

The Origin of New Testament Praise: The Old Testament Temple

By Dennis J. Prutow

1. There was no praise in the ancient synagogue. See my *Public Worship 101*, 105-106 with quotes from Alfred Edersheim, James McKinnon, Sigmund Mowinckel, Christopher Page, and John Smith.
2. King David initiated Psalmody in the Tabernacle and King Hezekiah codified the Psalter as the Book of Praise for the Temple (1 Chron. 16:4, 39-42; 2 Chron. 29:30).
3. The temple sacrifices included the Peace Offerings of which there were three types: the Votive Offering, the Freewill Offering, and the Thank Offering.
 - a. Leviticus 22:21 – The peace offerings may be votive offerings or freewill offerings.
 - b. Leviticus 7:11-17 – Peace offerings may also be thank offerings (vs. 11-15), votive offerings (vs. 16), or freewill offerings (vs. 16).
 - c. We are particularly interested in the thank offerings, LXX = *thusia aineseos*.
4. To help your understanding, compare several texts in the Psalms.
 - a. Psalm 50:14 refers to peace offerings, both votive and thanksgiving. The sacrifice of thanksgiving is *thusian aineseos* (LXX).
 - b. Psalm 50:23 also speaks of the thank offering, LXX = *thusian aineseos*.
 - c. Consider how you think, almost immediately, about offering verbal praise to God when you read these texts. Remember, the Levites sang Psalms of praise to God during the sacrifices. It is natural for you to connect songs of praise with these Psalms.
 - d. Psalm 107:22 speaks of the thank offering, LXX = *thusian aineseos*.
 - e. Psalm 116:17 also speaks of the thank offering, LXX = *thusian aineseos*.
5. Hebrews 13:15 commands New Testament praise. Note the sacrificial language.
 - a. The 'sacrifice of praise' in Hebrews 13:15 is *thusian aineseos*. This is the language of the bloody sacrifice of the Old Testament thank offering carried out on the altar in the temple accompanied with Psalmody.
 - b. Now, the bloody sacrifice is changed to the fruit of lips confessing the Savior.
 - c. The word 'continually' refers to the sacrifice being made morning and evening. Compare Numbers 28:3-4, 9-10.
6. Turn back to Hebrews 13:15. This command to offer praise in the New Testament church, which uses the specific sacrificial language of the Old Testament thank offerings, is based upon the thanksgiving offered in the temple. Compare the sacrificial language of 1 Peter 2:4-5. The element of worship, New Testament praise, comes from the temple not the synagogue.