

# LIVING PRAISE

## O Lord, thou art my God

I will exalt thee,  
I will praise your name,  
For thou hast done wonderful things,  
Thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.

This beautiful song is taken from the first verse of Isaiah chapter 25. Preceding this verse is chapter 24, which contains much of judgmental activities, visited on the earth for total disregard for God.

The opening verse of Isaiah 24 reads “Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattered abroad the inhabitants thereof”. Continuing in verse 4 of the same Chapter it says “the earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish”. This, as you would expect, is not without a cause. Verse 5 explains “---because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinances, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned and few men left”.

Yes, few men are left. There will always be a remnant unto our God. Little wonder, in the midst of these judgmental activities, verse 16 reveals that “from the uttermost part of the earth have we heard songs, even glory to the righteous”.

It is no longer news that as the Lord, Jehovah is raising a people to Himself through diverse working of his spirit in this time of the end, Satan the devil and the host of the kingdom of darkness is perfecting his acts of wickedness and equally preparing those who have irredeemably yielded themselves to him for the final onslaught. As long as the earth, the world as presently constituted, continues to submit to the evil leading of Satan and his cohorts, so long will the judgement of God continue to manifest on earth.

But in the midst of all of these, a people of his praise and glory shall stand to declare his faithfulness. With our eyes we will see the wicked brought to ruin. (Psalm 91:8) By the Authority of the fifth and sixth verses of Psalm 91, we shall not be afraid for the terror by night, nor for the arrows that flieth by day, nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness, nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. For these are the reward of the wicked, those who in total disregard for God have yielded themselves in perpetual covenant with the forces of darkness. We are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. We will testify that the lord “hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall (Isaiah 25:4). Let us be unwavering in our resolve to be identified with the Lord. It should be in both words and deeds. For as we remain on this mountain the Lord of hosts shall make unto us a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined, Hallelujah. We shall be used mightily by God to uncover the refuse of lies, the scheming and

manipulations of the forces of darkness aimed at keeping in perpetual servitude and bondage the Lord's people. So shall the Lord through us cast away forever the veil that is spread over the nations and we shall say to them behold your God. It is as the people embrace their God that death will be swallowed up in victory and the Lord shall wipe away tears from off their faces. Here is the crux of the matter. I suppose we are beginning to appreciate the enormity of the responsibility we are faced with. I trust that the Lord himself will give us the grace to live up to his expectations. We are a people of his praise. As we declare "O Lord, thou art my God, I will exalt thee, I will praise your name..." let us be conscious of the commitment attendant upon such declaration. It must not end with singing. Our lives must demonstrate our commitment to this God who "has done wonderful things" where with our hearts are made glad. Truly, we deal with a faithful God. We can be rest assured that as we exercise ourselves in this calling, we shall call upon the Lord and he will answer us, He will be with us in trouble, He will deliver and honor us. With long life will He satisfy us. May His glorious name be praised forever. Amen.