

# “God’s Word, Alive!”

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A Biblical Teaching Ministry Dedicated to “Holding Forth the Word of Life”  
by Velma Sanders

## “*The Highest Praise*”

Then stood up upon the stairs, of the Levites, Jeshua, and Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani, and cried with a loud voice unto the LORD, their God. Then the Levites, Jeshua, and Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said, Stand up and bless the LORD, your God, for ever

and ever; and *blessed be Thy glorious Name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.* Thou, even Thou, art LORD alone; Thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are in it, the seas, and all that is in them, and Thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshipeth Thee.

*(Nehemiah 9:4-6, King James Version)*

“Praise ye the LORD, Oh, give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? Who can show forth all His praise?” (Psalm 106:1, 2)

With open, passionate movements of the heart and utterances of the mouth, King David, unable to suppress his feelings, is caught up into the majestic wonders and tender mercies of the Lord. The Psalmist, ever seeking to make God’s praises more glorious, invites us to join him in exalting and glorifying the LORD. With the thunderous voice of glory ever increasing in volume and intensity, David in the midst of issuing forth God’s praises, abruptly stops, and ask the question, “Who can?”

Who can among the race of humanity and among the family of God, utter adequately and totally the mighty acts of the Lord? Who can tell all that He has done?

The New Testament Apostle Paul, after a careful examination of God’s grace and dealings with His people, Israel, breaks forth, like David, into a doxology of praise. His words are strikingly similar to those of His elder and distant brother, David. “Oh, the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!” How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been His counselor?” (Romans 9:33, 34)

As Creator and Sustainer of mankind, God has commanded that everything that breathes is to offer unto Him praise. It is with feeble efforts and often stumblings, that we, the Redeemed, make childlike utterances of praising Him. Limited in our knowledge, weak in our strength, distracted in our affections, those of us who know Him, although our knowledge of Him is limited; and love Him, although imperfectly, nonetheless, we praise Him. (Genesis 1:26, 27; Psalm 150:6; Acts 17:28)

Our praises are often, in their conduct and in their power to participate, merely attempts at worship; seldom, if ever, fully successful. Our praises, even when spoken from the “pure in heart,” fall drastically short in their utterance of God and His mighty acts. It is with much effort and continual strivings that we daily press toward the mark of loving the Lord, and therefore, praising Him, with all of our hearts, soul, strength and mind.

To be in perfect love with God; drunk with, drowned in, dissolved by, panting after Him fervently and continually “as the deer after the water path” is no easy effort for man. It is with often brokenness and flowing tears that we beseech the help of Him, who commands our praises, to bring us to the place, over and over, where our praises flow forth effortlessly – without pretension, without strain and without distraction. And even after having this achieved within us, our praises are so scant when compared to His greatness. (Psalms 42:1; 86:11; Luke 10:27)

**The highest praise, therefore, becomes the praise that God alone can give unto Himself. This makes sense. This is logical. It is God only who knows, in total, the riches of His grace, the mystery of His will, the unsearchable riches of Christ, His wonderful works, and His manifold wisdom. (Ephesians 1:6-9; 3:8-11)**

It is God alone who has all of the answers to all the questions that he asks of Job in the 38<sup>th</sup>, 39<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> chapters of the book of Job. It is God only who knows the greatness of His power, who measures the daily load of benefits, the multitude of His mercy, and who pleads successfully without fail His own cause. (Psalms 66:3; 68:19; 69:13; 74:22)

Reminding Moses and the children of Israel of the grandeur of His glory, the Lord speaks in Deuteronomy 32:39, 40, ***“See now that I, even I am He, and there is no god with Me; I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal, neither is there any that can deliver out of My hand. For I lift up My hand to heaven, and say, I live forever.”***

In the book of Revelation, John, “in the Spirit,” beholds the heavenly throne of God. It is around God’s throne, that John sees, four, six-winged creatures, full of eyes. With one accord and in perfect harmony, they continually make one utterance unto the One that sits on the throne. They bear witness to the awesomeness and the high holiness of God by saying, day and night, ***“Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.”*** (Revelation 4:8)

Holiness, in its very nature and essence means, “set apart.” God, who is wholly holy in all of His ways, is “set apart” from His creation on every level. Therefore, God, the perfection of holiness is, likewise, set apart in His praise of Himself.

Our praises are feeble and weak. We cannot even lift our hands long without shifting arms, because of human weakness. “The spirit, indeed, is willing but the flesh is weak.” However,

God is, at all times, His own witness.

The Scriptures over and over reveal God's praises of Himself. Truly, this is the highest praise. God, by virtue of His nature, excellent in all His ways, is solely able to praise Himself to the fullest extent and intensity. .

Introducing Himself to Moses, in Exodus 34:5-8, "***And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there and proclaimed the Name of the LORD. And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.*** Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation. And Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped."

Asaph records for us God's praises of Himself in Psalm 50:10-12, "***For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains, and the wild beasts of the field are mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell thee; for the world is Mine, and all the fullness thereof.***"

Speaking to the Old Testament prophet, Isaiah, God declares of Himself in Isaiah 43:10-13, "Ye are My witnesses, saith the LORD, and My servant whom I have chosen, that ye may know and believe Me, and understand that ***I am He; before Me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after Me. I, even I, am the LORD, and beside Me, there is no savior.*** I have declared and have saved, and I have shown, when there was no strange god among you; therefore, ye are My witnesses, saith the LORD, that ***I am God. Yea, before the day was, I am He; and there is none that can deliver out of My hand; I will work, and who shall hinder it.***"

And again, in Isaiah 41:4, "Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? ***I, the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am He.***"

In the New Testament, Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Godhead, continues the praise. In Revelation 1:8, He unhesitantly says, "***I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning, and the ending, saith the Lord, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.***"

And then, in Revelation 1:17 and 18, "Fear not; ***I am the first and the last; I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen, and have the keys of hell and of death.***"

After seeing just a portion of the glory of the Lord, it is no wonder that the children of Israel asked the question, "***Who is like unto Thee, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like Thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?***" (Exodus 15:11) Nevertheless, God has ordained, for Himself, praise, honor and glory in all places of His dominion. "***Bless the LORD, ye His angels, that excel in strength, that do His commandments, hearkening unto the voice of His word. Bless ye the LORD, all ye His hosts, ye ministers of His, that do His pleasure. Bless the LORD, all His works in all places of His dominion; bless the LORD, O my soul.***" (Psalm 103:20-22)

However, within the pages of Holy Scripture, the Spirit of God has made known to us intimate and joyful conversations, and high and lofty praises between God, The Father, and God, The Son.

**Listen! God, The Father, praises God, The Son, in Hebrews 1:8-12**

“But unto the Son, He saith, *Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever*; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore, God, even Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy fellows. And, *Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of Thine hands. They shall perish, but Thou remainest*; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment, And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed; but *Thou art the same, and Thy years shall not fail.*”

**Again, Listen! In Hebrews 2:12 and 13, God, The Son, praises God, The Father**

“Saying, *I will declare Thy name* unto My brethren, *in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto Thee*. And again, I will put My trust in Him. And again, Behold I and the children whom God hath given Me.”

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“ And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is His name? What shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses,

**“I AM THAT I AM”**

and He said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel,

**“I AM”**

hath sent me unto you.”

(Exodus 3:13 and 14)

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