

## 08.24.25: Psalm 98

### Join the Choir!

**Title:** Join the Choir

**Scripture:** Psalm 98

**Main Idea:** We celebrate God whose victorious acts are displayed for all to see until he judges everyone.

#### **Introduction:**

- Not checking out on me!
- Singing and music as a universal expression of celebration and devotion
- Choirs and music in church
  - Hymns
  - Choral arrangements
  - Simple praise
  - More in depth, but less congregational
- Praise psalms in this case also known as a coronation psalm because of hints of royal celebration
- Spurgeon, “worthy to rank among the most devout and soul-stirring of sacred lyrics” ToD, 371.

#### **Keys to Understanding:**

- [Hist] – no particular historical context even though much language similar to Isaiah and other Psalms; [here or below?]. The psalm encompasses the whole range of Yahweh's victories. The descriptions are characteristic of his actions as the Divine Warrior.
- [Lit] – Coronation Psalm similar to 96 and following from 97 being connected with both
- [Theo] – God of Israel is God of the whole world and creation

#### **Transition/Coordinating Thought:**

We sing to God! Verse 1 - Invitation to join in the collective choir and to sing

We sing to God,

#### **1) Our Victorious Warrior**

EXPLANATION:

- Vs 1b-3
- Word variously translated victory/salvation
- Phrase “his right hand and holy arm have won him the victory” is language many see in Is 40-55
- Is 52:10
  - <sup>10</sup>The Lord has displayed his holy arm  
in the sight of all the nations;  
all the ends of the earth will see  
the salvation of our God.
- Reference to Yhwh’s right hand (usually a person’s more powerful hand) and to Yhwh’s arm underline the might of what Yhwh has done. Qualifying Yhwh’s arm as \*holy further emphasizes that: this is no mere human arm, but a supernatural one. Goldingay
- Victory is the Lord’s alone – He and he alone is the victor
- His victory is rooted in his love and promises to his people
- His victory is on display for all the world to see
- The psalm encompasses the whole range of Yahweh's victories. The descriptions are characteristic of his actions as the Divine Warrior.

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#### **2) Our Present King**

EXPLANATION:

- Vs 4-6
- Picture of celebration worthy only for the king himself
- These are not the soft whispers of our worship
  - Shouts
  - Jubilation
  - Burst forth
  - Shout triumphantly
- The enthusiasm of Israelite worship is illustrated in this passage. Shouts are raised, praises chanted and sung, while musical instruments are played and horns blown. The noise of temple worship was legendary Tate, WBC
- Vs 6 – in the presence of the LORD, our King

APPLICATION:

- Music as a gift
- Music includes instruments
- Music includes our voices
- Are we singing and celebrating as if our king were in the room, because let me let you in on the fact that He is in fact here!
- And just as He rejected the worship of his people when their actions were not reflective of their hearts, the call for our worship to be authentic is just as significant today
- One last note on the whole earth – we will address below

We Sing to God

#### **3) With all Creation**

EXPLANATION:

- Vs 7-9a
- We just cannot get away from the connection between God, creation, and our relationship to our creator – because as I have talked about before, unlike our existence today, they were immersed in creation and recognized how it all points to the Creator
- The rivers clapping their hands – a round of applause, again not the courteous, obligatory type but the exuberant, vigorous, animated type
- When we lift our voices in celebration through music we join with the choir of creation that is singing and shouting its praise without ceasing

ILLUSTRATION:

- Water rushing/falling over rocks in a river or stream – sounds just like applause

We sing to God

#### **4) Our Righteous Judge**

EXPLANATION:

- Vs 9b-d
- It is truly interesting the connection between praise and God's judgment in the Psalms
- Both Ps 96 and this psalm end with this refrain

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### **Join the Choir!**

- He is coming to judge
- His judgment will be righteous and fair
- His judgment will be for all

#### **APPLICATION:**

- When he comes in judgment there will be only two options
  - One will be jubilant celebration because the great warrior's greatest victory
  - The other will be terror – not because God will have judged unfairly but because some will have failed to see and thus rejected the victories clearly displayed for all the world to see