

— Psalm 98 —
The Psalms
The Joyful Kingdom

A Psalm.

¹Oh, 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.

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

³He 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

► Psalm 98 is obviously a celebratory psalm, and it falls within a category of psalms called the _____ psalms.

These are psalms 93-99 and they celebrate the kingship of YHWH. They celebrate the victories that God had accomplished in the past, and on the basis of those victories, they rejoice in the present, and they look forward to the _____ when all will be made right when God judges the world in perfect righteousness.

Psalm 93:1 - **The Lord reigns!**

Psalm 94:2 - Rise up, **O judge of the earth**, repay to the proud what they deserve!

Psalm 95:3 - The Lord is a great God, and a **great King** above all gods.

Psalm 96:4 - Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared **above all gods**.

Psalm 97:1 - **The Lord reigns**, let the earth rejoice

Psalm 99:1 - **The Lord reigns**, let the people tremble.

► The bible gives us a very clear picture of the relationship of the King to his _____. If the king is a good king, there is no greater blessing for His people. If he is a bad king, his people will suffer.

Proverbs 16:15 - **In the light of a king's face there is life**, and his favor is like the clouds that bring the spring rain.

Proverbs 29:4 - By **justice a king builds up the land**, but he who exacts gifts tears it down.

► Christ is indeed seated at the Father's right hand in heaven, but He is there for the good of His people on _____. And it is from heaven that he sanctifies His people on earth so that they might bring the earth from glory to _____, now that they are no longer enslaved to sin and Satan.

► This type of cosmic victory demands loud _____. The psalmist couldn't have used stronger language. Everything that has been created must get loud. It doesn't _____ along or sing begrudgingly; it is a type of rejoicing that is full-throated and full-bodied.

Psalm 96:9 - Worship the LORD **in the splendor of holiness**; tremble before him, all the earth!

► The psalmist isn't concerned with the scientific definition of trees, rivers, and hills. What he is more interested in is _____ creation rightly so that everything he sees reminds Him of something else. He is seeing the world _____. He understands that all of creation is involved in the redemption and restoration of man, and therefore ought to rejoice as well.

"I am not ashamed to own that I believe that the whole universe, heaven and earth, air and seas, is full of images of divine things. So much so that there is room for people to be learning more and more of this language and seeing more of that which is declared in it to the end of the world without discovering it all."

- Jonathan Edwards

We know God by two means:

First, by the creation, preservation, and government of the universe, since that universe is before our eyes like a beautiful book in which all creatures, great and small, are as letters to make us ponder the invisible things of God: God's eternal power and divinity, as the apostle Paul says in Romans 1:20.

- Belgic Confession, Article II

► This joy is _____ to Christian faith and life. If we are to be anything, it is joyful. Jesus meets His people with joy, and he leaves them with His joy. And joy is not just inward, as we've seen. It is loud and beautiful. It is a _____ joy. It is a joy which brings all of creation into it so that everything in creation might worship and praise the living God.

*Philippians 1:25 - Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and **joy in the faith...***

*Romans 14:17 - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and **joy in the Holy Spirit.***

*John 15:11 - These things I have spoken to you, **that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.***

► It's out of joy that we work together with God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to make earth look like _____. This is the reason we care about what things look like on the ground. Because everything belongs to Jesus and should look the way He intends. Nations should look like they understand that Jesus is Lord of _____.

"It would seem fitting to write for your majesty a little about the fuller acceptance and establishment of the Kingdom of Christ in your realm. Thus it may be better understood how salutary and necessary it is both for your majesty and all classes of men in his realm, thoughtfully, consistently, carefully, and tenaciously= to work toward this goal, that Christ's kingdom may as fully as possible be accepted and hold sway over us. I shall present the ways and means which are proper, sure, and suitable to advance, recommend, and urge effectively and acceptably this cause in which is contained the eternal happiness and salvation of all. Above all, I shall bend my energies to show from Holy Scripture the nature and properties of the

Kingdom of Christ among and within us who live in an age in every way perversely opposed to God. I shall set forth what the Kingdom's fellowship and order really are."

- Martin Bucer, The Kingdom of Christ

► If we want Psalm 98 to come alive on Monday-Saturday as much as it does on Sunday mornings, these are the things we ought to give ourselves to. Every time we sing this song we ought to be reminded of our mission as God sends us out into the world to bring it in to this joyful celebration of the King. We should long for and work towards the _____ of all things within our individual domains, so that they fall in line with the ethics of Christ's Kingdom.