

JOY TO THE WORLD!

PSALM 98

Isaac Watts wrote our favorite Christmas hymn by this title while meditating on this Psalm. It is a ringing command that goes forth to all the world of mankind, and even includes the world of creation. Not only are all humans to sing a new song to the Lord, the waves of the sea are to join in the rhythm of joy by the clapping of their hands.

When you consider what has happened, and what will happen according to the divine promise, surely you will want to lift your voice in a loud noise to the Lord.

I. THE LORD HAS ACCOMPLISHED SALVATION.

The background of the Psalm may well have been the deliverance of Israel from the Babylonian captivity. But when we read it with the reality of God's saving work in Christ before us, we have even more reason for joy.

1. The salvation is a divine work.

"He has done marvelous things."

2. The salvation is a victory.

"His right hand and his holy arm have gained him the victory."

3. The salvation is a deliverance.

“The Lord has made known his salvation.”

4. The salvation is a work of righteousness.

“His righteousness He has openly in the sight of all the nations.”

5. The salvation is according to God’s covenant.

“He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel.”

6. The salvation is universal in its availability.

“All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.”

II. THE LORD IS COMING TO JUDGE THE WORLD.

1. The judgment will be personal.

“For He is coming to judge the earth.”

2. The judgment will be universal.

“For He is coming to judge the EARTH, with righteousness He shall judge the WORLD.”

3. The judgment will be righteous.

“With righteousness He shall judge the world, and the peoples with equity (uprightness).”