

THANKSGIVING
THE ELEMENTS OF TRUE THANKSGIVING
1 CHRONICLES 16:7-36

INTRODUCTION

The occasion that brings about what we see in this Chapter is the return of the **ARK OF THE COVENANT** of the **LORD** to **ISRAEL**. It was brought to **ISRAEL** where **DAVID** had prepared a place in **JERUSALEM** for it!

Let me give you a little background here. When the **PROPHET SAMUEL** was serving under **ELI** the **PRIEST** in *1 SAMUEL 4*, the **PHILISTINES** captured the **ARK OF THE COVENANT** out of **SHILOH** where the **ARK** had been since the days of **JOSHUA**!

When the **ARK OF GOD** was taken, the two wicked sons of **ELI**, **HOPHNI** and **PHINEHAS**, were slain. When **ELI** heard that the **ARK OF GOD** had been taken, he fell off of his judgment seat by the side of the gate, broke his neck, and died because he was old and heavy!

ELI'S pregnant daughter-in-law, **PHINEHAS'S** wife, heard about what had happened to the **ARK OF GOD**, **ELI**, and her husband, **PHINEHAS**, and went into labor, delivered a son, named him **ICHABOD** and she died!

ICHABOD means *“Where is the glory” or “There is no glory!”*

The **PHILISTINES** carried the **ARK OF THE COVENANT** to the house of their god **DAGON** and set it beside of their god. **The LORD GOD** messed with their god (they found **DAGON** had fallen on his face before the **ARK**, they put him back, and then the next day they found him again fallen on his face before the **ARK** again, but that time his head and hands were cut off and only his stump remained).

Then the **LORD GOD** plagued the **PHILISTINES** and so the **PHILISTINES** put it on a cart and sent it away and it went to **BEHESEMESH** where the men decided to look into the **ARK OF GOD** and were killed. They sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kirjathjearim who took the **ARK OF GOD** home with them to the place where it abode for the next 20 years in the house of **ABINIDAB** where it was kept by his son **ELEAZER** who was **SANCTIFIED** to keep it.

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DAVID had a desire to bring the **ARK** to his home, the **CITY OF DAVID** but they didn't follow **GOD'S WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS** about carrying the **ARK** and **UZZA** lost his life in the process. Another delay. 3 months.

The **ARK** was in the house of **OBEDEDOM** the **GITTITE** for those 3 months. **DAVID** prepared a **PLACE** for the **ARK** in **JERUSALEM** and they went with up the right way, with **LEVITES**, and brought the **ARK**!

1 CHRONICLES 16:1ff.

Vs 4 Certain **LEVITES** were **APPOINTED** to **GIVE CONTINUAL PRAISE AND THANKS TO GOD**!

However, ALL OF GOD'S PEOPLE should actively be involved in **GIVING PRAISE** and **THANKS TO GOD**! It is not good enough that we appoint others to offer **PRAISE** and **THANKS** for us. We **MUST ACTIVELY BE INVOLVED** in these **ACTIVITIES** ourselves!

PRAISE and **THANKSGIVING** should be a regular part of our lives, not reserved only for celebrations and special days.

If we make a habit of **OFFERING PRAISE TO GOD** and **GIVING THANKS TO GOD CONTINUALLY**, then we will be less likely to **TAKE HIS BLESSINGS FOR GRANTED**!

There are several elements of TRUE THANKSGIVING revealed in these verses:

- I. THE FIRST ELEMENT OF TRUE THANKSGIVING IS TO REMEMBER THE MARVELOUS WORKS THAT GOD HAS DONE!**
 - A. Remember HIS WONDERS! (Vs 12)**

A *“wonder”* is *“a miracle.”*

 - 1. The Wonder Of HIS CREATION!**

Making **SOMETHING** out of **NOTHING** certainly qualifies as a **WONDER** don't you think?

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Psalm 33:9– “For he spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.”

Psalm 148:1-14

Psalm 8:3-4– “When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?”

Isaiah 40:25–26– “To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. 26 Lift up your eyes on high, And behold who hath created these things, That bringeth out their host by number: He calleth them all by names By the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; Not one faileth.”

Romans 1:20– “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”

The Wonder Of HIS CREATION!

2. **The Wonder Of HIS COMING!**

GOD became flesh for us!

Isaiah 7:14– “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

“Immanuel” = “God with us.”

*1 Timothy 3:16– “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.**”*

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John 1:1-3; 14

1 John 1:1–2– “1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; 2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)”

3. **The Wonder Of HIS COMPASSION!**
(i.e. HIS Love) (Ephesians 2:4-7)

“The Love Of God” by Frederick Lehmann
The Love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell; It goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell;

“Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made; Were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade; To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry; Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky.”

*Ephesians 3:19– “...to know **the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge...**”*

*Romans 5:6-8– “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. **But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**”*

John 15:13– “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

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Ephesians 1:6-8

The Wonder Of His Creation...Coming...Compassion...

4. **The Wonder Of HIS COMING AGAIN!**
(1 Corinthians 15:51ff; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

A. *Remember HIS WONDERS!*

B. **Remember HIS JUDGMENTS!** *(VS 12-14)*

In this present world there is concern that judgment may be skewed and justice denied, but that's not true with the **LORD!**
Psalms 19:9—“...the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.”

Psalms 119:7—“I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments.”

Psalms 119:62—“At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments.”

Romans 2:2—“But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth. . .”

HIS JUDGMENTS are described in **SCRIPTURE** as “good”, “right”, and “true”.

Job 23:10—“But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.”

- C. **Remember HIS COVENANT! (i.e. His Word!) (VS 15-22)**
Aren't you **THANKFUL** for **HIM** giving us **HIS WORD?**
We can safely stand on **HIS PROMISES!**

*THE FIRST ELEMENT OF TRUE THANKSGIVING IS TO
REMEMBER THE MARVELOUS WORKS THAT GOD HAS DONE!*

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- II. **THE SECOND ELEMENT OF TRUE THANKSGIVING IS TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT WHAT GOD HAS DONE!**
(VS 8-9; 23-25)

The basis of **PRAISE** is **DECLARING GOD'S CHARACTER** and **ATTRIBUTES** in the **PRESENCE OF OTHERS!**
(We're going to be giving you an opportunity to do that tonight in our annual Thanksgiving and Praise service!)

When we **RECOGNIZE** and **AFFIRM GOD'S GOODNESS**, we are holding up **HIS PERFECT MORAL NATURE** for all to see!

PRAISE benefits us because it takes our minds off of ourselves and our **PROBLEMS** and our **NEEDS** and **FOCUSES** on **GOD'S POWER, MERCY, MAJESTY, and LOVE!**

- A. **We Are To Make Known HIS Deeds Among The People!**
(Vs 8)

Psalms 67:1-3—“1 God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah. 2 That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. 3 Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.”

Psalms 78:4-6—“4 We will not hide them from their children, showing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. 5 For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: 6 That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:”

- B. **We Are To Talk Of All His Wondrous Works! (Vs 9)**
Psalms 107:2—“Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;”

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Psalms 145:4-7—“One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts. {5} I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works. {6} And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible acts: and I will declare thy greatness. {7} They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness.”

C. We Are To Show Forth From Day To Day His Salvation!
(Vs 23)

Psalms 40:10—“I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation.”

Psalms 71:15—“My mouth shall show forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day;...”

D. We Are To Declare His Glory Among The Heathen! (Vs 24)

Psalms 96:3—“Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people.”

E. We Are To Declare His Marvelous Works Among All Nations. (Vs 24)

Matthews 28:19-20—“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: {20} Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

REMEMBER THE MARVELOUS WORKS THAT GOD HAS DONE...TELL OTHERS ABOUT WHAT GOD HAS DONE...

III. THE THIRD ELEMENT OF TRUE THANKSGIVING IS OFFERING GOD GIFTS OF SELF, TIME, AND RESOURCES!
(Vs 28ff) “Give unto the Lord...”

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A. Give Of Ourselves! (VS 28-29a)

1 Corinthians 10:31—“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

Colossians 3:17—“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

Colossians 3:23—“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;”

1 Peter 4:10-11—“As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. {11} If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

B. Give Of Our Resources! (Vs 29) “Bring an offering...”

C. Give Of Our Time! (Vs 29)
“Come before him...worship the Lord...”

CONCLUSION

Are our lives ones of **THANKS-LIVING** or do we take the **BLESSINGS** of the **LORD** for granted?

Is each day a day of **PRAISE** and **THANKSGIVING** or do we just celebrate it once a year?

Have we given ourselves to **HIM** first or are we living life for ourselves, selfishly heaping upon ourselves the **BLESSINGS** of **GOD** without giving **HIM** the **GLORY HE** deserves in our lives?

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Are you taking time on a regular basis to **REMEMBER THE MARVELOUS WORKS THAT GOD HAS DONE?**

Do you **TELL OTHERS ABOUT WHAT GOD HAS DONE?**

Are you **OFFERING HIM GIFTS OF SELF, TIME, AND RESOURCES?**

These are the **ELEMENTS OF TRUE THANKSGIVING!** If they are not in your life how can you truly say that you are **THANKFUL to GOD?**