

October 7, 2012

Psalm 96: "The Lord is Great and Greatly to be Praised!"

Background: untitled but most likely of David, as it is quoted verbatim in 1 Chronicles 16 when David pitched a tent around the newly recovered Ark of the Covenant in Jerusalem. The hymn David sings there is a medley of Ps 96:1-13; 105:1-15; 106:1, 47-48.

I. AWAKENING THE DAWN WITH A WORLDWIDE SONG

1 Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

- A. Singing is top on the Lord's agenda in this hour – Bob Jones: "song birds"
- B. A New song. (Ps 33:3; 40:3; 96:1; 98:1; 144:9; 149:1; Is 42:10-13; Rev 5:9; 14:3)
 - a. Songs with fresh vibrancy, coming from the place of encounter
 - b. reaching new pockets of people through new sounds, new genres
 - c. Heralding the new things God has done and is about to do
- C. To the Lord. – not just about Him, but to Him...fused with intimacy
- D. Worldwide. – Our maker & redeemer is worthy of global adoration

II. DAILY SONGS TO A SAVIOR WHOSE SALVATION IS NEW EACH DAY

2 Sing to the Lord, bless His name; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.

- A. Bless His name by singing.
 - a. Bless – *barak*: "to bring gifts on bended knee"
 - b. name - Prov 18:10; John 17:26
- B. Proclaim the good news of His salvation (evangelism through song) – Rev 5:9
 - a. This is to be done from rooftops (Mt 10:27), mountaintops (Is 52:7), in facebook posts (1 Cor 9:22), in dark places (Dan 12:3; Phil 2:15), wherever Christ is not known (Romans 15:20)
 - b. Best done through singing (...Light of the World Records...)
- C. Day to day. Not just weekly (Acts 2:47; 16:5; 1 Pet 3:15; 2 Tim 4:2; Heb 3:13)

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III. "...AND HE SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL..." (IS 9:6)

3 Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.

- A. Declare His Glory – 2 Chron 5:11-14
- B. His Wonders – Ex. 3:20; Joshua 3:5
- C. Nations, peoples – there's that theme again. (Mt 24:14; Rev 5:9).
- D. How? Think "glocally." (Int'l students, native tribes, www)

IV. IS THERE AN ADEQUATE RESPONSE TO SUCH A GREAT GOD?

4 For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods.

A. Greatness of God (Spirit-led Overcomers Nourished on the Greatness of God)

- 1. Greatness displayed in creation, redemption

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride...

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live...

Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were an offering far too small
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all

- 2. Greater than your problems, enemies, fears, and failures (Dan 3:16-18)
- 3. Greater than your wildest dreams or earth's greatest pleasures (Song 1:2)

B. An appropriate response – great praise.

- 1. 24/7 praise makes sense in light of His greatness (Mal 1:11; Amos 9:11)
- 2. Costly abandonment makes sense in light of His greatness (Rom 12:2)
- 3. Excellence in our worship makes sense in light of His greatness (Ps 33:3)

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Jason Kelly, New Song Fellowship

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C. He is to be feared -

1. Gen 22:12 - demonstrated by Abraham's not withholding his only son
2. Ex 1:17, 21 - demonstrated by respect for the sanctity of life
3. Ex 18:21 - prerequisite to judiciary work in Moses' generation
4. Ex 20:20; - keeps one from sinning
5. Lev 19:14; 25:17, 36, 43 - effecting how we treat others
6. Deut 6:2 - the purpose of his commands, leading to long life
7. Deut 6:24 - leads to prosperity
8. Neh 5:9 - a means of avoiding reproach from enemies
9. Neh 7:2 - a necessity for leadership and authority
10. Job 28:28 - the definition of wisdom
11. Ps 25:12 - how to receive instruction and guidance from the Lord
12. Ps 25:13 - leads to prosperity, impacts inheritance of future generations
13. Ps 25:14 - way of becoming the Lord's confidant
14. Ps 33:18 - the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear Him
15. Ps 34:7 - The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him
16. Ps 34:7 - leads to deliverance
17. Ps 34:9 - those who fear him lack nothing
18. Ps 86:11 - comes from an undivided heart
19. Ps 103:13 - the LORD has compassion on those who fear him
20. Ps 103:17 - attracts God's love and makes for righteous grandkids
21. Ps 111:10; Prov 9:10 - beginning of wisdom
22. Ps 115:13; 128:1,4 - incurs the blessing of God
23. Ps 128:1-4 - fruitful wife, children like olive shoots
24. Ps 147:11 - the LORD delights in those who fear him
25. Ps 147:11 - synonymous with hoping in God's unfailing love
26. Prov 1:7 - beginning of knowledge
27. Prov 2:5 - connected to finding the knowledge of God
28. Prov 8:13 - synonymous with hating evil
29. Prov 10:27 - adds length to life
30. Prov 14:26 - protection for self and children
31. Prov 14:27 - The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life
32. Prov 15:16 - better a little w/ fear of the LORD than riches w/ turmoil
33. Prov 16:6 - through the fear of the LORD evil is avoided
34. Prov 19:23 - leads to life, satisfaction
35. Eccl 12:13 - the duty of all mankind
36. Is 11:11-13 - Jesus' delight is in the fear of the Lord
37. Is 33:6 - a key to the treasure of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge
38. Mal 3:16 - a scroll of remembrance is written for those who fear God
39. Mal 4:2 - sun of righteousness will rise for those who fear His name
40. Acts 9:31 - leads to more souls saved
41. 2 Cor 5:11 - leads to evangelistic zeal

D. Above all gods (Col 1:18; Acts 4:12; Jn 14:6; Ex 34:14)

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for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God (Exodus 34:14)

V. MADE UP "GODS" NO MATCH FOR THE CREATOR OF ALL

5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the Lord made the heavens.

- A. Only one Creator (Gen 1:1; John 1:1-3; 17:3; Rev 4:11)
- B. Every other "god" is a trinket (Psalm 115:4-8; 135:15-18; Is 44:6-20)

VI. GOD IS AWE-INSPIRINGLY MAJESTIC, JAW-DROPPINGLY BEAUTIFUL

6 Honor and majesty are before Him; Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

- A. Honor [splendor (NASB, NIV)] – glory, great esteem, high respect
- B. Majesty – Royal sublimity, excellency, kingly glory
- C. Strength – sheer raw power, might, and authority (personal, social, & political)
- D. Beauty – splendor, glory, excellence

VII. WHAT DO YOU GIVE THE RICHES PERSON EVER?

7 Give to the Lord, O families of the peoples, Give to the Lord glory and strength.

- A. A supranational family affair,
- B. What does it mean to give the Lord glory and strength?

VIII. THE GLORY DUE HIS NAME

8 Give to the Lord the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come into His courts.

- A. The glory due His name - Ezek. 36:23; Malachi 1:11; Mt 6:9

And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I am the Lord," says the Lord God, "when I am hallowed in you before their eyes. (Ezekiel 36:23)

- B. Bring an offering (Romans 12:2)

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C. Come into His courts – better is one day (Ps 84), enter w/ thanks & praise (Ps100)

IX. BEAUTIFUL, CONSECRATED, TREMBLING, PROSTRATE WORSHIP

9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth.

A. Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

- a. *Shachah*, worship - to bow down, prostrate oneself
- b. The beauty of holiness (1 Chron 16:29; 2 Chron 20:21; Ps 29:2; 110:3)

B. Tremble before Him – Psalm 2:11, Is 66:1-2

Serve the Lord with fear, And rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son (Ps 2:11)

“Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? 2 For all those things My hand has made, And all those things exist,” Says the Lord. “But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word. (Isaiah 66:1-2)

C. All the earth – goin’ completely global...this theme is kind of all over this psalm

X. THIS GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM SHALL BE PREACHED IN ALL NATIONS, AND THEN THE END SHALL COME (MT 24:14)

10 Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns; The world also is firmly established, It shall not be moved; He shall judge the peoples righteously.”

A. Say among the nations – great commission (Mt 28:18-20)

B. “The Lord reigns – (Ps 2:6; Rev 4:2; 19:6, 16) – “*euaggelion*”

C. The world is also firmly established, it shall not be moved (contrast with Is 24, Mt 5:18; Rev 21:1)

D. He shall judge the peoples righteously – Is 26:9; Is 33:22

when Your judgments are in the earth, The inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness (Isaiah 26:9)

the Lord is our Judge, The Lord is our Lawgiver, The Lord is our King; He will save us (Isaiah 33:22)

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XI. PARTY ON, HEAVEN! PARTY ON, EARTH!

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; Let the sea roar, and all its fullness;

A. Let the heavens rejoice – party in heaven! (Lk 15:7,10; Ps 16:11)

If all the angels rejoice over one sinner that repents, if in His presence is the fullness of joy, what does it look when heaven rejoices about the 2nd coming?

B. Let the earth be glad – fiesta on planet earth! (Luke 2:10)

I bring you good news of great joy. It is for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord. (Lk 2:10-11)

C. Let the sea roar; and all its fullness – rawr! (Habakkuk 2:14)

XII. ALL CREATION WAITS IN EAGER EXPECTATION...

12 Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice before the Lord.

A. Let the field be joyful – frolicking fields!

B. And all that is in it – go crazy, you field mice!

C. Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice before the Lord – the trees are tickled!

D. Creation gets in on this number (Is 55:12; Romans 8:19-22; Eph 1:9,10)

He made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. (Ephesians 1:9,10)

XIII. PEOPLE GET READY! JESUS IS COMING TO JUDGE THE EARTH!

13 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.

A. For He is coming, He is coming to judge the earth – (Is 63:4; Rev 20:11-15)

the day of vengeance is in My heart and the year of My redeemed has come. (Is 63:4)

B. He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with His truth – (Revelation 15:3; 19:2)