

Psalms 98 - Review

In chapter ninety-eight, part 1, we saw the Psalmist call us to ‘sing a new song unto the Lord’, just as Psalms 96 did. However, this call to ‘sing a new song’ was a bit different because it called us to sing for what God will do *for Israel* (in redeeming them), when Jesus Christ returns. Thus, we were also called to praise God for the ‘marvellous things’ He has done in regards to His ability to save His children. Thus, we also saw the Psalmist speak of the Lord’s (YHVH’s) salvation, but he pointed out that God’s salvation will be ‘made known’ and *that’s because*, when Jesus Christ returns, the *entire* world will see Him return to the earth (Mth 24:27; Rev 1:7). Thus, it is the punishment of the wicked ones on earth that *saves* those who are righteous. And, we also learned that it’s not just Israel who will be redeemed when Jesus returns, but *all* those who *remain* faithful to Jesus Christ and *don’t* worship Satan, the fallen angels nor his wicked ‘beast’ system. And then we also learned that, when Jesus Christ returns, He will remember His mercy and truth towards the house of Israel. Now, *this doesn’t mean He forgot!* It simply means that He will do the things God has long promised to do for Israel. Some of God’s promises are time related; meaning, they cannot be fulfilled *until the right time*. Jesus’ First Advent was like that (Rom 5:6) and so is His Second Advent (1 Pt 5:6). And we also learned that, just because everyone on earth will ‘see’ the salvation of the Lord (YHVH), that does *not* mean *everyone* on earth *will* be saved; it simply said everyone *will see* the salvation of God. In other words, even the wicked ones will see Jesus Christ return and save the righteous from their wicked hands... but they will *not* be saved by Jesus. Instead, all those who have made themselves God’s enemies will receive His wrath *instead of* His salvation. But still, they will *see* the righteous ones (who remained faithful to the Lord, YHVH) be saved (from them) when Jesus Christ returns. And that’s why those who remain faithful on earth will have *much* to rejoice in, at the return of Jesus Christ.

In part 2 we again saw the Psalmist call all the earth (even creation) to make a joyful noise (shout for joy) when the Lord (YHVH) *finally* returns as Jesus Christ. After all, Jesus’ return means that *all* the wicked ones *will be deposed* and a righteous government (headed by Jesus Christ as King) *will finally* rule over the earth. So clearly, the return of Jesus Christ will be an incredibly jubilant time... for those who have remained faithful to Him! Those who hate Him, have actively worked against Him, or even those Christians foolish enough to worship Satan and his wicked ‘beast system’ (Mth 7:21-23) *won’t* be rejoicing, but rather crying their eyes out and trembling for fear (Isa 2:10-22; Mth 13:40-42, 49-50; Rev 1:7, 6:15-17, 18:14-19, etc.). But, the joy that those who have remained faithful to the Lord (YHVH) will have – as well as the creation itself (Ps 48:11-14, 96:11-13, Rom 8:21) - will be *incredible*. And that’s what we must remember *always*. For there truly *is* a day coming when Jesus Christ *will* return to earth. And He’s *going* to judge all people for what they’ve done in their life (2 Cor 5:10). And, He’s not a respecter of persons, i.e. He is not partial in judgement and shows no favoritism because Jesus Christ *will* judge by God’s Laws, not His own personal feelings (John 12:48). So, the rejoicing (of the righteous) will be

intense because God has proved – to all the earth – that there truly are great rewards for those who remain faithful servants to Him and don't follow Satan's wicked ways. As Ps 37:11 also prophesies: *the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace*. And so it is that, when the righteous are exalted to power (to rule with Jesus Christ), and thus given great honor for their faithfulness to Him (eternal life), *the wicked shall see it, and be grieved; he shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away: the desire of the wicked shall perish* (Ps 112:9-10). So truly, there is so much to look forward to and we should not forget these precious promises from our Heavenly Father (i.e. that which is written in these 'calls' to sing a 'new song' [Ps 96, 98], as well as *the* 'new songs' [Ps 97, 99]). When times get tough, remember these things! So, this 'summons' (call) to sing the 'new song' (here in Ps 98) is another beautiful Psalm that looks forward to the return of Jesus Christ. And, while it specifically spoke of Israel, truly it looks forward to all those who have accepted Jesus Christ and thus have a part with Israel's inheritance (Gal 3:26-29; Rom 8:14-28) ...

23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

*24 Knowing that of the Lord **ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance**: for ye serve the Lord Christ.*

25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

Col 3:23-25

AMEN.