

A Worship in the Sanctuary (Psalm 134).

- ❖ The priests raised their hands to bless the people (Num. 6:23-26; Lev. 9:22). But, in this psalm the Levites are invited to raise their hands toward the sanctuary and bless the Lord (Ps. 134:2). In both cases, the result is the same: God responds with blessing (Num. 6:27; Ps. 134:3).
- ❖ Who can bless and praise the Lord? Those who minister in the Sanctuary (Ps. 134:1-2); and all who serve the Lord (Ps. 113:1)
- ❖ Since we are all priests called to minister the gospel to the world, we are all called to lift up our hands to the Heavenly Sanctuary, and bless and praise our God (1 Pet. 2:4-5).

B Worship with a new song (Psalm 149).

- ❖ What motivates the psalmist to sing a new song?
 - The joy of knowing his Maker and King (Psalm 149:1-3).
 - Know that God saves him (Psalm 149:4).
 - Remember that God is with him, even in illness (Psalm 149:5).
 - Know that God will ultimately judge all injustices (Psalm 149:6-9).
- ❖ Isaiah invites everyone to also sing a new song (Is. 42:10-12). But what does that song consist of?
- ❖ The new song is the expression of each new experience we live with God: each time we learn something new about his Creation; every time we feel the joy of his presence; every time he comforts us; every time he forgives our sin...

C The worship of the righteous (Psalms 15, 24 and 101).

- ❖ Who is worthy of worship before God? (read Psalm 15; Psalm 24:4; and Psalm 101).
- ❖ He who keeps the commandments and lives in holiness is worthy of worshiping God (Heb. 12:14). Remember that he who does not sin is not righteous or holy, but he who repents and strives to serve God from the heart.

D Multiform worship (Psalm 96).

- ❖ We worship God with songs (Ps. 96:1-2). We worship Him when we tell others about Him (Ps. 96:3), or by inviting them to join in our worship (Ps. 96:7). We worship when we honor His name and bring Him offerings (Ps. 96:8).
- ❖ Worship includes proclaiming that God is King and Judge of humanity (Ps. 96:10; Rev. 14:7).
- ❖ Do we worship God because he is going to judge us? Yeah! Because his judgment is just, and the entire Creation rejoices in it (Ps. 96:11-13).

E Worship in spirit and in truth (Psalms 40, 50 and 51).

- ❖ A fundamental part of worship in the Temple was animal sacrifices. However, in Psalms God renounces sacrifices (Ps. 40:6; 51:16). Because?
- ❖ God does not want sacrifices when the one who offers them acts unjustly against his neighbor; or is unable to recognize in them the spiritual reality they represent; or simply performs them as a mere ritual.
- ❖ Let's be clear: God does not need sacrifices (Ps. 50:9-13). However, he asks us to present them to him (Ps. 50:5). What kind of sacrifices does God demand of us today?
- ❖ God desires that we worship him in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24). Therefore, he accepts the broken spirit as sacrifices (Ps. 51:17); praise (Ps. 50:14, 23; 69:30-31); and obedience (Ps. 40:6-8).