

Psalms 98

This evening - we're continuing our overview of the Old Testament book titled Psalms.

With this as our focus - let's open our Bibles to Psalms chapter 98 - and as we make our way to the 98th Psalm...

...I should take a moment to point out that this Psalm is the sixth of eight Psalms...

...which are called by some - the theocratic Psalms - and by others - the Enthronement Psalms.

The reason why is because - these songs of praise focus our attention on the theocratic rule of our infinite King - Who sits enthroned over His creation.

And while the 98th Psalm is another anonymous Psalm that fails to identify it's author...

...the Septuagint - and the Latin Vulgate both attribute the lyrics of this Psalm to King David.

It's also interesting to note that the Psalmist directs our attention to the wonderful works of the Lord.

And this of course includes the work of salvation - by which sinners are saved from the punishment that we deserve.

Not only that - but - the Psalmist also warns us about the day of judgment...

...when those who reject our Savior - will stand before the righteous judge of heaven and Earth.

With this as our focus - let's turn our attention to the lyrics that we find here in the 98th Psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 1 - where the Psalmist declared...

Psa 98:1 A Psalm.

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.

Here in the beginning of this Psalm - we find the Psalmist - encouraging his audience to sing a new song.

And more specifically - the Psalmist was encouraging them to sing this new song...

...which was written for the glory of the God Who has done marvelous things.

Just to be clear - that word - marvelous - was translated from a Hebrew word...

...which was used of the wonderful miracles that the Lord has performed.

And with this as our focus - let's take a moment to consider some of the marvelous miracles...

...that the Psalmist was referring to.

Without debate - the miracle of Creation described in Genesis chapter 1 - is one of the most incredible miracles found in the Bible.

In Genesis 6 - we learn about the great flood of Noah - during which the Lord saved humanity from the corruption of fallen angels.

In the book of Exodus - we learn about the way that God used 10 plagues - to saved the children of Israel from Egypt.

And not only that - but - He also parted the Red Sea - so that they could escape the Egyptian Army.

That's right - the Lord is the One Who gave them the victory - over the Egyptian armies.

During the days when they wandered in the wilderness - the Lord provided manna from heaven...

...and He quenched their thirst - by bringing water from a Rock.

And after they entered the land of Promise - the Lord gave them the victory - at the battle of Jericho.

That's right - the Lord is the One Who gave them the victory - at the battle of Jericho.

Then - as Joshua led the Children of Israel into the land of their inheritance...

...the Kings of the land gathered together against the people of God which included....

...the five kings of the Amorites - the king of Jerusalem - the king of Hebron - the king of Jarmuth - the king of Lachish - and the king of Eglon.

These kings gathered their armies together - in order to defeat the children of Israel.

And yet - the Lord accomplished marvelous miracles in order to give His people the victory.

With all of this in mind - it's no wonder that the Psalmist began this Psalm by declaring...

Psa 98:1 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.

Now - it should be noted that - Yahweh doesn't have a literal right hand - nor does He have an arm.

No - instead - the right hand of God is a metaphor that points to the ultimate power - and supreme authority of the LORD.

And so - when the psalmist referred to the right hand and the holy arm of the LORD...

...he was actually referring to the ultimate power - and supreme authority of the King...

...Who gave His people the victory over their enemies.

And listen - we should not only sing the praises of the Lord - for the marvelous miracles that He performed in the past...

...but - we should also look forward to the marvelous miracles that He will perform in the future.

And with this as our focus - let's consider the way that the tribulation age martyrs will sing the praises of our Savior...

...as they enter into the throne room of our King.

It's in Revelation chapter 15 - beginning at verse 1 - where the apostle John writes...

Rev 15:1 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.

Rev 15:2 And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.

Rev 15:3 They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying:

"Great and marvelous are Your works,
Lord God Almighty!

Just and true are Your ways,

O King of the saints!

Rev 15:4 Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name?
For You alone are holy.

For all nations shall come and worship before You,

For Your judgments have been manifested."

Here in these verses - we find the apostle John - describing the day when those who gain the victory over the antichrist...

...will sing the praises of the One - Who has accomplished great and marvelous works.

And we should notice how they glorify the Lord God Almighty...

...by referring to Him as the King of the saints!

Christian - listen - there's coming a day - when we will witness the tribulation age Saints who are martyred for their faith...

...singing the praises of the One - Who has accomplished great and marvelous works.

And seeing how John called this - the song of the Lamb...

...then - there should be no doubt that - this song is about the great and marvelous works our Savior - Jesus.

With this as our focus - let's consider how the Psalmist explained it - here in the 98th Psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 2 - where the Psalmist assured his audience that...

Psa 98:2 The LORD has made known His salvation;
His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.

Psa 98:3 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.

Here in these verses - we find the Psalmist - focusing our attention on the salvation that the Lord has revealed to the ends of the Earth.

That word - salvation - found there in the middle of verse 2 - and the end of verse 3...

...it's translated from the Hebrew word - yeshua.

And while it's true that the Hebrew word - yeshua - refers to the deliverance that results in victory...

...it's also true that this is also the Hebrew name of our Savior - Jesus.

Just to be clear — Jesus is the English translation of the Greek transliteration - of the Hebrew word - Yeshua.

And while there are those who insist that those who use the English name - Jesus - are wrong...

...what they fail to realize that the Greek name - Jesus - and the Hebrew name Yeshua...

...share the same definition - which reminds us that Yahweh is salvation.

When the Psalmist assured his audience that Yahweh has made known His Yeshua...

...he was being led by the Holy Spirit - to reveal the name of our Savior - Jesus.

And it's in the gospel of Matthew - where we find the fulfillment of this prophetic promise.

As a matter of fact - it's in Matthew chapter 1 - beginning at verse 18 - where we learn that...

Mat 1:18 ...the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

Mat 1:19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

Mat 1:20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of

David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

Mat 1:21 “And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

It was an angel of the Lord - who presented Joseph with the name of the supernatural Son in her womb.

And according to the instructions - the child would be called Jesus - meaning - Yahweh is Salvation...

...because - Jesus would save His people from their sins.

We find Mary receiving similar instructions from the angel Gabriel - - it's in Luke chapter 1 - beginning at verse 26 - where Luke writes...

Luk 1:26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,

Luk 1:27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

Luk 1:28 And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!”

Luk 1:29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.

Luk 1:30 Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

Luk 1:31 “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.

Luk 1:32 “He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.

Luk 1:33 “And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

Here in Luke's account - we learn about the day when the angel Gabriel informed Mary about her supernatural son.

And we must not fail to notice that - he instructed her to call Him Jesus.

And while it's true that the name - Jesus - means Yahweh is salvation...

...is also true that our Savior - Jesus - is also a descendant of King David....

...Who will eventually receive a kingdom that has no end.

Let's consider how the Psalmist explained it - here in the 98th Psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 4 - where the Psalmist declared...

Psa 98:4 Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth;
Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.

Psa 98:5 Sing to the LORD with the harp,
With the harp and the sound of a psalm,

Psa 98:6 With trumpets and the sound of a horn;
Shout joyfully before the LORD, the King.

Here in these verses - we find the Psalmist - encouraging His audience - to celebrate the Yeshua of the LORD - with shouts of praise.

This of course includes the use of musical instruments - as we proclaim the praises of our LORD - the King.

And as we consider this call to praise - it seems to me that the Psalmist was pointing to the day...

...when the King of kings will come - and establish His kingdom here on the Earth.

It's for this reason that Spurgeon referred to this as a CORONATION HYMN which is designed to...

“...officially proclaim the conquering Messiah as Monarch over the nations, with blast of trumpets, clapping of hands, and celebration of triumphs.”

With this in mind - I can't wait for the day - when we will see our Savior...

...establishing His theocratic rule over the nations of the world.

It's on that day when we will shout joyfully before the LORD, the King.

As we look forward to that day - I can't help but to remember what Jesus said to Pontius Pilate - just before being crucified.

It's in John chapter 18 - beginning at verse 33 - where the apostle John tells us about the day - when...

Jhn 18:33 ...Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?"

Jhn 18:34 Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?"

Jhn 18:35 Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?"

Jhn 18:36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

Jhn 18:37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

From this - we can see that - Jesus is not only the King of the Jews - He is the King of kings.

And while it's true that the nations of the world are currently led by men with great power...

...the Lord Jesus assured Pilate - that there's coming a day...

...when the King of kings will establish His theocratic rule - over the Earth.

I like the way that an angel explained this to the apostle John - in Revelation 17.

It's there where we learn about a 10 king confederation which will join together - in order to make war with the Lamb of God.

What they will fail to realize is that the Lamb of God is also the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

He is the King of kings - Who will easily overcome those kings - at the time of His return.

It's in Revelation chapter 17 - beginning at verse 12 - where the apostle John declared...

Rev 17:12 "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.

Rev 17:13 "These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

Rev 17:14 "These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."

Christian - listen - the Lord Jesus is the King of kings - - and it's for this reason that He won't have any problem...

...overcoming the kings of the Earth - at the time of His second coming.

The reason why is because - He is the only King with everlasting power.

We should also notice that - there is no mention of Mary - ruling along side of Jesus - as the Queen of Victories.

And yet - this didn't stop the White House from officially observing the nativity of Mary - yesterday - with a post that read...

"...Happy Birthday Mary, Queen of Victories!"

Now - it should be noted that - there is no mention of Mary's birthday in the Bible.

And so you might be wondering - how did they determine which day she was born?

Well - according to Catholic Answers - - September 8 is the date that follows nine months after December 8...

...which is the day that they celebrate the Immaculate Conception of Mary.

In other words - the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church want us to believe that Mary was conceived on December the 8th...

...without the stain of original sin - and yeah this is despite the fact that...

...Mary confessed that she also needed a Savior.

Now - you might be wondering - what is the basis for believing that Mary was immaculately conceived on December the 8th?

Well - it's because this doctrine - which was introduced back in the seventh century AD...

...was established as official dogma - by Pope Pius IX - back in 1854.

So - yeah - if we take the date of the immaculate conception - and fast forward 9 months...

...we end up with September the 8th - - which is why President Trump celebrated Mary's Birthday - yesterday...

...when he referred to her as the queen of victories.

Please trust me when I tell you that - there is no Biblical reason to believe that Mary is the Queen of Heaven.

And there is no Biblical reason for us to believe that our victory has been secured by her obedience.

No - instead - our victory over the enemy is secured by our Savior Jesus...

...because - Jesus is the King - Who has everlasting power.

Let's consider how Paul put it in 1st Timothy chapter 6 - it's beginning at verse 13 - where he declared...

1Ti 6:13 I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate,

1Ti 6:14 that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing,

1Ti 6:15 which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

1Ti 6:16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

From this - we can see that Christ Jesus is the only King with everlasting power.

And it's for this reason that He'll have no problem - defeating the enemy...

...while simultaneously securing the victory - for those who trust in Him.

And it's for this reason that those who trust in Jesus are called chosen and faithful.

With all of this in mind - we'll all do well to follow the instructions the Psalmist presented - beginning there at verse 4 - where he declared...

Psa 98:4 Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth;
Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.
Psa 98:5 Sing to the LORD with the harp,
With the harp and the sound of a psalm,
Psa 98:6 With trumpets and the sound of a horn;
Shout joyfully before the LORD, the King.

Rather than singing secular songs that glorify the things of the Earth...

...we should instead sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs - as we make melody in our hearts to the Lord.

And we should SHOUT joyfully before the LORD - because He is our almighty King.

We should also sing the praises of our Savior - as we look forward to the day when He will establish everlasting righteousness.

Let's consider how the Psalmist put it - here in the 98th Psalm - look with me beginning there at verse 7 - where he declared...

Psa 98:7 Let the sea roar, and all its fullness,
The world and those who dwell in it;
Psa 98:8 Let the rivers clap their hands;
Let the hills be joyful together before the LORD,
Psa 98:9 For He is coming to judge the earth.
With righteousness He shall judge the world,
And the peoples with equity.

Here in the final verses of this Psalm - we find the Psalmist - encouraging his audience to look forward to the future...

...and he did this - by reminding them about the day of Judgment - when the King of kings will judge the world in righteousness.

And as we've already seen in the previous enthronement Psalms...

...the King of kings will eventually establish everlasting righteousness...

...as He rules and reigns with a rod of iron.

It's for this reason that the Psalmist encouraged the world and those who dwell in it - to roar like the waves of the sea.

And it's there in verse 8 - where he encouraged the rivers to clap their hands...

...and the hills to be joyful together before the LORD...

...as the day of our King's return - draws closer and closer every day.

And as we consider how the creation declares the glory of the Lord...

...I can't help but to consider what Jesus said - on the day of His triumphal entry.

With this as our focus - let's consider Luke's account of that glorious day - which we found in Luke chapter 19.

As we make our way to the 19th chapter of Luke's gospel account - I should take a moment to point out that...

...this was the day - when the Lord Jesus rode a young donkey - from the Mount of Olives to Temple Mount.

It was at that point in time when people began to sing the praises of our Savior.

Let's consider the account found here in Luke chapter 19 - it's beginning at verse 36 - where he declared...

Luk 19:36 And as He went, many spread their clothes on the road.

Luk 19:37 Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice

and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen,

Luk 19:38 saying:

“ ‘Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD!’

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

Luk 19:39 And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.”

Luk 19:40 But He answered and said to them, “I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.”

Here in these verses - we find the disciples of Christ - singing the 118th Psalm - as the Lord Jesus made His way to the temple.

And I should point out that - this was the day of visitation - which the angel Gabriel revealed to the prophet Daniel.

Sadly - the Pharisees were jealous of Jesus - and it's for this reason that they tried to silence His disciples.

And in response - the Lord Jesus assured them that if His disciples stopped singing His praise...

...the stones would begin to cry out.

Now - it's possible that the Lord Jesus was referring to the stones that the Jews place on top of their tombstones in honor of the dead.

It's more likely that Jesus was referring to the stones of the temple - which would soon be toppled by the Romans.

Either way - the point that Jesus was making is that - this was a day that demanded songs of praise...

...because - this was the day of their visitation.

Let's consider how Jesus explained it - here in this same section of scripture - look with me there at verse 41 - where Luke writes...

Luk 19:41 Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it,
Luk 19:42 saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this
your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are
hidden from your eyes.
Luk 19:43 "For days will come upon you when your enemies will
build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on
every side,
Luk 19:44 "and level you, and your children within you, to the
ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another,
because you did not know the time of your visitation."

Here in these verses - we find the Lord Jesus - helping the
Pharisees to understand that...

...this was the day of their visitation - and it's for this reason
that His disciples were singing His praises.

And if they didn't sing His praises - - the very stones
would proclaim the praises of our Savior.

It's also interesting to note that the Lord Jesus promised that He wouldn't
return - - until the day when the Jews proclaim the same song of praise.

It's in Matthew chapter 23 - beginning at verse 37 - where the Lord Jesus
declared...

Mat 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets
and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather
your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings,
but you were not willing!

Mat 23:38 "See! Your house is left to you desolate;

Mat 23:39 "for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say,
'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'"

The song that the children of Israel should've sung on the day of His
triumphal entry...

...is the same song that they will begin to sing - on the day of
His second coming.

They will sing the 118th Psalm - as they declare...

“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!”

As we look forward to that day - I encourage those who trust in Jesus to sing His praises everyday.

Let's sing to the LORD a new song - and the reason why is because - He has done marvelous things.

And as we sing - we can rejoice in knowing that His right hand and His holy arm have gained the victory - by which we are saved.

And listen - this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith in the finished work of our Savior - and our Lord...

...Jesus Christ - the King of kings.

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