

Rhema Christian Center
Triumphant Tuesday Bible Study July 11, 2023
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Psalms 98 NKJ: A Song of Praise to the Lord for His Salvation and Judgment

A Psalm

The Author is uncertain:

In Hebrew, this Psalm is called a Psalm, in Chaldean it is labeled a Prophetic Psalm.

Many scholars “noted this psalm was probably written to celebrate the deliverance of Israel (the Jews) from their Babylonian captivity; **“but it is to be understood prophetically of the redemption of the world by Jesus Christ.”**

Psalm 98 is a “Royal Psalm”. Royal mean as a King as in the Royal Psalms 93, 95 98 and 99. God is the King of everything. Like psalm 96, it speaks of praise to God for His work of salvation... first Israel, then all the earth, and finally all creation. It invites all creation to celebrate God’s sovereignty,

It closes with the prophesy that the judgment will be characterized by righteousness and equity.

This Psalm is viewed in three parts:

- Verses 1-3, looks to the past where Yahweh “has done marvelous things”
- Verses 4-6, where all the nations are called to “shout for joy of the Lord”
- Verses 7-9, looks to the future, where Yahweh will “come to judge the earth, in righteousness and equity.

Vs 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.

- **New song**: mean original fresh, it has reason ... it is to highly praise the great work of the Lord.
- **Marvelous things**: Niphelaoth, miracles, the same word as in Psalm 96:3.
- **His right hand and arm** symbolize his power/might of Israel’s God their King.
- **Gained Him the victory**. The word “victory” is repeated three times. The verbal root word is Yasha and means deliver or “free”

- New Strongs Concordance victory 3467 Yasha – free, to be safe, avenging, defend, deliver, bring (having) salvation, save get the victory; victory 3444 yshuw’ah yesh-ooaw something saved, deliverance; help, salvation, saving (health) welfare.

—”Psalms 33:3 TPT says “Compose new melodies that release new praises to the Lord. Play his praises on instruments with the anointing and skill he gives you. Sing and shout with passion; make a spectacular sound of joy’

When the children of Israel came out of Egypt and crossed the Red Sea, “Miriam took a **Timbrel** in her hands; and all the women went after her with Timbrels and with dance.

Exodus 15:1-11 NLT (**A Song that Delivers**) “Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord: “I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; he has hurled both horse and rider into the sea. The Lord is my strength and my song; he has given me victory. This is my God, and I will praise him— my father’s God, and I will exalt him! The Lord is a warrior; Yahweh is his name! Pharaoh’s chariots and army he has hurled into the sea. The finest of Pharaoh’s officers are drowned in the Red Sea. The deep waters gushed over them; they sank to the bottom like a stone. “Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in power. Your right hand, O Lord, smashes the enemy. In the greatness of your majesty, you overthrow those who rise against you. You unleash your blazing fury; it consumes them like straw. At the blast of your breath, the waters piled up! The surging waters stood straight like a wall; in the heart of the sea the deep waters became hard. “The enemy boasted, ‘I will chase them and catch up with them. I will plunder them and consume them. I will flash my sword; my powerful hand will destroy them.’ But you blew with your breath, and the sea covered them. They sank like lead in the mighty waters. “Who is like you among the gods, O Lord glorious in holiness, awesome in splendor, performing great wonders?”

God’s deliverance of His people is a picture the eternal salvation He offers to all humanity, because we all are sinners. Because of God’s righteousness He cannot overlook sin.

He rescued us from bondage of sin by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to bear our judgement on the cross.

By His mighty power, He defeated Satan and death, now through Jesus Christ we can be delivered from sin – both its penalty and power over us- **if** we repent and believe in Him. Halleluiah!!

Those who have received God’s salvation should praise Him.

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

In the OT, “it was **faith** in the promise that God would send a savior someday.

Paul makes it clear the OT way of salvation was the same way as in the NT way of salvation that is by FAITH alone, in Christ alone. (“

- Abraham “believed God, and was credited to him as righteousness. (Rom 4:3 NLT)
- Job’s faith was in the fact that he knew that his “redeemer lives, and that the end he will stand upon the earth (Job 19:25 NLT)
- David “was saved by faith (Rom 4:6-8 NLT)

In Christianity, salvation also called deliverance, saved or redemption is the “saving of human beings from sin and its consequences of death and separation from God”.

God has rescued us through Jesus Christ

It was Jesus’ death on the cross and resurrection that achieved our salvation. (Rom 5:10 AMP; Eph 1:7AMP)

Scripture is clear that salvation is the gracious, undeserved gift of God (Eph 2:5, 8) and only available through **faith in Jesus Christ**. (Acts 4:12) Romans 10:9-10 tells us what one must do to be saved or “receive salvation”.

Righteousness is “credited” or given to those who have faith in God.

His righteousness: the Bible standard of human righteousness of God’s own perfection in every attribute, every attitude, every behavior and every word.

Vs 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.

Acts 28:28 TPT ““So listen well. This wonderful salvation given by God is now being presented to the non-Jewish nations, and they will believe and receive it!”

- **Verses 4-6, where all the nations are called to “shout for joy of the Lord”**

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

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

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

These verses tell the people what to do when they praise Him (God). Everyone to make a joyful noise (ruah) means to shout loudly for joy. Singing accompanied by playing musical instruments, blowing the trumpets, blast the shophar (rams’ horn).

The shophar held a special significance for the Jews. It announced the beginning of the festival season, the year of Jubilee.

.”Leviticus 23:23-24 NLT says “The Lord said to Moses, “Give the following instructions to the people of Israel. On the first day of the appointed month in early autumn, you are to observe a day of complete rest. It will be an official day for holy assembly, a day commemorated with loud blasts of a trumpet.

Psalm 81:1-5 MSG says “A song to our strong God! a shout to the God of Jacob! Anthems from the choir, music from the band, sweet sounds from lute and harp, Trumpets and trombones and horns: **it’s festival** day, a feast to God! A day decreed by God, solemnly ordered by the God of Jacob. He commanded Joseph to keep this day so we’d never forget what he did in Egypt.

The people celebrated many festivals, to name a few: (taken from The Pictorial Guide to Everyday Life in Bible Times.)

- **The Passover /Barley Harvest...** at the barley harvest festival, which lasted a whole week, the people remembered the time when God helped them escape from captivity in Egypt. This festival is called Pessach in Hebrew, took place in the spring. Each family had a special meal together, called Seder, to remind them of leaving Egypt. The youngest boy in the family would ask the oldest man questions about that time. They ate bread with yeast, to remind them of the bread that was cooked in a hurry before the Israelites left Egypt. (EX 12:7; 13:3-10), and bitter herbs, to remind them of the bitterness of slavery in Egypt. They drank red wine to show they’re thanks to God.

- **Festival of Trumpets** ... on this day, which marked the start of the New Year, priests blew special ram's-horn trumpets (Shophar) (Numbers 10:10)
- **The Day of Atonement** known in Hebrew as Tom Kipper (Leviticus 16)

The shophar is “still used for special liturgical purposes such as the Jewish New Year services in Orthodox communities.”

- **Verses 7-9, looks to the future, where Yahweh will “come to judge the earth, in righteousness equity.**

These verses call on the creation to celebrate the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of all is coming:

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

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

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

Response to verses 7-8:

Romans 8:19-22 NLT “For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.”

Response to vs 9:

This verse is “rich in imagery and promise”

God not only delivers, but He comes to judge the **earth** and the **world**.

“The earth” and the “world” are used in parallel structure to describe what God is coming to judge.

The word “earth” refers; and identifies the whole of the earth realm (Gen 1:1)

“World” is translated *tebel* meaning as earth’s habitable space.

Psalms 96:10, 13 NIV “Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns.” The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will **judge** the peoples with **equity**. Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in **righteousness** and the peoples in his faithfulness.”

God will Judge the world that habitable space with righteous and equity:

Righteous is tsedek, basic meaning in Hebrew is to do the right thing.

Equity “is the English translation of the Hebrew word yashar, which means “upright, straight to the point.

Judging with equity means judging with a clear view of equality for ALL and a firm sense of right and wrong for all the earth and the habitable space of the world.

John 5:22 NLT (in red letters) “In addition, the Father judges no one. Instead, he has given the **Son (Jesus Christ) absolute authority to judge,”**

Psalms 9:8 NLT “He will judge the world with justice and rule the nations with fairness.”

Jesus Christ is coming to judge the world /rule over it for One Thousand Years (millennial), Rev 20:4-6

“He will also immediately judge all exiting ungodliness and evildoers”

At the end of one thousand years the unbelieving dead of every age will stand before Him at the Great White Throne, the final judgement. They will be judged for their works-every sinful word, thought, and deed of their lives and be cast into the lake of fire throughout eternity. Read (Rev,20:11-15 NLT)

Following that final judgment, the present heaven and earth will be destroyed, a new heaven and new earth will create, and Christ will reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lord throughout eternity. Read 2 Peter 3: 10-13 NLT

Final comment:

Until that day comes, we are to lift up His name in the highest praise for the great salvation He has promised.

Praise Him in our actions, praise Him in our devotions, praise Him in our words, praise Him in our works and praise Him in our life.

We should **sing a new song** because **2 Corinthians 5:17** GW says “Whoever is a believer in Christ is a new creation. The old way of living has disappeared. A new way of living has come into existence.”

Halleluiah!!! Let’s praise our God our King.

We who have received God’s great salvation should praise God every day. We should make salvation known to unbelievers.

Aman

Sources used:

NKJV; NLT

The Hebrew Greek Key Study Bible

NKJV Cultural Background Study Bible

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The Kregel Pictorial Guide to Everyday Life in Bible Times.

Wikipedia