

SBC – April 2, 2023

Psalm 96 (NKJV)

“The Messiah is Coming to Judge”

Psalm 96 is Messianic in this sense. A central truth in the “gospel” as found in the OT Scriptures is that the LORD is going to ultimately reveal Himself in the person of the Messiah. Over and over in the OT the Scriptures prophesy that the LORD God is coming to reign and we know that this is going to be in the Person of the Messiah Who is the Lord Jesus Christ Who one day is going to come to earth as King of kings and Lord of lords.

Psalm 96 has no heading – no author officially attributed to it. However, with only a few minor variations it is essentially a reiteration of the Psalm David composed in honor of the Ark being brought to Jerusalem as seen in 1 Chronicles 16. So Psalm 96 mirrors the text of 1 Chronicles 16:23-33 and because of this many scholars believe that indeed David is the author of it.

The Jews attributed it to David as seen in the heading of the LXX (The Septuagint which was a Greek translation of the OT Scriptures).

At least seventeen different ways of praising the Lord, given in the form of crisp commands, are found in Psalm 96.

– ***William MacDonald***

The Psalm has 3 sections each beginning with a command such as ***sing*** in verses 1-3; ***give*** in verses 7-9; and ***say*** in verses 10-13. Each section has the whole world in view as seen in “all the earth” in verse 1; “families of the peoples” in verse 7; and “the world” in verse 13.

The psalm is messianic in the sense that the future rule of God spoken of will be fulfilled in the rule of the Messiah, who is the Son of David and Son of God. – ***Charles Ryrie***

Slide # 1

Outline of Psalm 96

Theme: Celebration of the LORD’s Coming

- v. 1-3 – A New Song for all the Earth
- v. 4-6 – Why God deserves All Praise
- v. 7-9 – Ascribe to God the Glory due Him
- v. 10 – Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns”
- v. 11-13 A Celebration of joy for all Creation

v. 1-3 – A New Song for all the Earth

Psalm 96 (NKJV)

1 Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth.

When God does something gloriously NEW it calls for a NEW SONG. This entire Psalm anticipates the coming kingdom reign over all the nations and this calls for a new celebratory SONG at its inauguration.

Singing denotes JOY. This truly is “Joy to the world, the Lord is come”. The whole earth is called on to sing His praises.

Slide # 2

Revelation 5:9–10 (NKJV)

9 And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.”

2 Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.

Three times in verses 1 and 2 the whole earth is called on to sing to the LORD. To “bless His name” is to praise Him. And all are called on to “proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.” God is a God of salvation meaning deliverance.

We praise Him first and foremost for deliverance from the penalty of sin. And this looks forward to kingdom deliverance. We today are preaching the gospel of Christ and anticipate the gospel of the kingdom. We have been delivered and yet the great deliverance into the kingdom yet awaits.

But the greatness of God’s salvation is to be proclaimed “from day to day”. From “day to day” means we should never stop proclaiming it. It is wonderful every day. Other forms of good news delight us at the first hearing but God’s salvation never gets old and is to be proclaimed day after day after day. Constantly the emphasis is to be on the proclamation of His salvation.

3 Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.

We are to declare God's glory – the glory of His salvation among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. God's glory (Heb. Kabod) refers to that which is weighty or impressive. God wants the wonder of His salvation to be taken to everyone.

In the Abrahamic covenant, God promised that in him all the families of the earth would be blessed. This message has application for everyone.

Slide # 3

Genesis 12:3 (NKJV)

3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you **all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**"

In the Great Commission the goal is to make disciples of all the nations...

Slide # 4

Matthew 28:19 (NKJV)

19 Go therefore and make disciples **of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

When the Church is gone the goal in the Tribulation will be to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Slide # 5

Matthew 24:14 (NKJV)

14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be **preached in all the world** as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Revelation 14:6 (NKJV)

6 Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel **to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—**

God wants the message of His salvation to go forth to the entire world. He wants them to know and the order to His people is to PROCLAIM and DECLARE it.

v. 4-6 – Why God deserves All Praise

4 For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods.

Here is why we proclaim His message and declare His glory! Because YHWH the LORD is great and therefore to be greatly praised and revered.

To fear Him is to reverence Him. And He is to be feared above all gods because in truth they are all false gods as the next verse goes on to show.

5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens.

The gods of the peoples are not to be feared because they are mere idols. The word “idols” (Heb. Elilim) literally means “nothings”. These gods are no gods at all. In truth they are “nothings” or as it is sometimes translated “vain things”. This same word is some times also translated as “worthless” (Job. 13:4; Jer. 14:14). Idols are worthless nothings.

Slide # 6

The words gods (Hb. Elohim) and worthless idols (Hb. Elilim) sound alike, providing a play on words; in English this would be close to “these mighty beings are mighty useless!” – **ESV Study Bible**

Slide # 7

1 Corinthians 8:4 (NKJV)

4 Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, **we know that an idol is nothing** in the world, and that there is no other God but one.

Footnote: Although an idol is NOTHING and there is no other true God but the One true God, still, there are real demons behind idolatry. An idol is nothing, but demons are real and they are masters at deception.

Slide # 8

1 Corinthians 10:19–20 (NKJV)

19 What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? [The expected answer is “NO”].

20 Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to **demons** and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.

In contrast to the worthless nothings that are idols is the LORD Who made the heavens. He is the Creator of all. He is the living God. He is active. He moves.

Slide # 9

One of the descriptive terms that the Creator applied to living creatures was “movement.” The Hebrew word is *ramas*, used 17 times in the Old Testament—never about plants or vegetation of any kind. Living things move. – **Henry M. Morris**

One of the fascinating this about life is movement. Life and movement go together. When something is dead it doesn’t move. Behind all movement there must be LIFE and the Bible is clear that this LIFE ultimately is the LIVING GOD. He is the ultimate Mover behind all movement. As such God is the unmoved mover. He is the uncaused cause of all.

Idols are nothings that don’t do anything! They don’t move.

Slide # 10

Psalm 115:4–7 (NKJV)

4 Their idols are silver and gold, The work of men’s hands.

5 They have mouths, but they **do not speak**; Eyes they have, but they **do not see**;

6 They have ears, but they **do not hear**; Noses they have, but they **do not smell**;

7 They have hands, but they **do not handle**; Feet they have, but they **do not walk**; Nor do they mutter through their throat.

In contrast is the moving/living God Who is the Creator. He is the LIVING God Who is still moving.

Slide # 11

John 3:8 (NKJV)

8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.

The Spirit moves because He is the living God! Those of us born of the Spirit have known His moving. He is not only our physical Creator but as born-again Christians we are now NEW creations in Christ. The living God moves and He has moved in our lives and forever changed us.

6 Honor and majesty are before Him; Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

Four descriptive nouns – splendor...majesty...strength and beauty are personified as divine escorts preceding the Lord's processional entrance into the temple. - ***HCSB***

In Him are combined all that is mighty and lovely, powerful and resplendent. – ***Charles Spurgeon***

If we ask whether this sanctuary is earthly or heavenly, the probable answer is both. The earthly one was a 'copy and shadow' of the heavenly (Heb. 8:5). – ***Derek Kinder***

v. 7-9 – Ascribe to God the Glory due Him

7 Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples, Give to the LORD glory and strength.

Families here is more literally "tribes".

No one can confer anything upon YHWH Who is totally self-sufficient within Himself in every regard. However, as people, we can recognize His glorious attributes.

In worship, we can ascribe to Him glory and might which uniquely belong to Him alone. This is done by those who are true worshipers.

The goal of God's redemptive mission has always been to make obedient worshipers of all the nations of the earth (97:1).

– ***David Jeremiah***

The combination of “obedient worshipers” is descriptive of true believers. In John 4:23-24 Jesus said the Father is seeking for “true worshipers”. In Romans Paul both begins and ends the book by describing faith as “the obedience of faith” (Rom. 1:5; 16:25-26.).

Slide # 12

Romans 15:18–19 (NKJV)

18 For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, **to make the**

Gentiles obedient—

19 in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

In making the Gentiles obedient Paul is describing saving faith. They were brought to the obedience of faith. Thus, they were made obedient worshipers who ascribe to God glory and strength.

8 Give to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come into His courts.

Giving the LORD the glory due His name is to acknowledge Him for Who He is – the loving, holy, just, true, powerful God Who has provided salvation for all those who trust in Him.

The glory due His name is the respect and honor God’s character deserves. – ***ESV Study Bible***

Bringing an offering is indicative of true worship. In the OT the law prescribed appropriate offerings. In the kingdom once again appropriately prescribed offerings and sacrifices will once again be presented to the LORD as seen in Ezekiel 40-48 (cf. Ps. 45:12; 68:29; Isa. 49:23).

Slide # 13

Psalms 72:10–11 (NKJV)

10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles **Will bring presents**; The kings of Sheba and Seba Will **offer gifts**.

11 Yes, all kings shall **fall down before Him**; **All nations shall serve Him**.

Today we also bring offerings and spiritual sacrifices; not as prescribed by law but in accordance with grace giving. And Paul is very clear in 2 Cor. 9:6-7 that as we sow so also shall we reap.

Slide # 14

Hebrews 13:15–16 (NKJV)

15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Three times in verses 1-2 all the earth is told to SING to the LORD; and three times in verses 7-8 the families of the earth are told to GIVE to the LORD the worship that is due Him. The Great God of the Bible is worthy to be worshiped and true believers who are true worshipers do that very thing.

9 Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth.

The beauty of the LORD's holiness calls for true worship and true worship trembles before Him in His awesomeness that is overwhelming (cf. Ps. 2:11). Holy means "to be set apart". The LORD's holiness is His absolute uniqueness – that which totally sets Him apart as completely distinct. There is no other like Him.

Slide # 15

Isaiah 40:18 (NKJV)

18 To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him?

Isaiah 40:25 (NKJV)

25 "To whom then will you liken Me, Or to whom shall I be equal?" says the Holy One.

It is *beautiful* that God is God and not man, that He is more than the greatest man or a super-man. His holy love, grace, justice, and majesty are *beautiful*. – **David Guzik**

God has no equals and therefore we are to tremble before Him in worship.

Slide # 16**Psalm 2:11–12 (NKJV)**

11 Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling.

12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

v. 10 – Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns”

10 Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns; The world also is firmly established, It shall not be moved; He shall judge the peoples righteously.”

This is a KEY verse in the Psalm. This is the climax the Psalm has been building towards. This declares the occasion for the NEW SONG as the LORD has come and now reigns supreme over all the nations.

This latter part of the psalm should be interpreted messianically, for the future judgment and sovereign rule spoken of here find fulfillment only in the universal reign of Christ. – ***The Believer’s Study Bible***

“The LORD reigns” (v. 10; see 93:1) can also be translated “The LORD has become King” (see Rev. 11:17), referring to the day Jesus will sit on David’s throne and rule over the nations (Luke 1:26-33; Rev. 19:11-16). – ***Warren Wiersbe***

When the LORD comes to rule the world will be firmly established and not be moved in the sense there will be no more international chaos and upheaval. The entire world’s system will then be stable. The nations will no longer learn war but rather beat their swords into plowshares (cf. Micah 4:1-5).

In that day the LORD shall set everything straight as He judges the people in righteousness (cf. Isa. 11:1-5).

This verse answers to the cry of God’s oppressed people who down through world history have consistently been abused by the world. The day is coming when God will right the wrongs and bring to pass what is just and right on the earth.

v. 11-13 A Celebration of joy for all Creation

When the LORD comes to reign it will usher in a time of celebration for all God's people and for the whole of creation in a personified sense.

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; Let the sea roar, and all its fullness;

12 Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice before the LORD.

These personifications of the heavens, the earth, the sea, the fields, and the trees, all serve to illustrate that all creation will flourish when the LORD in righteousness reigns on the earth. At that time the curse will largely be removed and it will be a time of celebratory rejoicing and gladness.

What a picture is painted here. It's as though the whole of creation will break out in joyous celebration. This is the concept portrayed by Paul in Romans 8.

Slide # 17

Romans 8:19–22 (NKJV)

19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope;

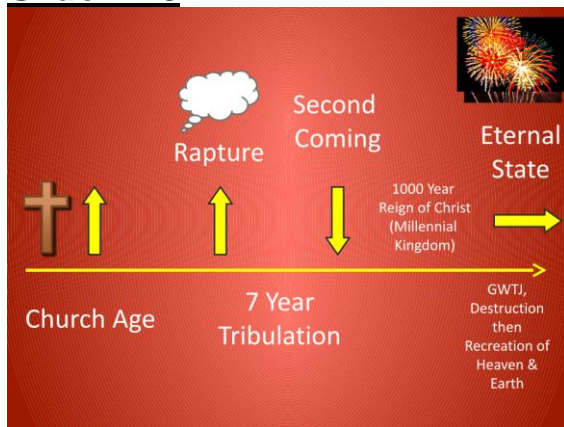
21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

13 For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness, And the peoples with His truth.

In verse 10 we see the LORD is coming to reign which is cause for great joy. And in verse 10 and 13 we have a triple emphasis on the fact that He is coming to JUDGE the world. And we see here that basis for His judging will be His TRUTH. He is going to align the world with His truth.

The rule of the Lord described in this psalm is not the present universal kingdom (Ps. 93), but that which will be established when Christ returns to earth. – **John MacArthur**

Slide # 18

Justice is sweet to the upright in heart. We are informed that the whole of creation rejoices because God is going to judge the world with righteousness and truth. – **Ray Comfort**

When the great rebel system of the world (called Babylon) comes tumbling down the whole of heaven celebrates with the climactic high praise word “Hallelujah” as seen in Rev. 19:1-4.

Slide # 19**Revelation 19:5–6 (NKJV)**

5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying, “Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!”

6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, **“Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!”**

The world’s value system is the polar opposite of God’s truth. They claim to want fairness and righteousness, but not according to God’s standards. For the world it’s all about “wokeness” meaning they pit the standards of the world against God’s truth.

For wokeness it’s not about a person’s personal character but rather about the tribe they hail from. It’s not about justice being blind but now revolves around reverse discrimination. It’s not about biblical morality but rather about championing perverseness which is contrary a Judeo/Christian ethic. And sadly, many professing Christians (perhaps naively) are part of this narrative.

They seemingly want to make friends with the world which the Bible plainly says is to be at enmity with God (Ja. 4:14). This generation is going to have to decide whether they want to commit to God or be friends of the world. You can't have it both ways.

The world has always oppressed and persecuted true believers but our hope is found in the Lord. Our hope is found in Psalm 96 where in the end the GREAT God of the Bible is going to reign supreme and judge the world with His truth.

And so we proclaim the good news of His salvation and declare His glory among the nations. We call the world to become true worshipers who tremble before Him. We say to the nations, "The LORD is coming to reign and judge the world." Get ready!

Slide # 20

Acts 17:30–31 (NKJV)

30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to **repent**,

31 because He has appointed a day on which He will **judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained**. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

Indeed, "worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth."

Even so, come Lord Jesus!