



# New Praise

Ezra 3

*What is your praise waiting for? Let's start right now!*

*What seems smaller is not always lesser. We have learned already in this series not to call "lesser" what God has called "greater." The Lord says "The glory of the present house is greater than the glory of the former house" (Haggai 2:9). We have learned to put our name on God's promises and to expect greater things. We can always find reason to praise the Lord, even in times that seem smaller or darker, when things we value are missing, or when the future is uncertain. And we can start right now!*

**Praise acts like the real king is here – because He is! (Ezra 3:10)**

**Praise is loud! (Ezra 3:11)**

**Praise remembers the love of God! (Ezra 3:12-13, Lamentations 3:19-23)**

## ACTION STEPS

- **DAILY RENEWAL** – Pastor Mike has developed a daily guide to help us spend time with the Lord each day this summer. The new guide includes meditations from Jeremiah and specific prayers based on God's Word in Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther! You can download it here: <https://www.forcey.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Renewal-Summer-2020.pdf>
- **RENEWAL NIGHTS** – Considering hosting or attending a small outdoor gathering with a worship guide – you can sign-up here: <https://www.forcey.org/media/blog/renewal-nights-summer-2020/>

## FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- Spend some time meditating on Ezra 3:11 and praising the Lord for His goodness.
- Memorize Psalm 34:1 or Hebrews 13:15.
- Read this essay about Marian Anderson - [www.loc.gov/static/programs/national-recording-preservation-board/documents/HesGotTheWholeWorld.pdf](http://www.loc.gov/static/programs/national-recording-preservation-board/documents/HesGotTheWholeWorld.pdf)
- Listen to Marian Anderson sing "He's go the whole world in His hands" - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRGZrv0HI6k&t=80s&fbclid=IwAR1mktOnWheTwz30Kk71WOq-1iEQV\\_gmHYO5bDtquZQPtQ40f1mcdzFKxFo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRGZrv0HI6k&t=80s&fbclid=IwAR1mktOnWheTwz30Kk71WOq-1iEQV_gmHYO5bDtquZQPtQ40f1mcdzFKxFo)
- Listen to "King of Glory" - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=liEgSrunm\\_w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liEgSrunm_w)
- Listen to "All the Praise" - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7AZF0tNmek](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7AZF0tNmek)

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. What is something you feel is missing from your life experience right now? Something perhaps that you worried you won't get back any time soon?
3. The people who returned to Israel followed the directions of David – who hadn't reigned in 450 years! What voices are we tempted to follow in our world other than our true King?
4. What are some instructions our true King has given us that we need to make sure we hear and obey in this season?
5. We talked about how praise is "loud." But how do we increase the strength and volume of our praise? Just sing louder? What might it really look like to make sure our praise is louder?
6. Have you ever felt like you were doing "everything right" and still felt distance from God? Like there was no "cloud of glory"? What should we do when we feel this way?
7. What do you think it means that the Lord is enthroned on the praise of His people (Psalm 22:3)? How should this truth affect the way that I praise the Lord?
8. We talked about some people who praised God in hard times – even slaves who sang "He's got the whole world in His hands." Can you think of a time when you saw someone worship the Lord in the midst of a very hard time? Share this.
9. Read Hebrews 13:15-16. What do we learn about praise from these verses?
10. Read 1 Peter 2:9 together. Take some time together as a "royal priesthood" and share some praises! What attributes of God can you celebrate? What do you see God doing that you can thank Him for together?