



**GOD IS LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO WILL
WELCOME HIS PRESENCE INTO THEIR LIVES**

§ **God is looking**

2 Chronicles 16:9 NLT

9 The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.

John 4:23 NLT

23 But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way.

Acts 13:22 RSV

I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.

§ **Amazingly, many do not welcome Him**

Luke 2:6-7

6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

John 1:10-12 NLT

10 He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. 11 He came to his own people, and even they rejected him.

§ **Those who welcome Him with Worship become a habitation for His Presence**

Ephesians 2:21-22

21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

**RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND HIS DELEGATED AUTHORITY
ARE RESTORED THROUGH WORSHIP**

⌘ **Mankind was given Authority on earth but lost it through disobedience**

Genesis 1:26-28 NIV

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27 So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Genesis 3 – relationship is broken and authority is lost through mankind's sin

Matthew 4:8-9

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

⌘ **Worshipping Jesus is the pathway to Restored Relationship and Authority**

Revelation 1:5-6

...Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, 6 and **has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father** — to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

Revelation 5:9-10

9 And they sang a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

- ◆ Everywhere Jesus went He declared the Kingdom of God was present because He, the King, was present
- ◆ The Kingdom of God is the dynamic ruling and reigning of God
- ◆ When we worship Jesus the King, we enthrone Him in our lives; because the King is present, the Kingdom of God is Present

Ephesians 2:6

6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

WHERE GOD'S PRESENCE INHABITS, THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS EXPERIENCED

"The power of worship is locked up in this truth: When people commit themselves to worship, the Lord will dwell among them in power. And as they abide in worship, He will not only dwell in their midst, but develop His life and extend Jesus' Kingdom rule among them." -- Jack Hayford, *Manifest Presence:*

Expecting a Visitation of God's Grace through Worship

Isaiah 4:5-6

5 Then the Lord will create over all of Mount Zion and over those who assemble there a cloud of smoke by day and a glow of flaming fire by night; over all the glory will be a canopy. 6 It will be a shelter and shade from the heat of the day, and a refuge and hiding place from the storm and rain.

⌘ There is a vital link between worship and rulership

- ◆ He who is worshipped is given authority
- ◆ When Jesus alone is worshipped, His Kingdom is given entry and the powers of darkness are broken

⌘ **Elijah and the End of Baal Worship**

- ◆ **Ahab leads Israel to worship Baal and the land is cursed**

1 Kings 16:29-17:1

29 In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab son of Omri became king of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria over Israel twenty-two years. 30 Ahab son of Omri did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any of those before him. 31 He not only considered it trivial to commit the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, but he also married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and began to serve Baal and worship him. 32 He set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal that he built in Samaria. 33 Ahab also made an Asherah pole and did more to provoke the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger than did all the kings of Israel before him.

...

17:1 Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word."

- ◆ **Elijah leads Israel back to worshipping God, and the land is blessed**

1 Kings 18:20-21

20 So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. 21 Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is

*God, follow him."
But the people said nothing.*

1 Kings 18:36-41

36 At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. 37 Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again."

38 Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.

39 When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The Lord-he is God! The Lord-he is God!"

40 Then Elijah commanded them, "Seize the prophets of Baal. Don't let anyone get away!" They seized them, and Elijah had them brought down to the Kishon Valley and slaughtered there.

41 And Elijah said to Ahab, "Go, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain.

⌘ **Paul and Silas**

Acts 16:22-26

22 The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. 23 After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. 24 Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. 26 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.



By Him ... Through us ... For Him