

“Sing to the LORD” (Psalm 98)(7.31.22)

Psalm 98 (NIV84)

A psalm.

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things;
his right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.
- 2 The Lord has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.
- 3 He has remembered his love
and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
- 4 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;
- 5 make music to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,
- 6 with trumpets and the blast of the ram’s horn—

shout for joy before the Lord, the King.

⁷ Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.

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

⁹ let them sing before the Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

The word of God for the people of God.

LET US PRAY.

Title: **"Sing to the LORD"**

INTRODUCTION:

What is salvation? According to the Lexham Theological Wordbook: "Salvation is the rescue from a state of danger and restoration to wholeness and prosperity. In the Bible people are "saved" from foreign nations, from enemies, and from the penalty of sin. Salvation also entails health, wholeness, and victory. The new Testament emphasizes the work of Jesus as the one who

saves people from sin and death, but it is clear that salvation is holistic and involves the wellbeing of the whole person.”

Pastor and author, Donald Williams, remembered: A dear friend of mine, Vern Bullock, was converted in my living room some years ago. Having dropped out of society during the Vietnam War, he was hitchhiking across California with a knapsack, a guitar, and a puppy. Somehow he came to my door at the height of the Jesus movement and was led to Christ by my roommates as they studied John 3 together and talked about the new birth. Since Vern was a talented musician, after he accepted Christ, there was an explosion of new music within him. By the next evening he was in a coffeehouse in Hollywood singing about the Lord. God did a new work in Venn and gave him a new song as a result.

Hebrews 5:9 (NIV84)

⁹and, once made perfect, he [Jesus] became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him

Psalms 13:5 (NIV84)

⁵ But I trust in your unfailing love;
my heart rejoices in your salvation.

Psalms 35:9 (NIV84)

9 Then my soul will rejoice in the Lord
and delight in his salvation.

Isaiah 12:2 (NIV84)

2 Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust and not be afraid.

The Lord, the Lord, is my strength and my song;

he has become my salvation.”

Surely our Savior is worthy of our worship and praise, our adulation and exaltation. How can a grateful heart not exude love and exuberance? We must glorify our great God and Savior.

BODY:

You could make a strong case for the call to sing, to worship, to glorify God, is a command. But, I believe it is more than a commandment. If we truly understood our need for Jesus, and the great work of reconciliation, we could not contain our joy. The call in this psalm to shout includes the element of celebrating victory.

Notice that though there are hundreds of verses that address praising God, none of them have the caveat, only if you have a pleasing voice, a gift of singing.

One of the great identifiers of the Methodist Movement was their propensity to singing. The Wesley brothers wrote seven thousand hymns; most of them by Charles. When God is doing a new thing, new songs are birthed. In the front of our hymnal, John Wesley gives instructions on singing. I have shared them once before, but they bear repeating. Here they are:

- *Directions for Singing. That this part of Divine Worship may be the more acceptable to God, as well as the more profitable to yourself and others, be careful to observe the following directions.*

- I. Learn these Tunes before you learn any others; afterwards learn as many as you please.

- II. Sing them exactly as they are printed here, without altering or mending them at all; and if you have learned to sing them otherwise, unlearn it as soon as you can.

- III. Sing All. See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a slight degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up and you will find a blessing.

- IV. Sing lustily and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no

more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed of its being heard, than when you sung the songs of Satan.

- V. Sing modestly. Do not bawl, so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound.

- VI. Sing in Time: whatever time is sung, be sure to keep with it. Do not run before nor stay behind it; but attend closely to the leading voices, and move therewith as exactly as you can. And take care you sing not too slow. This drawling way naturally steals on all who are lazy; and it is high time to drive it out from among us, and sing all our tunes just as quick as we did at first.

- VII. Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your Heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve of here, and reward when he cometh in the clouds of heaven.

1 Chronicles 16:8–10 (NIV84)

⁸ Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.

⁹ Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all his wonderful acts.

¹⁰ Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

1 Corinthians 14:15 (NIV84)

¹⁵ So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.

The first question of the Westminster Shorter Catechism asks “What is the chief end of man?”

The Answer stated is, “Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.” To support that answer, here are a few scriptures:

1 Peter 4:11 (ESV)

¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—**in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever.** Amen.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (ESV) So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 6:20 (ESV) for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Remember today's call to worship: Ascribe to the Lord, O families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength, ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name.

Yes, our God has done marvelous things; is doing marvelous things today; and, will do marvelous things in the future. His power is without comparison. Psalm 98 glorifies our LORD as God the Savior; God the King; and, God the Judge. All people have seen God's work of salvation for the Chosen People. We are to glorify and praise God with every musical means we can. All of creation will sing and clap to the glory of God.

Christians are often accused of seeing Jesus in the Old Testament when He is not there. I submit to you that this Psalm 98 points to Jesus. Remember when Mary, the mother of Jesus, visited her elderly relative Elizabeth. Now, Elizabeth was pregnant with John the Baptist. At the sound of Mary's voice, John the Baptist leapt in his mother's womb and she was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Elizabeth pronounces a blessing over Mary, the mother of the Messiah. Then Mary bursts into song in Luke 1:46, commonly called The Magnificat:

Psalm 98

The Magnificat

“Sing to the Lord a new song.”

“My soul glorifies the Lord.”

“For he has done marvelous things.”

“The Mighty One has done great things for me.”

“His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.”

“He has performed mighty deeds with his arm.”

“The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.”

“His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.”

“He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel.”

“He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful.”

To further support my argument, verse 9 is a foreshadowing of Jesus’ Second Coming.
Mark 13:26 (NIV84)

²⁶“At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.

Philippians 2:10–11 (NIV84)

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

CONCLUSION:

Come, Let Us Sing unto the Lord

1 Come, let us sing unto the Lord,
New songs of praise with sweet accord;
For wonders great by Him are done;
His hand and arm have victory won.

2 The great salvation of our God
Is seen through all the earth abroad;
Before the heathen's wond'ring sight,
He hath revealed His truth and right.

3 He called to mind His truth and grace
In promise made to Israel's race;
And unto earth's remotest bound,
Glad tidings of salvation sound.

4 All lands to God lift up your voice;
Sing praise to Him, with shouts rejoice;
With voice of joy and loud acclaim,
Let all unite and praise His Name.

5 Praise God with harp, with harp sing praise,
With voice of psalms His glory raise;
With trumpets, cornets, gladly sing
And shout before the Lord, the King.

6 Let earth be glad, let billow roar
And all that dwell from shore to shore;
Let floods clap hands with one accord,
Let hills rejoice before the Lord.

7 For lo, he comes; at his command
all nations shall in judgment stand;
In justice robes and throned in light,
the Lord shall judge, dispensing right.

The ram's horn, also called a trumpet, was an ancient instrument that had special significance to the Israelites. It was used to announce the beginning of the festival season. And most significantly, it was to announce The Year of Jubilee. Leviticus 25:8–9 (NIV84)⁸ "Count off seven sabbaths of years—seven times seven years—so that the seven sabbaths of years amount to a period of forty-nine years.⁹ Then have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement sound the trumpet throughout your land.

In the Year of Jubilee, economic debts were to be forgiven; land restored to families who sold in order to repay debt, and slaves sold to repay debt were to be liberated. Yes, it was to be a joyous celebration. It was a chance at new life.

We too have had our debt paid. We have been redeemed for a price. We are the Lord's. And the Lord Jesus has made a way for us to cross over into The Promise Land. Atonement is the means of reconciliation between God and His people.

Romans 5:11 (NIV84) Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. Yes, we too have been set free from

the bondage of sin and death through our Savior, the Lord Jesus.

While we have no evidence that the Year of Jubilee was actually celebrated, we do have substantial evidence that the Lord Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And we claim Jesus' promise of abundant life in the here and now; A life centered on bringing glory to God.

One of our greatest hymns of joy is normally limited to the Christmas Season. Maybe we should sing it throughout the year. In a minute we will close with the Christmas Carol, Joy to the World.

Amen and amen. Let us pray.