

Psalm 96

Bible Study Dec. 1.2020

By Major Deborah Coles

I was looking for a Psalm for our Bible study, so I 'googled' "Christmas Psalms" and those to be read or sung on Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning and Christmas Day are Psalms 96, 97, 98.

So I eagerly looked them up. And was disappointed. Nothing about a baby here!

I did some more reading.

These are songs of worship for a king – today's psalm, 96, recognizes the Lord as Creator and Judge. We bring our offering to His courts, we worship Him in the splendour/beauty of holiness *

He is glorious and worthy of praise, to be feared; strength and majesty are in His sanctuary.

Put those worship terms into Christmas story – see the shepherds' awe, the humility of the magi.

2, 920 343 264 275

2 – All creatures of our God and King >> splendour and majesty

920 – Far and near hear the call – good!

343 – 1st verse goes with Ps. 96.9

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!

Bow down before Him, His glory proclaim;

With gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,

Kneel and adore Him, the Lord is His name.

246 – Shout to the Lord – good

275 – The Glory Song – “joy to the nations when Jesus is king; wrong shall be ended when Jesus us king...” cf Aslan

“Wrong will be right, when Aslan comes in sight,
At the sound of his roar, sorrows will be no more,
When he bares his teeth, winter meets its death,
And when he shakes his mane, we shall have spring again.”

This is the great prophecy of Aslan from C.S. Lewis' The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. Aslan, the lion, is Lewis' Christ-figure, and the prophecy speaks of his coming. I love these words.

920 Say It Loud (Far and near)

Far and near hear the call
Worship him, Lord of all
Families of nations come
Celebrate what God has done

Deep and wide is the love
Heaven sent from above
God's own Son for sinners died
Rose again, he is alive

*Say it loud, say it strong
Tell the world what God has done
Say it loud, praise his name
Let the earth rejoice
For the Lord reigns*

At his name let praise begin
Oceans roar, nature sing
For he comes to judge the earth
In righteousness and in his truth

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Asbury commentary

Yahweh's rule, particularly his worldwide kingship, ordered the earth itself (24:1-2; 93:1-4; 96:11-13; 98:7-9) and was cause for great celebration there: "the trees of the forest . . . sing for joy" (96:12), "the rivers clap their hands" (98:8). It also guaranteed equity and order in the affairs of persons on the earth (96:11-13; 98:9). And the two though separate are related, much as in Paul's vision of creation groaning in sympathy with the suffering of persons now and in anticipation of the redemption of humanity (Ro 8:18-25). All creation, nature, and those in whose stewardship the earth has been placed celebrate the righteous judgment of King Yahweh, who rules the course of events with justice and will one day make his judgment apparent to all. "He comes to judge" celebrated his present rule and was an affirmation of hope in the face of circumstances that were at odds with the justice of God (96:11-13; 98:9).

Psalm 96

The Lord Has Come

- 1. The new song ([Psalm 96:1-3](#))**
- 2. The Lord supreme ([Psalm 96:4-6](#))**
- 3. Glory unto His Name ([Psalm 96:7-10](#))**
- 4. Creation celebrating ([Psalm 96:11-13](#))**

And now He has come and is manifested in the earth. The singing times begin and will last for a thousand years, when they will merge into the never ceasing songs of eternity. It is a call now to make the glad and glorious news known in all the earth and to make His glory known among the nations. That will be the work of converted Israel. Not much comment is needed; it is all so plain if we just see it refers to His visible return. And while Israel rejoices, the nations hear that

He reigneth, all creation will rejoice as well, for He takes the curse away and delivers creation from its groans.

Gaebelein's Annotated Bible

Questions from Serendipity Bible

Open:

What's your favourite new song on the radio? From church?

When is the last time you changed a long-held opinion of yours? What do you now believe?

Read aloud.

Dig:

1. Why does this psalm appear in 1 Chronicles 16:8-33? Why do you think one version is longer? To whom are verses 1-6 directed? 7-10? 11-13?
2. Why is 'new' important? (see Isaiah 43: 18-19) What new thing is God doing?
3. What 10 things does the psalmist want the Israelites to include in their worship? What does 'ascribe' mean?
4. Why is the international appeal important?
5. See verse 13. Why is 'for He comes' a cause of joy?

Reflect

What new thing would you like God to do in your life? How do old habits interfere with your singing a new song?

Does it seem to you that God reigns? Why hasn't the Just Judge come?