

**SBC – May 7, 2023**

**Psalm 98:1-9 (NKJV)**

***“Joy to the World – the Messiah is Coming”***

Psalm 98 looks forward to the coming of the LORD and the victory He will have over all the earth. It will be a time of great celebration and joy - kingdom joy.

**Slide # 1**

**Outline of Psalm 98**

***Theme: Celebration of the LORD’s Reign***

vv. 1-3 Singing the LORD’s Praises

vv. 4-6 Enthusiastic Praise to the LORD

vv. 7-9 Praise from all Creation

(Nine verses)

**Psalm 98 (NKJV)**

A Psalm.

**1** Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.

**2** The LORD has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.

**3** He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**4** Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth; Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.

**5** Sing to the LORD with the harp, With the harp and the sound of a psalm,

**6** With trumpets and the sound of a horn; Shout joyfully before the LORD, the King.

**7** Let the sea roar, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell in it;

**8** Let the rivers clap their hands; Let the hills be joyful together before the LORD,

**9** For He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world, And the peoples with equity.

Psalm 98 comes with the simple title “**A Psalm**”. The word **PSALM** means "sacred poem or song," especially one expressing praise and thanksgiving.

**Psalm 98:1–9 (NKJV)**

**1 Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.**

God is always working new wonders. His mercies are new every morning (Lam. 3:22-23). God's new wonder workings called here "marvelous things" are worthy of a NEW SONG.

Praise the Lord for the OLD songs but there is a place for NEW as well.

The concept of the new song means there should be something fresh and dynamic about worship and the songs we sing to God.

– **David Guzik**

Miriam didn't use an Egyptian song. Deborah didn't use Miriam's song. "There must be new songs on new occasions of triumph."  
(**Charles Spurgeon**)

When God does "new awesome things" it is appropriate to sing a new song in honor of the occasion.

In the context of this Psalm the "marvelous things" ultimately relate to the events of the Second Coming of the LORD.

His deliverance of the world will be a NEW thing – a marvelous thing and it will call for a NEW SONG to properly express worship for what He has done.

And we are not just singing for emotion's sake. We are called to sing thoughtfully about what God has done and the victory He has wrought. And there will be no bigger victory on that which accompanies the Second Coming.

The word "marvelous" can also be translated as "miracles" or "wonders" (cf. Ps. 96:3). This refers to God's wonder-working power that brings Him the victory.

Note it is God ALONE Who has done this. It is His right hand (emphasizing His power). It is His "holy arm" – His set-apart activity that is unique to what only He can do.

## **2 The LORD has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.**

God has brought about salvation in keeping with His righteousness and He has put it on display before the nations. Certainly, there is application to God's great work of through the ministry of Christ at His first coming. At Christ's first coming Christ put kingdom power and truth on display as He presented His kingdom offer to Israel.

It is in relation to the first coming that we read in Isa. 53:1...

### **Isaiah 53:1 (NKJV)**

**1** Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

And then in the salvation He has provided in relation to the cross of Christ He has clearly revealed His salvation in the sight of the nations. The tomb was empty for all to see.

And God has sent His Church out and commissioned them to make it known in all the world. In the Tribulation Period, the gospel of the kingdom will be published in all the world.

But again, in the surrounding context of this Psalm the emphasis is on the great deliverance God is going to bring at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming.

### **Slide # 2**

### **Isaiah 40:5 (NKJV)**

**5** The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, **And all flesh shall see it together**; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

### **Isaiah 40:10 (NKJV)**

**10** Behold, the Lord GOD shall **come with a strong hand, And His arm shall rule for Him**; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him.

### **Isaiah 52:10 (NKJV)**

**10** The LORD has made bare His holy arm In the eyes of all the nations; And all the ends of the earth shall see The salvation of our God.

Christ's Second Coming involves God baring His holy arm in the sight of all the nations. This is a WHOLE world event! When God arises to DELIVER His people at the Second Coming it will be in the eyes of all the nations. The entire world will witness the phenomenon of God's salvation of Jerusalem.

In the end, the entire world will be rallied against Jerusalem!

**Zechariah 14:2 (NKJV)**

**2 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem;** The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

But then the LORD shall come to FIGHT for Jerusalem and He will save the day. It will be a spectacular DELIVERANCE as only YHWH can do! It will be glorious in the sight of the entire world.

He will then come in clouds of glory with great power (bared holy arm) with His shekinah glory brilliantly shining like lightening from the east to the west, coming with many crowns as KING OF KINGS AND LORD OR LORDS (cf. Rev. 19).

**Zechariah 14:3–4 (NKJV)**

**3 Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations,** As He fights in the day of battle.

**3 He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

In view here is God's covenant faithfulness. He has not forgotten His promises to Israel. There is a very foolish theology afoot these days called "Replacement Theology" which says God is done with Israel and all those promises He previously made to them are now spiritually fulfilled in the Church.

It really is blasphemous to even say such a thing because it changes the very nature of God. In this view, He is now a God Who can change, who doesn't necessarily fulfill His promises, and who can't be taken at His word. That is crazy. It presents an entirely different kind of God than the One presented in Scripture.

In 2002, the CBS television news show 60 Minutes ran a segment on what is proposed to motivated evangelical support for Israel. The broadcast claimed we believe that once all Jewish people return to Israel, Armageddon will occur as Jesus returns to Earth to eliminate them. In other words, the Christians will win and the Jewish people will lose. ... Forget 60 Minutes. Only what God says matters, and He says Armageddon is about saving Israel and righting the wrongs Gentile nations have brought on the Jewish people. – **Jim Showers** in *Israel My Glory*, May/June 2023, p. 26

**Zvi** was a Jewish convert who lived in Jerusalem for many years. He was a vibrant witness for Christ wherever he went. He fought in all the wars in the early years of Israel being reestablished as a nation.

We live very close to our Arab neighbors, so we see each other almost every day. A few months ago I had a long conversation with some of them. “We are very powerful” one of told me, “and one day all of Jerusalem will belong to the Arabs.” ....one of them said to me, “You are nothing. Your people are a tiny group in a small section of land.”

Zvi responded: “You have told me you will take Jerusalem back. But the book of Psalms says something different about Jerusalem.” I read from Psalms 122:2-3; 137:5-6; and Zechariah 8:4-8 to show them God will never forget Jerusalem and will regather His Chosen people in the city. His Word says these promises are eternal. – **Israel My Glory**, May/June 2023, p. 42

#### **Zechariah 8:4–8 (NKJV)**

**4** “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Old men and old women shall again sit In the streets of Jerusalem, Each one with his staff in his hand Because of great age.

**5** The streets of the city Shall be full of boys and girls Playing in its streets.’

**6** “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘If it is marvelous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, Will it also be marvelous in My eyes?’ Says the LORD of hosts.

**7** “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Behold, I will save My people from the land of the east And from the land of the west;

**8** I will bring them back, And they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. They shall be My people And I will be their God, In truth and righteousness.’

**4 Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth; Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.**

The worship of the Jews in the OT was legendary. It was LOUD! Certainly, at the Second Coming, it will be time to “***shout joyfully to the LORD***”. All the earth is called on to do so! This verse has JOY written all over it – joyfully, song, rejoice, sing. It will be a time of unprecedented joy and celebration for all those who know Him. There will be no more dreary or somber singing in that day!

**Psalm 30:5 (NKJV)**

**5** For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.

**5 Sing to the LORD with the harp, With the harp and the sound of a psalm,**

**6 With trumpets and the sound of a horn; Shout joyfully before the Lord, the King.**

Singing is to be accompanied by musical instruments. The harp is a stringed instrument. There are groups that don't believe in using musical instruments in their worship.

To take that position is to throw out the book of Psalms as your songbook. Psalms was in effect the Song Book of God's people and it calls for the use of musical instruments in the celebratory praise of God.

Legalism is all about joyless dirges. I say bring the harp. Strike up the JOY. Do a little shouting (in a controlled way) – but indeed shout joyfully, break forth in song, and accompany it with the harp. It is God-honoring to lift up our voices in strength as we worship Him.

It is like at the Second Coming the joy can't be contained – it will just spring forth with every fiber of their being. Some of us might even learn to dance like David when he danced before the Lord with all his might.

Perhaps that is asking too much. But just remember Michal! How did that end for her? (cf. 2 Sam. 6:14-23). Certainly, all things should be done decently and in order, and yet enthusiastic joy in our worship is appropriate.

And we should remember the context here is a climactic time of celebration related to the Second Coming. It calls for all-out exuberance and joyful celebratory worship.

**7 Let the sea roar, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell in it;**

**8 Let the rivers clap their hands; Let the hills be joyful together before the LORD,**

The whole world is called to celebrate. Even nature is personified as being overjoyed.

Clapping denotes being happy and celebrating something good. There is an ever-widening emphasis of celebration. First Israel, then all the earth, and then even the whole of nature.

### **Slide # 3**

#### **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.

**9 For He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world, And the peoples with equity.**

When people think about the Lord coming to judge the earth they often times cringe. They tend to think about it in a negative way but for God's people that is completely inappropriate.

We need to realize His coming will put an end to open rebellion, to lawlessness, to murder, and crime.

He is coming to rule with a rod of iron and it is cause for celebration for His people. Yes, for the unsaved it is a warning call to repentance and faith.

But for the saints, it will usher in the golden age we have long desired and prayed for. It will be a time of health, peace, and prosperity. There will be no godless tyrants afflicting oppression on people. There will be no more war and conflicts.

**Slide # 4****Micah 4:3 (NKJV)**

**3** He shall judge between many peoples, And rebuke strong nations afar off; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; **Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.**

At the time of the Second Coming all of heaven gets excited.

**Slide # 5****Revelation 19:1–3 (NKJV)**

**1** After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "**Alleluia!** Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!

**2** For **true and righteous are His judgments,** because He has **judged** the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has **avenged** on her the blood of His servants shed by her."

**3** Again they said, "**Alleluia!** Her smoke rises up forever and ever!"

**Slide # 6****Revelation 19:4–6 (NKJV)**

**4** And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! **Alleluia!**"

**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!**"

This is truly the "Alleluia Chorus".

Sometimes it seems like the forces of the devil are winning the battle, but this is temporary. Christ is coming and justice will be served. Christ is coming and His powerful arm will give Him the victory.

People today clamor for "***justice***" but not really for biblical justice. Often they just want their pound of flesh. But one day Christ is going to come and He is going to set all things straight. Coming judgment with "equity" (absolute fairness) will be the Lord's standard.



**C. S. Lewis in his book**, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* presented this earth in a figurative way as Narnia which was under the power of the wicked Witch of the North. It was a miserable situation. The land was in a state of perpetual winter. Spring never came. But then when Aslan rose from the dead the ice began to melt, flowers bloomed, and the trees turned green.

It is just a poetical writing but it is descriptive of what will come to full fruition when Christ comes again. All will then be different on the earth.

Indeed figuratively speaking, the sea will roar in joyous praise, the rivers will clap, and the hills will ring with joy. And as God's people, we will all join in with everything in our being as we join in celebration and praise to our great God for the marvelous things He has done.

**True story**: One day while walking home from a church service in Southampton England young Isaac Watts (20 years of age at the time) in 1694 complained to his father about the music of the church. [Imagine a young person doing such a thing. Some things never change.] The younger generation always wants to change things. There really is nothing new under the sun – but on the occasion of God's doing “marvelous things” a new song to the glory of God is always appropriate.

There is a place for a new song – at least that is what young Isaac Watts thought.

Isaac Watts told his father that the songs of the church lacked beauty and therefore were a detriment to proper worship. His father listened and then told him if he didn't like it that he should try to create something better. So in the year 1694 at the age of 20 Isaac began writing new hymns focusing on the Psalms in particular.

When Watts came to [Psalm 98](#), he wrote:

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing.  
Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy.*

We are still singing this new/old song today!

This hymn has become a favorite of the Christmas season but in truth, it is a song about the Second Coming of the Lord based on Psalm 98. It calls us to recognize Christ as our Savior and King and to open our hearts to the rule of His love and grace.

The psalmist in Psalm 98 wrote, "Oh, sing to the Lord a new song!" (98:1).

Isaac Watts did just that in his song "Joy to the World" calling us in anticipation to celebrate the promise of the Lord's coming to reign.

Indeed, let us even now in worship celebration: Sing to the Lord for the marvelous things He has done and for what He is yet to do.

We have a singing faith. We have a joyous faith because for us as God's people, the very best is yet to be!

Let us rejoice that He is coming to judge the earth! Then all will be set straight.

Let us sing together!