

## **Praise Comes Before Victory**

**Praise** *always* comes before victory – it's essential. It's too late to praise after the victory. The highest form of faith is to give thanks in *all* things knowing you'll have the victory. Here in Plymouth we have been going through a great struggle getting established, but soon we'll have the Minchot.

Anyone can praise when he's on the mountaintop, but we have to praise in the valley in order to get to the mountaintop. We have to praise in the midst of adversity and trouble. Praise precedes (goes before) victory. If there's no praise, there won't be faith. But we know our Father said that He would see us through if we would trust Him and wait until the victory comes. That's why we can praise in advance. It's essential for us to do this. We have to be prepared for conflict before our Father gives the victory. We need to remember that it's our Father who gives us the victory. Remember Jehoshaphat and how our Father was with him; remember Paul and Silas when they were in jail (Acts 16:22-26). They were in shackles, beaten and bloody, but they sang praises and an earthquake came and their shackles fell off!

Remember – when you're down, you need to look up. The only time we can look up is when we're down. When we go through the hard struggles that have been prepared for us since before the foundations of the earth we can come through not defeated if we are giving thanks. We need to support one another in this. Our Master went through struggles for us and we have to do the same for Him in order to have a corresponding sacrifice. It's granted for us to believe and suffer for Him (Phil 1:29). There's no getting out of it. If there's no suffering, there's no salvation. We can praise in the midst of salvation knowing that praise goes before victory. We know Him if we've heard His voice and we're His sheep. Then we'll all be able to come to the Minchot and lift up praise to Him altogether.

**ha-emeq** – I was thinking about water and how you have to go down deep where it's not shallow and polluted with other things, like when we were digging the well at the Old School House. When we went down deep it was such sweet water. The words of our Master are like that; they give us life. We're not a dead piece of meat, but we're alive. Something in our soul responds to His Word.

**Shemuel** – The enemy flees in the face of praise.

**Keli** – There's no better way to confuse the enemy than when he thinks he has you down and you give thanks. It confuses him because he thought he had you down.

**Chayeh** – If we know who we are we won't allow the enemy to get us down because we know our purpose in life. We were born to testify to the truth. Only the things that we learn in our suffering go past the shallowness to what's real.

**Huldah** – If anyone had reason to look down, our Master Yahshua did. He walked the earth for 3½ years seeing where man was at. The most important thing to Him was communion with our Father. He came to testify to the truth. The evil one was continually coming to Him, but He gave up His life so we could have His life. We all have it and we can give it. So we never have any excuse to be down no matter how miserable we feel. It's so simple what to do. Give thanks and look up.

**Hannah** – Our Master was prepared during His life for hardship and He died a gruesome death. We think if our circumstances aren't going well that our Father is not with us. But really if we want to have fellowship with Him we will have adverse circumstances. It gives us the opportunity to give thanks.