



## **Praising God Makes His Kingdom Come**

(March 18, 2013)

**When Jesus taught his disciples how to pray, he instructed them to pray, “Thy Kingdom come.” In Psalm 22:3, it states that the Lord inhabits the praises of Israel.** In the Swedish translation, it notes that He rules (tronar) in the praises (lovsånger) of Israel.

God created man in his image, meaning that we have been given some of God's traits and personality.

When parents praise their child for doing well, that child will no doubt be glad and excel in what he is doing. However, if that child only receives praise and is never corrected, he will grow up to be like a monster and one day turn on his parents. The time will come when selfishness, pride, and rebellion will make him impossible to handle.

With God, on the other hand, this problem does not exist. The more God is praised for who he really is, the more his glory is released onto the earth and into the lives of those who praise him.

***Praising God makes His Kingdom come near to us and expand in our lives. It also sets us free from demonic bondage because it brings his presence.***

***Giving all the Praises and all the Glory to the Lord for all good things in our lives is true humility, and it will indeed fill our hearts with abundance of joy and liberty.***

His Word says that in His presence there is fullness of joy, and where the Spirit of Lord is, there is liberty. Praise the Lord! (Psalm 22:3; 2 Corinthians 3:17)

The story about Paul and Silas is a strong example of this very fact. In Acts 16, it reads about how Paul and Silas were ministering in Philippi, and how Paul cast a devil of divination out of a damsel, not by his own might, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

***Paul did not act right away but waited many days before he commanded that spirit to come out in Jesus' name! Paul waited for the anointing to move, before he moved.***

This was no doubt that the strongman spirit in that city was ruling through this damsel. Why do I say that? I say it because this one miracle of deliverance brought the whole city to an uproar, and they all decided to both beat and throw Paul and Silas into jail, without a trial.

How did Paul and Silas react to these events? Did they murmur and complain about their mistreatment? No! ***At midnight Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God, and the prisoners heard them.*** (Acts 16:25)

**The praises of Paul and Silas were loud enough for all the prisoners to hear, but above all, the Lord heard their praises, and His presence shook the prison and released everybody in it. Hallelujah!**

That prison became the birthplace of the first Church in Philippi, and the jailer became the first pastor and many of the prisoners, no doubt, became the first members of that church.

**This is what God can do when we praise Him, even in the darkest of life's circumstances. Begin to praise Him today in whatever circumstance you find yourself in and he will turn your life around.**

-Roger Wågsjö