

## PRAISE

- The word “praise” is found only 2 times in Genesis but 157 times in Psalms - why?
- The word “praises” is found 0 times in Genesis but 22 times in Psalms - why?
- How come David was more vocal in praising God than Adam, Noah, or Abraham?

In attempting to solve this problem please consider the possibility that people in the Age of the Patriarchs worshiped God more out of fear than love. Adam feared God because God had driven him out of Eden. Cain feared God because God had placed a curse upon him. Noah feared God because God had destroyed the earth with a flood. It is hard to sing praises to God when your major reason for worshiping Him is fear. The word “love” is only found 3 times in the book of Genesis and it is never used of God’s love for man or vice versa. It is used only of Isaac’s love for food (Gen. 27:4), and Jacob’s love for his wives (Gen. 29:20, 32). The book of Genesis covers over 2,500 years of history and the operative word for worship during all that period of time was fear. Godly people in those days were recognized as those who feared the Lord (Gen. 20:11).

As you know, God never changes. He is a God of love today and He has always been a God. His love, however, was apparently not correctly seen or understood by the Patriarchs. Therefore God Himself injected love into the Ten Commandments. In commandment # 2 God prohibited idolatry because He is a jealous God. Then He promised to show “love” to a thousand generations of those who “love” Him and keep His commandments (Ex. 20:6). The more we know and understand about God the more we love Him. The more we love Him the more we want to praise Him. It certainly was this way in the life of Moses. After God delivered Israel from Egypt Moses and Israel sang a song unto the Lord and Miriam and the women danced with tambourines. Like water bubbling out of a spring their songs, music, and dancing came as a spontaneous response to the great deliverance they had experienced because of God.

Unfortunately, however, praise did not at that time become an integral part of Hebrew worship. Yes, the word “praise” showed up with greater frequency in their writings, but the perfect love that was to cast out fear would come later.

In this regard David was a true pioneer in praise and worship. Remember, David was a prophet (Acts 2:30). He not only predicted the resurrection of Christ but described in great detail the crucifixion centuries before it came to pass (Ps. 22). When David first became king he reigned seven years and six months in Hebron (2 Sam. 5:5). It was David, by divine guidance, who chose to make Jerusalem his capital city. Normally we think of the ark of the covenant in the holy of holies in the tabernacle. But while the tabernacle was in Gibeon (1 Chron. 16:39) David dared to bring the ark to Jerusalem. There David built a special tent for the ark (1 Chron. 16:1) Note: **“David left Asaph and his associates before the ark of the covenant of the LORD to minister there regularly, according to each day's requirements. He also left Obed-edom and his sixty-eight associates to minister with them. Obed-edom son of Jeduthun, and also Hosah, were gatekeepers.” (1 Chr 16:37-38)** These ministers praised the Lord with lyres, harps, cymbals, and trumpets (1 Chron. 16:4 - 6). Almost all of the psalms were composed here.

There are a wide variety of Hebrew and Greek words that are all translated as “praise” in the Holy Bible. When the impact of salvation dawns upon us, however, we do not need a Greek or Hebrew lexicon to know what to do. The problem in the early church was not to get them to praise, but rather to regulate their excitement so that everything would be done decently and in order (see 1 Cor. 14).

Moses said it like this: **“I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea. The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.” (Exod 15:1-2)**

Our praise to God will not end even when we get to heaven. In fact, we will hold our harps that will be given to us by God, and sing the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb (Rev. 15:2 - 3). If Adam knew the full extent of what Christ would do, he would have praised God too!