

Cosmic Worship: The Call to all Creation to join the Universal Song of Praise

A. We're called to join the cosmic choir from history past:

- Psalm 100:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the <u>earth</u> . | Call to worship transcends space |
| 2 Serve the Lord with gladness;
come before Him with <u>joyful songs</u> . | Call to worship with joyful songs |
| 3 Acknowledge that <u>Yahweh is God</u> .
<u>He made us</u> , and <u>we are His</u> –
His people, the sheep of His pasture. | Call to worship God and no one else
Call to worship as God's people; not our own |
| 4 Enter <u>His gates</u> with thanksgiving
and <u>His courts</u> with praise.
Give thanks to Him and praise His name. | Call to worship in His presence |
| 5 For <u>Yahweh is good</u> , and His <u>love is eternal</u> ;
His faithfulness endures through <u>all</u>
<u>generations</u> . | Call to worship because of who God is
and who He will be at all times |

- Psalm 96:10-13

- 10 Say among the nations: "The Lord reigns.
The world is firmly established; it cannot be shaken.
He judges the peoples fairly."
11 Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;
let the sea and all that fills it resound.
12 Let the fields and everything in them exult.
Then all the trees of the forest will shout for joy
13 before the Lord, for He is coming–
for He is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with His faithfulness.

- Isaiah 53:6

- We all went astray like sheep;
we all have turned to our own way;
and the Lord has punished Him
for the iniquity of us all.

B. We're called to invite others around us today to join the cosmic choir

- Matthew 28:18-20

- 18 Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- Matt Papa's quote: Illustrating the Great Commission: share in the joy of enjoying God!

- "Something that I have learned about my wife over the years is that she is a food-sharer. There is never a time that we are eating when she does not say to me, in childlike manner, "Try this!" I absolutely love this about my wife, but sometimes, this request puts me in a little predicament. If I don't want what she is offering me, what do I do? I chew, swallow, and smile. Most of the time, what she is offering is absolutely delicious, which is precisely the reason she wanted me to try it. *She enjoyed it, and wants me to share in her enjoyment.*" (Boswell. 80)

- Acts 1:9

9 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- **See Bob Kauflin's quote: the witness of corporate worship**

"Whether it's raised hands, formal liturgies, or unspoken standards, we need to see them through the eyes of an unbeliever...When unbelievers visit [Kauflin's] church, they find people who are awestruck and amazed by the kindness and mercy of God. And we seek to make it clear that God's grace is what has affected us so deeply. We don't meet just to talk about God; we're encountering his gracious presence. And we aren't reluctant to express outwardly what has so affected us inwardly. People show demonstrative emotion all the time at rock concerts and basketball games and no one ever questions it. Why do we think guests will be surprised to see it in people who claim to have the greatest news in the world has ever heard? (Kauflin. 203)

C. We're called when the roll will be called up yonder

- **Revelation 21:22-27**

22 I did not see a sanctuary in it, because the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its sanctuary. 23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because God's glory illuminates it, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 The nations (*one people; many styles*) will walk in its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory (*their indigenous doxology*) into it. 25 Each day its gates will never close (*our song will never cease*) because it will never be night there. 26 They will bring the glory and honor of the nations (*their indigenous doxology*) into it. 27 Nothing profane will ever enter it (*God-honoring doxology*): no one who does what is vile or false, but only those written in the Lamb's book of life.

- **The Korean Church: Indigenous Thanksgiving Festival: *Chusok* (Farhadian)**

- Historically: pagan festival honoring the harvest and the dead during particular month of October
- Missionaries initiate America's form of Thanksgiving: inadvertently *limit* the doxology of a culture
- 2 problems:
 - 1) out of season in November;
 - 2) miss an opportunity to redirect existing components in the pagan festival towards a Biblical celebration: God's provision; Finishing the race surrounded by the cloud of witnesses
- Called to identify and enlist what is indigenous to a group of people in order to revitalize their doxology: "takes local cultures and their values as the basic instrument and a powerful means for presenting, reformulating, and living Christianity" (106)

- **Indigenous to FBC Loxley - the mode of worship that comes naturally to us, fulfill together**

Our culture's obsession with Halloween: GLOW Fest

We will gather in fellowship with the brethren, the visitor, and the lost.

We will freely worship however God convicts us individually in gesture.

We will unite the generations around the truth in song.

We will practice the Ordinances in accordance to Christ's commandments.

We will offer our first-fruits indicating to God all our wealth belongs to God.

We will scatter locally, nationally, and internationally to fulfill the Great Commission.

- **Indigenous to you - the mode of worship that comes naturally to you, fulfill in secret**

Are you a singer? Ising in secret!

Are you a prayer warrior? Intercede in secret!

Are you a writer? Write your praises in secret!

Are you a reader? Hide His word in your heart in secret!

Works Cited

Farhadian, Charles H. *Christian Worship Worldwide: Expanding Horizons, Deepening Practices*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2007

Kauflin, Bob. *Worship matters: Leading Others to Encounter the Greatness of God*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books. 2008.