

Psalm 81:1

Sing aloud to God our strength; Make a joyful shout to the God of Jacob.

When we read the book of 1 Samuel. We read of how the Ark of the Covenant was being brought back to Israel after the enemy has captured it. And when it was, that the Children of Israel rejoiced so loud that the earth shook.

† **1 Samuel 4:5** *And when the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel shouted so loudly that the earth shook.*

When I read that, I am reminded that the reason they sang and shouted so loud was, not because it was a cool sounding song, or one of the top 40 hits of Israel during that time. But because they were shouting and singing to the Lord for Who He Is.

So, when I think of that, along with today's verse which says, "***Sing aloud to God our strength; Make a joyful shout to the God of Jacob.***" I have to wonder, what if the church did that every Sunday? What if the neighbors called the police every Sunday because the church was singing so loud and strong unto the Lord, so much so that the ground would literally shake? Once again, not because of the song, but because of Who they are singing to. The Lord of lords and King of kings. The Almighty Awesome God who saved us from our sins.

Yet today in church, people seldom raise their hands in worship, nor do they sing out loud... Unless they like the song, then they will sing loud. Think about that for a moment, if we are singing out loud to only those songs "we like" we have now turned worship into being all about us, and not the Lord.

Now I do admit, there are songs that I really like, and I will sing or play louder with those songs. There are also songs that really speak to my heart about what I am going through, and they remind me of how Awesome our God is, so I sing or play those louder as well.

But have we made worship more about us, even showing up late for church and missing part, or all of the worship? And because we make worship about us, is the church no longer singing out loud or lifting their hands in worship, or even dancing unto the Lord right there where we stand in church. No, I'm not talking about making a show of dancing. But doing more than just standing there with our arms at our side and barely moving, but almost being to the point that we are singing loud and jumping for joy because of Who our God is.

Do we think that when we get to heaven that we will just stand there with our hands folded in front of us, with our head bowed in reverence while we sing a hymn; Or will we be singing songs that glorify the Lord, and singing so loud that even the foundations of the heavens are shaken with the shout of the people in heaven?

So, if we are going to be singing out loud and rejoicing and dancing in heaven, why not start practicing it here on earth right now. Because no matter if we are in heaven, or still here on the earth, God is still God and it's to Him that we sing and rejoice in.

- † **2 Samuel 6:21-22 (MSG)** *David replied to Michal, "In GOD's presence I'll dance all I want! He chose me over your father and the rest of our family and made me prince over GOD's people, over Israel. Oh yes, I'll dance to GOD's glory —more recklessly even than this. And as far as I'm concerned... I'll gladly look like a fool... but among these maids you're so worried about, I'll be honored no end."*

- † **Revelation 5:13** *And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"*

- † **Luke 19:37** *Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen.*