORD it shall be provided” (Genesis 22:2-14).

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Have you ever wondered why Abraham was forced to wait so long for the fulfillment of the promise of a son? Year after year, he believed God, but still there was no son.

So many times in our own lives, we are concerned with the fulfillment of a promise, but God is concerned with the development of the person.

God was developing the strength of character in Abraham – the strength of his faith – so that when the time came, Abraham could willingly offer his only son as a sacrifice. Year after year, Abraham knew God more.

Why did God say “take your only son?” Was He thinking forward to the time He would be offering His only Son?

Have you ever wondered what God shared with Abraham as he and Isaac were walking together to the mountain God would show them? God had said, ... the mountains of which I shall tell you. What did He tell him?

Many Bible scholars believe that Jesus was crucified years later in the same place Abraham built this altar for the sacrifice of Isaac.

The Bible is not a book of coincidences. There are no unrelated, random events. Abraham’s act of obedience in building an altar of worship on Mount Moriah had a special significance in the spirit realm. He opened the gates to heaven in preparation for an even greater sacrifice to take place. He was willing to offer his only son in the same place God would offer His only Son thousands of years later.

Abraham named this place Jehovah-Jireh. This is one of the prophetic redemptive names of Jesus. It was a prophecy

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of the coming sacrifice, and it means, “In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen (KJV), or “In the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

What was seen? What was provided?

The Lamb of God that would take away the sins of the world – our Substitute Redeemer!

Praise Brings Breakthrough

Put the Praisers First!

The victory of King Jehoshaphat and the armies of Judah is one of the greatest examples of victorious breakthrough through praise and worship. They were surrounded by the armies of three nations. They were hopelessly outnumbered. But King Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah knew what to do – they began to seek the Lord.

It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat. And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the LORD. Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel ... and he said, “Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: ‘Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God’s.

You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and

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Jerusalem!’ Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you.”

And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the LORD, worshiping the LORD.

Then the Levites ... stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with voices loud and high.

Notice the boldness with which they praised the Lord, “with voices loud and high.” They weren’t whispering, They weren’t hiding from the enemy.

And when he (Jehoshaphat). had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: “Praise the LORD, for His mercy endures forever.”

They weren’t yelling at Satan, they weren’t flaunting their weapons – physical or spiritual. They were praising God for who He was. They were worshiping the Lord.

When God’s people began to sing and to praise Him, something very powerful happened in the spirit. The Lord sent ambushments.

The people of Ammon and Moab destroyed the people of Mount Seir. And then the people of Ammon and Moab destroyed each other.

Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.

For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy them. And when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

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So when Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude; and there were their dead bodies, fallen on the earth. No one had escaped (Found in 2 Chronicles 20.).

What happened when the people began to praise the Lord? Mass confusion came on the enemy. They turned on one another and killed themselves.

The word of the Lord came to Jehoshaphat and the people when they were surrounded and outnumbered. The word of the Lord said, “Don’t be afraid.” And today, even though the devil looks like he has us outnumbered, even though there is a gross darkness that covers our territory, God says don’t be afraid or dismayed.

Faith cannot work in an atmosphere of fear. If we’re going to receive our breakthrough, fear has to go. We cannot be afraid, dismayed, discouraged, or disgruntled and operate in faith.

The battle’s not ours, but God’s. We should learn to seek God and to battle God’s way. God’s word to Jehoshaphat was “Position yourself,” and that position was one of worship. We are told in Chronicles that they all bowed before the LORD, worshipping the LORD.

Imagine what we may have been thinking in their situation. We can have a song service later. Right now we’re surrounded. The enemy is going to get us. We’re going to be hauled off as slaves. It’s great to praise the Lord, and we will after we get out of this mess, but right now it’s time to fight. It’s time to scream and shout at the enemy.

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But Jehoshaphat, all Judah, and all the inhabitants of Israel bowed before the Lord. They began to praise God, and the breakthrough came.

To have breakthrough in our lives, we must position ourselves by praising and worshiping God. We must come to Him for direction, listen to Him, and then do as He says.

The President of Zambia, Frederick Chiluba, gave the following testimony at a large church in Houston, Texas on January 30, 2000.

The Lord had awakened him at two o'clock in the early morning, and he began to praise and worship God. About an hour later, the Military Commander came in with horrible news. There was a powerful political uprising and it looked as though he would be thrown out of government. His forces were being overrun. There was no escape and he and his family would probably either be imprisoned for life, or killed!

What did President Chiluba do? He continued praising and worshiping God! About an hour passed and the Commander came in again. "Things might be changing," he reported.

What did the President do? He continued praising and worshiping God. Another two hours passed and the Commander came in one more time – the revolt had failed. His government was safe!

Sounds just like biblical times, doesn't it?

Let God Arise

It's a sad fact, but many believers are divided today. Some argue about doctrine, or the times of the services, or the color of the carpet. Isaiah wrote, *All we like sheep have*

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gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way. Everyone seems to want his or her own way. Churches are full of this committee and that committee trying to work out their differences.

Many believers, knowing the disunity in the church, think of the enemy as being strong, powerful, committed, and unified. But the enemy is in unity over just one thing – its hatred of everyone who believes in Jesus and its hatred for God.

We need to change our mental picture of Satan and his demons. By their very nature, they are rebels. They aren't in unity under Satan's authority. Their nature is hate. They argue and fight over everything. The defeat of Mount Seir, Ammon and Moab when they came against Jehoshaphat is an illustration of this disunity!

Yes, there is a governing structure, but the rulers of darkness are very territorial. They are arguing with one another over who has which rights.

Our enemies, in eternity past, were the praisers and worshipers of God. Today, they hate the sound of praise and worship. It reminds them of their past and how greatly they have fallen. In their hatred, they are thrown into mass confusion, and in their confusion, they will turn and destroy one another.

Powerful things happen in the spirit world when we praise and worship God.

David wrote, *Let God arise, Let His enemies be scattered; let those also who hate Him flee before Him (Psalm 68:1).*

He also wrote, *Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand (Psalm 149:6).*

Isaiah wrote, *For through the voice of the LORD Assyria will be beaten down, who struck with a rod. And in every place where the*

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staff of punishment passes, which the LORD lays on him, it will be with tambourines and harps; and in battles of brandishing He will fight with it (Isaiah 30:31,32).

May we reword and shorten these verses? “For through the voice of the LORD, Assyria will be beaten down, and it will be with tambourines and harps.”

Powerful things happen in the spirit world when we forget about ourselves, and forget about the demons and Satan. Powerful things happen as we begin to focus on God – to praise God and worship Him – and worship Him – and worship Him.

We were praying with a group of people in our valley when God told us about one of the strongest entrances to evil in our valley. He said a certain hotel was a powerful gate for evil. There were several nude statues around the building and more used inside as part of the decor. We asked God what we were to do about it, because we know that when God shows us something, there is always an action we can take.

We were led us to hold a Praise and Worship Seminar in a church which was located right beside this hotel. Thursday night, Friday night, and Saturday morning we praised and worshipped God. Nothing was said about the reason for holding the seminar at this place at this particular time. We had a wonderful time praising God, but in the natural, nothing seemed to change. But we had done what God had led us to do. Within a few months, the hotel was sold to a national chain, the statues and the evil influence were gone.

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We set our hearts to worship God, and just as David wrote, God did arise and His enemies, our enemies, were scattered and in our situation, they did flee from our valley!

Praise in the Midst of Adversity

Paul and Silas at Philippi are a great example of praise and worship bringing victory. At the beginning, it didn't look like victory – it looked like defeat! They had been stripped naked, beaten, and locked into stocks in the most filthy dungeon you can imagine.

If anyone ever had the right to question what was happening, they did. How had they missed God? Why were they in this situation? Why was God allowing this to happen to them? They could even be killed in the morning!

Being locked in stocks for hours, unable to move, would cause terrible pain, but they were also in tremendous pain from being beaten. Every time they moved, the open slashes on their bodies would throb in agony. How could they keep the moans from escaping?

About midnight, in the darkest hour, when it seemed like the enemy had them totally defeated, a sound was heard coming from that dungeon. Not a sound of moaning, or complaining, not a sound of yelling at the devil and his demons, but a sound of praise, a sacrifice of praise was heard. Paul and Silas began to sing to God. They were positioning themselves for breakthrough.

Suddenly, the jail began to shake – their chains fell off – the prison doors flew open. There was breakthrough in that place, and not only Paul and Silas but all the prisoners were set free! The devil thought he had them safely locked

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up, but God set them free and salvation came to the jailer and his family.

When the body of Christ – we – stop wanting to have things our own way, when we stop reasoning away the power of God, when we stop questioning if God's Word means what it says, when we stop complaining over every imagined snub, when we start offering God praise and worship continually, we are going to be set free! Others are going to be set free! The people around us will be affected! Unbelievers and their whole households will be saved. God's glory will break through. God's glory will arise upon us.

Jesus said, **If you are filled with light within, with no dark corners, then your face will be radiant too, as through a floodlight is beamed upon you (Luke 11:36 Tyndale Living Bible).**

Ushering in the presence of God, letting the glory of God arise upon us, requires sacrifice. It requires that the dark corners in our lives be cleaned out – no more unforgiveness, no more complaining, no more wanting our own way. It means making Jesus Lord of our lives in every area.

Going Back to the Original Ministry

In eternity past, before the fall of Lucifer, there was only one ministry. That was ministry to the Lord – the angels gathered round the throne worshiping Him day and night. Lucifer led this glorious praise, and he began to shine and radiate the glory of God.

We were created to worship God. We were created to minister unto the Lord. We were created to fill the void, the

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emptiness that was left when Lucifer and his angels rebelled and were cast out of heaven.

We were created in God's image to provide a covering of praise and worship to God.

In Ephesians we read, And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all (Ephesians 1:22,23).

We are to be the fullness of Him. What an awesome thought!

It's time to return to this original ministry. It's time for us to position ourselves for breakthrough by becoming true worshippers of God in Spirit and in truth.

As we build altars of worship, we, like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Daniel, and David, will be tearing holes in the veil of darkness over our territory. We will be opening the gates of heaven, so the King of glory can come in. God will manifest Himself again as Baal Perazim – the God of the Breakthrough!

Our hearts should cry with David's, O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.

So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory (Psalm 63:1,2).

It's no longer time to seek the hand of God – to seek what He can do for us. It's time to seek His face – to seek His presence.

John, the beloved disciple, was in heaven and he saw an angel that was so awesome he started to fall at his feet to worship him.

What did the angel say? "Worship God!"

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What happened when he worshiped God? Then I saw heaven opened... (Revelation 19:10,11a).

What Are We to Do?

Worship God

and the heavens will be opened!

Worship God

and The King of Glory will come!

Worship God

and we will be changed!

Worship God

and our breakthrough will come!

**For the earth will be filled with the knowledge
of the glory of the LORD,
as the waters cover the sea!
(Habakkuk 2:14)**