

A FEW FAMOUS PSALMS

Psalm 100

This Psalm is a call to worship, praise, and thank our great God. Herein we find six mandates made to mankind with the goal of inciting deep and genuine exaltation of Him.

Mandate 1: “Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!”

A *joyful noise* is an exuberant shout. It is found most often in the O.T. as a cry to, or in battle. In this context it is expressed to draw attention to Yahweh by all of humanity.

Mandate 2: “Serve the LORD with gladness!”

To serve the Lord with gladness is to joyfully indenture yourself to Yahweh. It is a volitional activity.

Mandate 3: “Come into his presence with singing!”

This phrase implies entrance into the temple, the location of proper Jewish worship, with joyful singing. This strongly suggests that the preferred attitude in approaching worship is joy, happiness, or excitement.

Mandate 4: “Know that the LORD, he is God!”

This mandate calls on humanity to properly understand the position of Yahweh: He is the God of gods. Yahweh (the self-existent one) is God (Gods). (Elohim is plural and is most often used with singular verbs, like *he is God*. The Jews didn’t have a natural trinitarian view of God, but this name or title does seem to easily communicate that understanding.)

In the next two lines the psalmist highlights that we are the workmanship of His own hands, and therefore are in a position of submission. He owns us. He does as He pleases with us. We belong to Him.

Mandate 5: “Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!”

To enter into the presence of God is very literal at the Temple since it was there the Shakina resided. It is also symbolic because worship begins in the heart and may happen anywhere. This context seems to emphasize both in that it addresses heart attitudes, thanksgiving and praise, and the locations, gates and courts.

Mandate 6: “Give thanks to him; bless his name!”

This final mandate is actually dual, or compound: give thanks and bless. Thankfulness seems very straight forward, but how might we bless his name? The idea is to humble yourself to even the majesty of His name. As a matter of fact, the psalmist concludes the psalm with rationale for this humbling, “For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”

Certainly, Yahweh is good and His love and faithfulness are unceasing. In light of such glories, we thank Him and bless His wonderful name.