

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven



Ambiguity is no virtue when it comes to praise. As an essential element of the character of worship, praise is always most faithful when given full expression within a precise context.

We all deal with contextual issues every day. Whether active at work or in school, involved at home or in commerce, or engaged in the arts or sciences, we are context driven and context dependent. It's the nature of life. Seasons come and go.

Cultural dynamics waver. What is new and now will be then and gone. Places may change slowly, but time not so much. People's responses to life's mysteries and life's realities are influenced by context. Even our study of the history of the world and the world's peoples along with our best-guess predictions of what the future may hold are colored by our own experiences in our own contexts.

The practical dynamics of context are fluid at best. People change, and so does the world. In spite of our best and wisest efforts, life in this world can be erratic beyond our control.

In light of the uncertainties of human existence, what might be said then of our praise—even our finest Christian praise—if it is dependent upon such ambiguous contextual dynamics? If praise rises from our own wisdom and confidence in our own might, surely it too will be fitful at best. Praise, if it is to be faithful, must find its true center and ground in a more trustworthy place.

The primary context for all truly God-ward worship is not human-formed or world-bound. The context for all genuine praise is Godself. The King of heaven, the glorious faithful One, the Source of all mercy, the God of grace, is Himself the very reality within which all faithful worship occurs.

This text chronicles the breadth and depth of God's magnificent grace in Christ. Stated with brilliant clarity and vibrant forthrightness, God's grand redemptive enterprise on behalf of humankind is recounted. The stanzas bear the marks of recurring *alleluias* which remind worshipers that the praise due to this God is beyond words to fully declare.

Faithful worship transcends all worldly contexts to find its true home in the changeless triune God, and it exists in the limitlessness of eternity. *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

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