



Psalm 95:1-2

“Oh come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to him with psalms.”

The psalmist uses a variety of expressions in these two verses to encourage us to praise God. The Hebrew word ranan is used for sing. Ranan means to creak or emit a stridulous (loud, harsh, and grating shrill) sound. Ruwa which means to split the ears with sound or shout for alarm or joy is used for shout joyfully (joyful noise in the KJ). The word for thanksgiving is the Hebrew word towdah meaning an extension of the hand, i.e. avowal, or usually adoration; a choir of worshipers; confession, sacrifice of praise, thanksgiving, offering. The Hebrew word for psalms is zamiyr. Zamiyr is a song to be accompanied with instrumental music.

What is the psalmist saying? Maybe something like this: “Oh come let us creak or emit a stridulous (I’m not exactly sure what that sounds like.) sound to the Lord. Let us split the ears with a sound of joy to the refuge of our deliverance, liberty and prosperity. Let us come before his face with extended hands like a choir of worshipers offering a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Let us split the ears with the sound of a song accompanied with instrumental music.” In other words...GET LOUD IN PRAISE!

Scripture references:

Psalm 98:4

Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.

Psalm 98:6

With trumpets and the sound of a horn; shout joyfully before the Lord, the King.

Psalm 66:1

Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth!

Psalm 81:1

Sing aloud to God our strength; make a joyful shout to the God of Jacob.

Psalm 100:1

Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands!