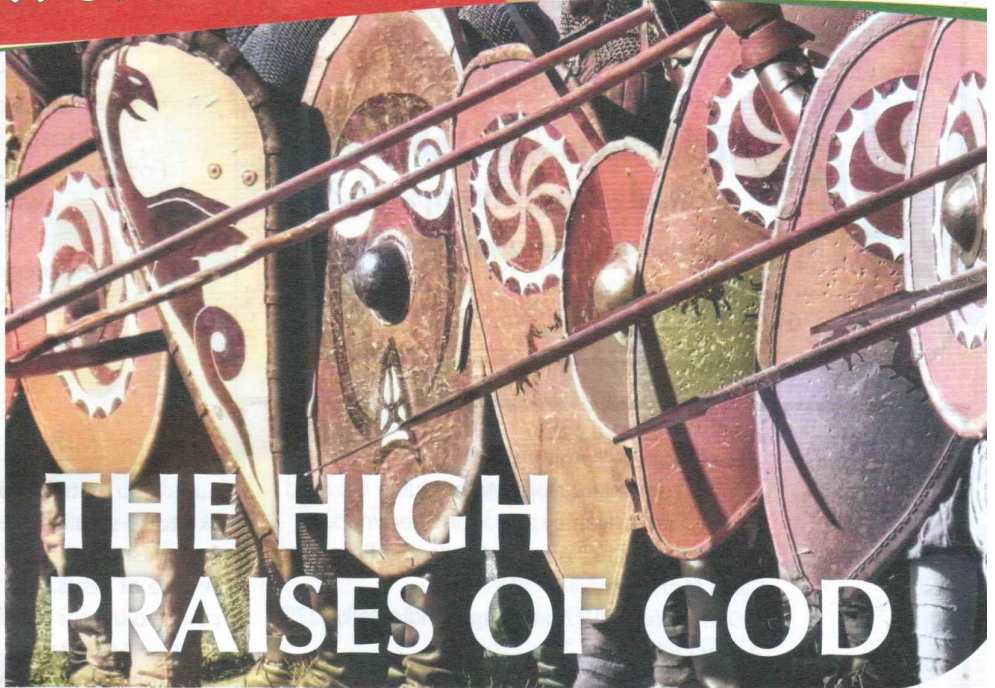


In the Old Testament there were frequent references to battles. The Jews had confidence that if they were following the Lord's will, God would be fighting with them. As they marched into battle, they would utter the festal shout. It was a war cry that was intended to strike terror in the hearts of their enemies and a liturgical chant that was meant to express their unshakable confidence in the Lord who would give them victory. On Palm Sunday, the praises of the people constituted a festal shout that anticipated the victory of Jesus over Satan, sin and death. As Jesus said on that occasion, if the people didn't utter the festal shout: 'the stones will cry out' (Lk 19:40). I would encourage you to go to YouTube and to watch Judy Jacobs singing, 'These are the Days of Elijah'. It was written by Irishman Robin Mark. It is a fine example of the Festal shout being expressed in music.

When Christians engage in these forms of praise they overcome the influence of the evil one. As Maria Vadia says in her book, *Jesus Man of War: His Victory for Those who Praise Him*,

this is our privilege as sons and daughters, to execute judgment on our enemies as we praise our wonderful God. In other words, the victory of Calvary is enforced



## THE HIGH PRAISES OF GOD

over our enemies through our praises. Remember that Jesus on the Cross defeated the devil (Col 2:14-15), but it's for us to enforce that victory over him. Yes, we execute that victory over the enemy through our praises! The body of Christ is not supposed to go and hide in fear, nor be a spectator. No! we are alive for Jesus and called to represent him and his kingdom and we have been empowered by the Holy Spirit to carry on with the works of Jesus. The high praises of God will clear the atmosphere of the enemies that come against us; crime, witchcraft, violence, terrorism, sexual immorality, fear, anxiety, sickness, depression, addictions, sexual trafficking and all kinds of abuse.

If worship leaders would understand this, our congregations would become power houses extending the kingdom of God on earth and displacing the enemy. We would be changed and transformed in this kind of atmosphere, impacting our families, cities and nation! If believers would believe this and do it, the Lord of Hosts would show up and destroy the works of the devil in our midst!

— Pat Collins

Behold the Lamb of God, ...  
**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

**Communion Antiphon** (Mt 26:42)  
**Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.**

### Prayer after Communion

Nourished with these sacred gifts, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, just as through the death of your Son you have brought us to hope for what we believe, so by his Resurrection you may lead us to where you call. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Reflection

Recall times when you had a new insight into what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

### Lesson

Following Jesus means living for others. It will at times be difficult, but the rewards are great.

### Prayer

'O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me.' (Ps 22)