

Genesis 29:35

And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Now I will praise the LORD." Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she stopped bearing.

We have looked at the first instance of “worship, sing, sang and sung” in the bible. So today we will look at the first mention of “Praise” in the bible.

Looking at today’s story, this is in regards to when the Lord had the twelve children of Israel being born. If you know the story of how Jacob (Israel) was to marry Rachel, yet he was cheated by his father-in-law and was given Leah instead, even though Jacob loved Rachel much more than he loved Leah. So the Lord intervened with:

† **Genesis 29:31** *When the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, He opened her womb; but Rachel was barren.*

And then during this time, Leah had four boys, with Judah being the fourth. Notice that Leah said that ***"Now I will praise the LORD." Therefore she called his name Judah.*** The name Judah actually means “praise” or “thanksgiving”.

But do we find it strange that the first time “praise” is mentioned in the bible that it has to do with a woman bearing a child or multiple children? I suppose it would if we just focused on the fact that the Lord allowed her to have children. But don’t you find it interesting that she waited until her fourth child to praise the Lord, instead of doing it with her first child? After all, to be barren was a disgrace to a woman and Leah’s sister Rachel was barren, but the Lord had opened Leah’s womb to have kids. Shouldn’t she have praise the Lord with her first child, seeing that she was not barren?

But at what point do we praise the Lord? Is it when the Lord delivers or supplies for us during those tragic times? What about when we say that the, blessings have stopped, do we stop praising the Lord? That’s just what happened with Leah, did you catch it at the end of today’s devotional verse? ***Then she stopped bearing.***

Wait a minute, I give praise to the Lord and in return He stops blessing me? That would be one mindset, but the other would be that the Lord has blessed me, so I will continue to praise His name, even during those times that it SEEMS He has stopped blessing me. Notice my emphasis on “seems”, I did that because the Lord is ALWAYS blessing us. Yet so much of His blessing we experience all day and night, and we are so used to them that we take them for granted.

How about being saved from going to hell and the blessing of being able to spend eternity in heaven with Jesus? You said the prayer how many months or years ago, and do you forget to praise him for his continued gift of salvation?

How about the simple fact that you have a job, and a home to go to every night, and food to eat, a car to drive, people in your life who love you. Air to breath, water to drink, shoes

to cover your feet, a cup of coffee in the morning, the freedom to read your bible in public and go to church without having to worry that you can be thrown in prison or killed for doing so. Everyday things that we take for granted that most of the world does not have.

But the enemy tries to steal the joy of God's blessing by causing us to focus on what we don't have, which may be one or two things, verses, hundreds of things that the Lord has blessed us with every day.

I saw a posting on Facebook one day that said something to the fact that "*There are 6 billion people on this earth, and are you going to allow one person to ruin your day?*" Simply meaning there are 6 billion people to rejoice with, will you allow one person to ruin your life verses 6 billion to rejoice and be happy with?

So, since you are not getting that one thing you want, should you stop praising the Lord because of it, or should you praise the Lord for His billions of blessing He has given you today?

† **Philippians 4:11-12** *Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.*

We love this verse and say amen to it. But to live it out is to praise the Lord, regardless if we have plenty or nothing at all. I have been on both sides of the fence myself and have learned to praise Him regardless of what state I am in. But we think that, sure when you have plenty it's easy to praise Him. But I think that sort of thinking is backwards. Because when you are in dire need and things are going bad, doesn't it draw you closer to the Lord? Don't you sing the songs louder and raise your hands higher during those times? But when things are going really good, it can cause you to forget about the Lord and can be a dangerous place to be in. One of my favorite Proverbs is:

† **Proverbs 30:7-9** *Two things I request of You (Deprive me not before I die): Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches-- Feed me with the food allotted to me; Lest I be full and deny You, and say, "Who is the LORD?" Or lest I be poor and steal, and profane the name of my God.*

Simply to praise the Lord is not to focus on what you don't have and to use your singing and the raising of your hands to try and get what you want from the Lord. But rather being thankful that He is your Lord and Savior, and that He died on the cross for you, and loves you, regardless of what you are going through right now.

† **1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NLT)** *Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.*

† **Colossians 3:16 (NLT)** *Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.*

Sing out praises to Him right now, simply because He IS God!!! *Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.*