

信息： 唱詩讚美

MESSAGE: SING PRAISES (HUMNEO)

讚美是神兒女最高的工作，是屬靈生命最高的表示。我們因神本為善而讚美，因神的大作為而讚美。藉著讚美將神的榮耀發明；藉著讚美，神的名字被高舉，神在祂子民中得著最高的寶座。保羅在以弗所書第五章告訴我們，「當用詩章、頌詞、靈歌、彼此對說，口唱心是的讚美主。」整本聖經由舊約到新約，我們都可以看見以詩歌讚美神是何等重要且蒙福的事奉。

使徒行傳第十六章記載著保羅和西拉在腓利比被捉拿，「眾人就一同起來攻擊他們。官長吩咐剝了他們的衣裳、用棍打。打了許多棍、便將他們下在監裏、囑咐禁卒嚴緊看守。禁卒領了這樣的命、就把他們下在內監裏、兩腳上了木狗。約在半夜、保羅和西拉、禱告唱詩讚美神。眾囚犯也側耳而聽。忽然地大震動、甚至監牢的地基都搖動了。監門立刻全開、眾囚犯的鎖鍊也都鬆開了。」在最艱難的環境中禱告唱詩讚美神，這是何等偉大的生命。我們不是等到困境改變了才讚美神，乃是因著讚美，神可以叫監門大開、鎖鍊脫落，救我們脫離捆綁。

保羅和西拉在監中不但禱告，並且唱詩讚美神，這裏「唱詩讚美 (Humneo)」在希臘原文是一個很特別的字，意思是用詩歌唱出讚美。在馬太福音第二十六章，主釘十字架前和門徒一起過最後的逾越節，此時主闡明擘餅的意義，「耶穌拿起餅來、祝福、就擘開、遞給門徒、說、你們拿著喫。這是

Praise is the highest level of work that God's children can do. Praise is the highest level of manifestation of our spiritual life. We praise God for He is good. We praise God for His great deeds. We make known His glory through praise. We exalt His name through praise. God, therefore, establishes His throne in the praise of His people. In Chapter five of the book of Ephesians, it says: "...speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord..." Throughout the entire Bible, we can easily see the importance and blessings in singing praises to God.

In Chapter 16 of Acts, it records the story of Paul and Silas who were arrested in Philippi for the name of the Lord. It says: "The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose." What a wonderful spiritual life they showed that they could sing songs of praise to God when in great distress. We do not wait for God to change our difficult circumstance before we praise Him. Instead, by our praise, God can cause the prison door to open and chains unfastened.

Paul and Silas not only prayed while in prison, but also sang hymns of praise. In the original contexts in Hebrew, "sing hymns of praise" was expressed with one word "humneo". "Humneo" means "praise through singing hymns". In Matthew Chapter 26, Lord Jesus celebrated His last Passover with his disciples. At the meal, Jesus explained to them the meaning of His bread and cup. "While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his

我的身體。又拿起杯來、祝謝了、遞給他們、說、你們都喝這個。因為這是我立約的血、為多人流出來、使罪得赦。」隨後「他們唱了詩、就出來往橄欖山去」，到客西馬尼面對最可怕的爭戰。這裏「唱了詩」也是用同一個原文字(Humneo)，相信那一天是救主親自領他們唱詩讚美神，然後主進入十架最偉大的爭戰與得勝。

在舊約時代，神帶領以色列百姓過了紅海，而埃及的軍兵試著要過去，卻全數被淹沒在海中。「那時摩西和以色列人向耶和華唱歌說，我要向耶和華歌唱，因祂大大戰勝，將馬和騎馬的投在海中。耶和華是我的力量、我的詩歌，也成了我的拯救。這是我的神，我要讚美祂。」（出十五 1-2）他們看見了神的大作為，信了祂的話，很自然地歌唱讚美耶和華。

大衛是一位合神心意的君王，他認識神同在的中心在於約櫃，所以他竭力尋找並迎回約櫃，當約櫃安設之後，他就設立唱詩讚美神的人。歷代志上第十六章記載著，「大衛派幾個利未人在耶和華的約櫃前事奉、頌揚、稱謝、讚美耶和華以色列的神。那日大衛初次藉亞薩和他的弟兄、以詩歌稱頌耶和華、說、你們要稱謝耶和華、求告他的名、在萬民中傳揚他的作為。要向他唱詩、歌頌、談論他一切奇妙的作為。」大衛是何等的認識神，他知道在約櫃前的事奉不能缺少唱詩讚美，我們今天在主面前事奉，更不能缺少以詩歌稱頌、讚美耶和華。

在猶大王約沙法年間，摩押人和亞捫人、又有米烏尼人、一同來攻擊。面對大軍壓境，約沙法定意尋求耶和華，並得著神的話要他們不要因這大軍恐懼、驚惶，因為勝敗不在乎他們，乃在

disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.", "And after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives..." Jesus went on His way to Gethsemane where the most dreadful war awaited Him. The word "singing a hymn" used in this reference is also "humneo". We believe that after leading His followers singing praises, the Lord bravely entered the great war of the cross and triumphed.

In the time of Moses, after God led Israelites passing over the Red Sea, Egyptian soldiers attempted to cross it. "Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: "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."(Exodus 5:1-2) Israelites saw the mighty deeds of God and sang praise to Him.

David was a king who was after God's heart. He understood the key of God's presence was the Ark. Therefore, he endeavored to find the Ark and brought it back. After the Ark settled in, David ordained a group of people whose specific duty was to sing praise to God. In I Chronicles Chapter 16, it says: "He appointed some of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, to make petition, to give thanks, and to praise the LORD, the God of Israel: That day David first committed to Asaph and his associates this psalm of thanks to the LORD: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts." David truly knew God for he understood that sing praise was a "must" among all services before the Ark. Likewise, our services before God today can not lack singing praises to Him either.

In the time of King Jehoshaphat, the sons of Moab and Ammon with some Meunites came to make war against Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat sought God's help, and God comforted him by assuring him that the battle is not his but God's. After consulting with his people, the king "appointed

乎神。約沙法與民商議後，「就設立歌唱的人、頌讚耶和華、使他們穿上聖潔的禮服、走在軍前讚美耶和華、說、當稱謝耶和華。因他的慈愛永遠長存。」當我們放下自己的感覺，在夜最深的時候，因信仍唱出讚美的詩歌，神必定負我們的責任。「眾人方唱歌讚美的時候、耶和華就派伏兵擊殺那來攻擊猶大人的亞捫人、摩押人、和西珥山人。他們就被打敗了。」（代下二十 21-22）

詩篇是舊約裏特別講讚美的一本書，而詩篇這本書的書名原意是：「用樂器伴奏所唱的詩歌」，所以在舊約的時候人都是歌唱詩篇。詩人在詩篇第四十篇唱說，「祂使我口唱新歌、就是讚美我們神的話。」這新歌是所有蒙恩的兒女都會唱的，也是神在詩篇第一四九篇第一節所給我們有福的命令，「你們要讚美耶和華、向耶和華唱新歌、在聖民的會中讚美他。」

直到啟示錄神旨意完成的時候，得勝群眾和羔羊一同站在錫安山，仍唱新歌讚美神。這新歌要從今時要一直唱到永遠，因為我們要讚美耶和華，從今時直到永遠。

聽哪！千萬聲音雷鳴，
同聲高舉神羔羊；
萬萬千千立即響應，
和聲爆發勢無量。
讚美羔羊！聲音四合，
全天會集來歌誦；
萬口承認、響亮協和，
宇宙滿溢無窮頌。
聽哪！天上又發歌聲，
讚美聲音又四震；
穹蒼之中滿了阿們！
阿們因是同蒙恩。

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those who sang to the Lord and those who praised Him in holy attire, as they went out before the army and said 'give thanks to the Lord, for his lovingkindness is everlasting.' Whenever we deny our own feelings in the darkest hour and still sing out songs of praise from our faith, God will take care of us. Therefore, "...When they began singing and praising, the Lord set ambushes against the sons of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; so they were defeated." (II Chronicles 20:21-22)

The book of Psalms is book specifically talks about praise. The meaning of "Psalms" in Hebrew is "accompanying songs with musical instruments". Hence, people in the time of the Old Testament usually sang, instead of reading, aloud the chapters in the book of Psalms. Psalms 40 says: "...He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God..." This new song is a song all children of God can sing. Sing praise is also a blessed command God has given to us that "Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, And His praise in the congregation of the godly ones." (Psalms 149:1)

Even till the end when God's purpose is completed, all saints and the lamb will stand on the mount of Zion and sing songs of praise. That new song will be sung forever and ever. We shall all praise the Lord both now and forever more!

Hark! ten thousand voices crying:

*"Lamb of God!" with one accord;
Thousand thousand saints replying;
Wake at once the echoing chord.*

*"Praise the Lamb," the chorus waking,
All in heaven together throng;
Loud and far each tongue partaking
Rolls around the endless song.*

*Hark! the heavenly notes again!
Loudly swells the song of praise:
Through creation's vault, Amen!
Amen! responsive joy doth raise.*

故事： 繼續彈、不要停止 STORY: DON'T QUIT - KEEP PLAYING

有一位母親為了鼓勵她兒子彈鋼琴能有進步，於是買了名鋼琴演奏家派得魯斯基演奏會的門票。在演奏會當天入場後，發現他們的座位是在大廳的最前排，並且正對著台上史坦威名牌鋼琴。

很快地這位母親找到了一位朋友聊起天來，而她的小孩則不知何時離開了座位。當八點鐘一到，聚光燈準時亮起，來賓都安靜下來。就在這時，大家發現這個小男孩坐在台上的鋼琴椅上，並且很無知地彈奏著，「閃亮，閃亮，小星星」。

他的母親急的不知所措，在還沒來得及上台去把小孩帶下來前，鋼琴大師已出現在台上，並且很快的就走到了鋼琴邊。

「繼續彈、不要停止」，鋼琴大師小聲地告訴小男孩，同時他彎下腰，伸出左手到琴鍵，為男孩子配上低音部分的音樂。不久他的右手也繞過去，加上行雲流水般的配樂。那一天，這位年老的大師和年幼的孩子一起演奏出大家無法忘懷的美好樂曲。

在我們的一生中，有許多事我們作的並不完美。但我們有一位大師常圍繞著我們，並在我們耳中輕語，「繼續彈、不要停止」。當我們繼續時，是祂在幫助並支持我們，直到美好的工作能夠完成。

A mother, wishing to encourage her young son's progress at the piano, bought tickets for a Paderewski, a famous concert pianist, performance. When the night arrive, they found their seats near the front of the concert hall and eyed the majestic Steinway waiting on stage.

Soon the mother found a friend to talk to, and the boy slipped away. When eight o'clock arrived, the spotlights came on, the audience quieted, and only then did they notice the boy up on the bench, innocently picking out "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star".

His mother gasped, but before she could retrieve her son, the master appeared on the stage and quickly moved to the keyboard.

"Don't quit - keep playing ." he whispered to the boy. Leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in a bass part. Soon his right arm reached around the other side, encircling the child, to add a running obbligato. Together, the old master and the young novice held the crowd mesmerized.

In our lives, unpolished thought we may be, it is the Master who surrounds us and whispers in our ear, time and again, "Don't quit - Keep playing." And as we do, he augments and supplements until a work of amazing beauty is created.