

## PSALMS 98

*A Call to Praise the Lord for His Righteousness.*

### INTRODUCTION.

- A. (A Psalm). "Praise God for His Righteousness."
- B. Clyde M. Miller, in *The Living Word* commentary says that, "This psalm is composed entirely of praise." Coffman says that "If men really understood what a marvel the salvation of God actually is, perhaps there would be a more general song of thanksgiving arising from the hearts of mankind."
- C. There is no indication that there is any forgiveness for angels who sinned, but God offers man forgiveness and eternal life. The angels did not have a weakness of flesh to make them susceptible to sin and there are probably many other factors we do not know about. But we should focus on our own guilt and the grace that offers forgiveness.
- D. Clyde Miller gives the following division headings:
  - I. The Victory of God (98:1-3).
  - II. Let All Humanity Praise the Lord (98:4-6).
  - III. Let All Nations Praise the Lord (98:7-9).

### THE TEXT.

**98:1** O sing to the LORD a new song,  
For He has done wonderful things,  
His right hand and His holy arm have gained the victory for Him.

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

**3** He has remembered His lovingkindness and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;  
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**4** Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth;  
Break forth and sing for joy and sing praises.

**5** Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,  
With the lyre and the sound of melody.

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

**7** Let the sea roar and all it contains,  
The world and those who dwell in it.

**8** Let the rivers clap their hands,  
Let the mountains sing together for joy

**9** Before the LORD, for He is coming to judge the earth;  
He will judge the world with righteousness  
And the peoples with equity.

### COMMENTS.

- A. The Victory of God (98:1-3).

**[v1]** "Oh, sing to the Lord a new song!" The song is of salvation that the Lord works in His great mercy and lovingkindness. "His right hand and His holy arm have gained victory for Him." God's ability to save is limited only by His righteous nature. He cannot justify sin.

**[v2]** "The Lord has made known His salvation; His righteousness..." His revelation is as marvelous a gift as His mercy and love.

**[v3]** "...His mercy and His faithfulness...the salvation..." God never leaves man, but when man sins, He leaves God.
- B. Let all Nations Praise the Lord (98:4-6).

**[v4]** "Shout joyfully...all the earth..." Some have suggested that since all nations have seen how God delivered His people from Egypt and given them the land of Canaan, that they should all join in praising Him. It is tragic that Israel never was completely converted to God that they might fully enjoy His blessings.

**[v5,6]** “Sing to the Lord with the harp... and the sound of trumpets... of the horn...” Many suggest that it is strange that methods of worship in the OT are not used in Xianity. Coffman gives the following observation on worship:

Numerous “methods” of worship as practiced in Judaism are omitted in the true worship of God through Jesus Christ. A few of these things are animal sacrifices, the burning of sacred incense, the sprinkling of blood, the clanging of loud cymbals, the blowing of the ram’s horn, the sounding of trumpets, the use of high-sounding cymbals, the religious dance, all of the typical and ceremonial gatherings of the people of Israel in Jerusalem, and all of the ceremonies observed by them, such as the Day of Atonement, the Passover, the Feast of Weeks, the Feast of Tabernacles, even the observance of the Sabbath Day, and the use of mechanical instruments of music in the worship of God (p. 567).

Many of these acts are symbolic of the Xian worship and so identified, as the blood of X was represented by the blood of animals. The book of Revelation uses many of these symbols to represent our salvation and worship, see Rev. 5:8,9.

The incense of the OT symbolized the prayers of the saints, and the instruments of music represented the songs which “speak,” “teach and admonish one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs... The OT worship was a shadow of the real worship in spirit and in truth in the kingdom, or church.

C. Let All Nations Praise the Lord (98:7-9).

**[v7,8]** “Let the sea roar... the rivers clap their hands... the hills be joyful together...” All nature is admonished to be joyful and praise God, because “...He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world...” Everything that loves truth and justice wants righteous judgment.