

I. God Saves – Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

A. **Shout a new song of victory**, for God has intervened supernaturally (His right hand and His holy arm) and brought us salvation!

1. Old Testament context

- a. God has “remembered” Israel – He has faithfully fulfilled His covenant obligation to save His people
- b. Could refer to the Exodus, salvation from Egyptian oppression and slavery – Exodus 15:1 “Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, ‘I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown in to the sea.’”
- c. Could also refer to rescue from exile in Babylon – this was the work of God, no armies involved, but the changing the heart of a ruler – Ezra 1:1-3 “In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing: ‘Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the LORD, the God of Israel – he is the God who is in Jerusalem.’”
- d. It is left somewhat ambiguous
 - 1) The history of God and His people is overflowing with many great rescues
 - 2) Israel's victory over Egypt and Babylon is our victory as well

2. New Testament fulfillment

- a. Christ has fulfilled **the most marvelous** salvation
 - 1) He saved us from our sin – Ephesians 1:7 “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.”
 - 2) He delivered us from sin's penalty – Romans 8:1 “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”
 - 3) He delivered us from sin's power – Romans 7:22-25a “For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!”
 - 4) He delivered us from sin's presence – Ephesians 2:4-6 “But God being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”
- b. Christ has ushered in **the most marvelous** victory
 - 1) We are delivered from Satan and his power – James 4:7 “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”
 - 2) We are delivered from the second death
 - (i) Romans 8:11 “If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.”

3) We will one day be glorified

- (i) Philippians 3:20-21 “But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.”

II. God is King – He rules the world with truth and grace

A. Christ has come not only for the sake of Israel, but for all the nations

1. Isaiah 2:2-3 “It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.’”
2. Revelation 5:9-10 “And they sang a new song, saying: ‘Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.’”

B. All the nations are in the presence of the LORD – Philippians 2:9-11 “Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, the glory of God the Father.”

C. So, sing! Shout! Celebrate! Worship! Cue the instruments! “Nothing is to be spared in praise of God; every voice and every known instrument are to *raise a shout* of praise.” (Tanner, p. 727)

III. God is Judge – He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found

A. We worship in preparation for Christ's second coming, His final fulfillment of

marvelous victory – “The Psalms we sing now are a rehearsal, and God's presence among his worshippers is a prelude to his appearing to the world.” (Kidner, p. 386)

B. The judgment of all the earth will finally free Creation – Romans 8:19-23 “For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.”

C. Even Creation joins in the celebration as God comes to judge the earth and put all things into their right order at last.

D. Finally, one day we will join all of earth and heaven in praise of Christ's victory. (Revelation 5)

Questions:

1. Ezra 3:10-13 “And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments came forward with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD, according to the directions of David king of Israel. And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD, ‘For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel.’ And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praise the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when they saw the foundation of this house being laid, though many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people

shouted with a great shout, and the sound was heard far away.” Israelites were very loud worshippers!! We in 21st century America, may not always be quite as noisy on Sunday morning. What does this passage and Psalm 98 tells us about our hearts in worship? Our attitudes? Our focus?

2. How can we be exuberant worshippers in the way we live our lives each week?
3. Why should we be exuberant worshippers?
4. Do you think of the Final Judgment as a time of great joy?

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