

Psalm 96

- This is another of the invitational Psalms, inviting us to worship!
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V: 1 Sing to the Lord a new song! Why a new song? Perhaps because His mercies are new every morning (**Lamentations 3:22-23**), perhaps because we've learned something new about Him today, perhaps because He wants our relationship with Him to be new and fresh every day.

- God likes variety, He doesn't like mindless repetition:

Matthew 6:7 "And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words."

V: 2-3 Sing! Not just in your heart, but out loud, praising and worshipping Him.

Psalm 100:1 "Make a joyful shout / noise to the Lord, all you lands!"

V: 1-3 we have "Sing", "sing", "sing", this is a call to action:

Hebrews 13:15 "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."

- Like our prayers, our worship must be properly directed:
- "Sing to the LORD" (Yahweh) 3X's
- He is the object of our adoration, of our worship.

V: 2-3 "proclaim", "declare!" These are things that come naturally enough when you're excited about what He has done!

Psalm 92:1-2 "1It is good to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises to Your name O Most High; 2to declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night."

- The Greek translation of the OT is referred to as the Septuagint translation. In that translation the word translated "Proclaim the good news" is the same word translated in English "**evangelize**", the word **Gospel** means literally "Good News."
- The Good news of Jesus Christ gives us plenty to sing about!

V: 4 Now we're given the reason why?

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

V: 5 For all the other “gods” - little “g” are idols - meaning they are useless.

Jeremiah 10:10 “But the Lord is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King.”

- “Idols” - (H-457) “liyl” it’s a noun, but it functions as an adjective; meaning “worthless” or “useless.”
- The True and the Living God is unlike the little gods of this world:

Psalms 115:3-8 “³But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands. ⁵They have mouths, but they do not speak; eyes they have, but they do not see; ⁶They have ears, but they do not hear; noses they have, but they do not smell; ⁷They have hands, but they do not handle; feet they have, but they do not walk; nor do they mutter through their throat. ⁸Those who make them are like them; so is everyone who trusts in them.”

V: 5b Demonstrating the contrast: “*But the Lord made the heavens.*”

- Unlike the worthless, useless, helpless gods of this world, our God demonstrates His power through creation itself.

Psalms 19:1 “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament show His handiwork.”

V: 6-8 Give to the Lord glory! Praise His Holy name.

- Bring an offering of praise, and honor, and glory!
- He also says don’t come empty handed, bring an offering.

Exodus 25:2 “Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering.”

- God is looking for those who would give with a joyful heart, willingly.

2 Corinthians 9:7 “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”

V: 9 Worshipping the Lord in the beauty of Holiness!

- Like a song that we frequently sing, Holiness is Christ in me! We can't be holy apart from a personal relationship with Him.
- The beauty of Holiness is Christ indwelling the life of the believer, that is beautiful to our God!

Romans 8:1-4 “¹There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the Law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

“*Tremble before Him*” - fear the Lord!

Isaiah 66:5 “Hear the word of the Lord, you who tremble at His Word:...”

V: 10 “*Say*” - speak, declare, testify to the world, nations being a reference to the non-Jews, Gentiles.

- The message to be declared: “*The Lord reigns!*”
- What God had made, that which He has “*firmly established*” will not be moved.
- Given the context this appears to be speaking about God's law, His righteousness, His righteous standard.

Genesis 17:1 “When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be perfect / blameless.”

- The standard hasn't changed, the standard is perfection - Jesus is the standard.
- When He comes He shall judge the people righteously, according to His righteous standard.

V: 11-12 The heavens will rejoice, the earth will be glad - but there will be some unhappy people at that time.

- The sea will roar it's approval, the fields will rejoice - but those who hate God will be none too pleased. They will be filled with fear and dread.

- Triumphant entry: Jesus came into Jerusalem over the Mount of Olives with people laying their clothes and palm frawns before His donkey, singing the hallel choruses.
- The Pharisees urged Him to rebuke His disciples - Jesus said that if they stopped, that the rocks would cry out!

V: 13 All of nature rejoices at the coming of the Lord because things will be set aright, set back to what God intended.

Presently:

Romans 8:22 “For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.”

- God is coming back to judge the living and the dead:

Revelation 19:11-16 “¹¹Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹²His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written KING of Kings and LORD of Lords.”

Psalm 97

- This is a millennial psalm depicting the Messiah, Jesus, reigning.

V: 1-3 The Lord - omnipotent, the Lord all powerful reigns.

Revelation 19:6 “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!”

- No matter what the circumstances are around us, or what the “feelings” are within us: The Lord reigns!
- Clouds and darkness surround Him, He is a mystery to those who don’t know Him!

1 Timothy 3:16 “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God** was **manifested in the flesh**, justified in the **Spirit**, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.”

- His reign is founded on righteousness and justice - He is these things!
- When the Lord comes the enemies will be destroyed with the sword that comes out of His mouth, the fire goes before Him and burns His enemies all around.

Hebrews 12:29 “For our God is a consuming fire.”

Hebrews 10:31 “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

V: 4-6 This is speaking of glorious things to come, the things that we pray for:

Matthew 6:10 “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.”

“⁵... *the Lord of the whole Earth.*” “... *the Lord of all the earth.*” Used only 4 times in the Bible. Couldn't break it down to a single title like “El-Elyon” or “El-Shaddai”.

- The mountains will melt like wax in the presence of the Lord, all will see His glory in the Heavenly kingdom.

Psalms 19:1 “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.”

V: 7-9 Those who trust in the false little gods of this world will be put to shame, they will be disappointed in their little gods who couldn't help them in their real time of need.

Psalms 20:7 “Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.”

- In the ancient Near East, when one nation conquered another, people interpreted the victory to mean that the gods of the conquering nation were greater than those of the defeated nation.
- But the Jews were taught that Jehovah was the God of all the earth and that the idols were nothing.
- God allowed Babylon to defeat the Jews because the Jews had greatly sinned against the Lord, not because Babylon's gods were stronger than Jehovah.
- Israel's eventual release from Babylon was proof that Jehovah was in control.

V: 10 If we love the Lord, then we hate, we abhor what is evil.

Proverbs 8:13 “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate.”

Romans 12:9 “Let love be without hypocrisy (genuine). Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.”

“10b He preserves the souls of His saints;”

Psalm 34:19 “Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.”

V: 11-12 Light is sown for the righteous:

Describing Jesus:

John 1:4 “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.”

Jesus said of Himself:

John 8:12 “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

Jesus said:

John 12:24 “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone: but if it dies, it produces much grain.”

- Light was sown, sown like seed - Jesus was that light that was sown into the ground, like wheat which dies, but then produces much fruit, gladness for the upright in heart.
- Because of that new life that came from death we rejoice in the Lord - you who have been made righteous.

James 3:18 “Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”

- We give thanks at the remembrance of His Holy name!