

Psalm 96

Psalms 96:1-3 [New King James] *“Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless His name; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.”*

This Psalm shows the extent to which a universal attitude had entered into Old Testament thought, “all the earth,” “all people,” are being summoned to worship One Creator God.

Psalms 96:4-6 [New King James] *“For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Honour and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.”*

This universal message centres upon the name or character of the one God, all other “gods” are exposed as unreal, lacking the character and power of Yahweh.

Yahweh’s strength and beauty were symbolised in the Ark of the Covenant as it did moral purity [Ten Commandments] and the pardoning grace [mercy seat].

Psalms 96:7-9 [New King James] *“Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples, give to the LORD glory and strength. Give to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth.”*

All people must eventually give homage, praise and offer their lives to the Creator God.

Psalms 96:10 [New King James] *“Say among the nations, ‘The LORD reigns; the world also is firmly established, it shall not be moved; He shall judge the peoples righteously.’”*

All humanity must eventually realise that the One Creator God is supreme king and that only under His rule does the world become stabilised and at peace.

Psalms 96:11-12 [New King James] *“Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and all its fullness; let the field be joyful, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice before the LORD.”*

This cry of acclamation that Yahweh is the only One Creator God, echoes against a background of His creation of the earth out of nothing, [**Hebrews 11:3**].

Psalms 96:13 [New King James] *“For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with His truth.”*

The Psalmist is forced to look forward into the future of human history for what he is desiring to happen, but has faith will happen because of the character and power of the God that he worships.

These are Messianic anticipations. The effect of the Messiah’s coming will be seen in the realm of physical creation.

Romans 8:16-17 [New King James] *“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”*

The active presence of the Holy Spirit in each Christian confirms that they are true Christians awaiting their inheritance with Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:18-25 [New King James] *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labours with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.”*

The physical earth that has been misused and greatly polluted also awaits the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, [Isaiah 55:11-13].

In the realm of human government Jesus Christ’s return is also awaited by the Psalmist. To judge is not necessarily to condemn, but to rule over and to teach.

For the first time humanity will have righteous government and be blessed with knowledge of the truth, with the deception of Satan silenced.

Revelation 20:1-3 [New King James] *“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.”*

During this first 1,000 years the earth and a people will be prepared for a time when all who have lived as human beings and died without knowing their Saviour, Jesus Christ, or His Word, the Christian Bible, will be resurrected back to physical life.

Revelation 20:11-13 [New King James] *“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.”*

The Holy Spirit will be made available to them as prophesied by **Joel 2:28-29**, opening up the books, that is the books of God’s Word, the Christian Bible, to them.

How they respond to this knowledge will determine what the future will be, eternal life or eternal death.

Let us all rejoice in anticipation of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and pray that it will not be long coming.