

The Pesukei D'zimrah

by
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Welcome to Worship Shorts!

I mentioned in a previous "Shorts" that the Jewish service is divided into three main parts: The *Sh'ma*, the *Amidah*, and the *Torah*. But there is a section of the *Siddur* before the *Sh'ma* consisting of a number of prayers and blessings and a lot of Scripture.

This preliminary section contains several types of material. There are the morning prayers on waking up, washing, and entering the synagogue. There is the reading of the *Akeidah*, the Binding of Isaac. There is a large section on the various types of offerings that were made in the Temple. Then begins a large section known as *Pesukei D'zimrah* or "Verses of Song."

In this section, whole Psalms are read along with Scriptures from Chronicles, and places that describe the worship in the Temple. These are words and songs that exalt God and establish our relationship with Him. This is essentially what we do when we crank up our musical instruments and sing and dance. We are doing what the *Pesukei D'zimrah* does – we are exalting God.

In the *Siddur*, this is a lengthy section. Some of the prayers are quite memorable since they are often sung: *Shochein ad marom v'kadosh sh'mo!* "He dwells forever; exalted and holy is His name." Or another which follows the *Shochein Ad: Yishtabach shimcha la-ad malcheinu, Ha-el hamelech hagadol v'hakadosh, bashamayim u'va-aretz.* "Your name will be praised forever, our King, the God, the King, the Great One, and the holy One, in heaven and on earth."

The *Pesukei D'zimrah* presents a great opportunity for Messianic Jews, since it coincides so well with the style of worship that we have all come to love – the music and dance that reminds us of King David before the Ark. Since we also see ourselves as part of restoring the Tabernacle of David, our celebrations ought to be like his, and perhaps even more so as the Day of the Lord draws ever nearer. I encourage you to read your *Siddur* and see if you don't agree that the *Pesukei D'zimrah* is a source of inspiration for our worship.

Thank you for listening to Worship Shorts!