

December 22, 2019
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
Psalm 98

“Joy to the World!” – “The King is Coming,” Part 3

Introduction: *“Joy to the World”* by Isaac Watts.

- Divine kingship (theocratic) Psalms (Psalms 93-100).
 - Note the similarities between Psalm **95 & 100; 96 & 98; 97 & 99**.
 - Compare Psalm 98 with Isaiah 40-55 (especially 52:7-10)..
 - “Orphan Psalm.”
- I. Joy to the world: Jesus is our Savior (1-3) [Why praise Him] – 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.
- II. Joy to the world: Jesus is our King (4-6) [How to praise Him] – 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.
- III. Joy to the world: Jesus is our Judge (7-9) [Who should praise Him] – 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.

So what?

Discussion & Application:

1. Read through Psalm 98 and find as many statements / principles as you can about singing / worship.
 - How –
 - Why –
 - Who –
2. Do you worship God the way Psalm 98 describes? If not, why not? If so, describe what this looks like throughout the week (not just on Sundays).
3. What do you learn from verses 1-3 about **salvation**? What is meant by “**wonderful things**” (v. 1) as it relates to salvation? What about “**His right hand and His holy arm**”? What is this telling us about God’s role in salvation? What New Testament passages teach us the same thing? (See Mt. 19:26 to get started).
4. What is the connection between “**salvation**” and “**righteousness**” (v. 2)? What do God’s “**lovingkindness**” and “**faithfulness**” have to do with salvation (v. 3)? What promises in the Old Testament did God faithfully keep by sending Jesus to be our Savior?
5. What is the proper role of **emotions** in worship (see vv. 4-6)? What should we do if our feelings just aren’t there?
6. Note in verses 4-6 that we are to shout, sing & play instruments **TO the LORD** and **BEFORE the King**. What are some practical ways we can make sure we actually sing TO the LORD when we worship? How do we make sure the focus is on Him and not ourselves or the people around us?
7. Why will all creation praise Jesus when He returns to judge the earth? What **benefit(s)** will come to the creation when He returns? List as many benefits (including verses to support them – i.e., Romans 8:18-25) as you can find in the Bible. Hint: start by comparing Genesis 1-2 with Revelation 21-22.
8. What will be the **basis of Jesus’ judgment** when He returns? Will all of His judgment be negative? If not, what positive judgment will there be? How can a person avoid condemnation and actually look forward to the Lord’s return and judgment? Are you ready for His return?
9. Should we always emphasize God’s **judgment** when we present the gospel? Give biblical support.
10. Look up these passages on **singing / worship**: Job 38:7; Gen. 4:21; Ex. 15; Num. 21:17; Dt. 31:19f; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Rev. 15:3f. What motivated the people to worship God? What great things has God done for you this past year?
11. What specific things can you do this coming year to grow as a **joyful worshiper**?
12. List as many things as you can think of about Christmas (Jesus’ birth) that bring you joy. How does Christmas demonstrate God’s righteousness, lovingkindness, and faithfulness?