

ANTICIPATING THE LORDS RETURN

Psalm 98:1-9

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY

There is a lot of anticipation today about what the current situation in the world is all about.

Many people are unsure about what is going to happen, and many are concerned about their loved ones, and how the future is going to play out.

Many have considered that perhaps Jesus is getting ready to come again, citing scriptures about pestilence and famine as being things that show us the “pangs” or markers of what the Lord was telling his disciples’ about especially in Matthew 24.

- But.....we cannot tell for sure the exact day or hour when Jesus will return, because Jesus even told the disciples in Mark 13 that , and I would encourage you to read Mark 13, to get this information.

Mark 13:32-33 ³² But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. ³³ Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

- If you read Mark 13 it is the same reference to the questions that the disciples were asking Jesus in Matthew 24.
- Again also Luke 21 contains this same information and questions asked by the disciples and the answers Jesus gave to them.
- ✓ The point is that many people are sitting with a dilemma because they maybe unsaved, or not sure about their salvation.
- ✓ The Psalmist wrote in Psalm 98 about the LORDS salvation, and many people cannot even to this day make the connection that this LORD that the Psalmist was speaking about was Jesus, even though he was not known by that name in the OT, where he was called LORD.
- ✚ So when you read and look at Psalm 98 and the OT for that matter always look to see who the LORD was.
- ✚ Remember the messages about Jesus in the OT.

¹O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.

²**The LORD hath made known his salvation:** his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.

³He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

⁴Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

⁵Sing unto the LORD with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm.

⁶With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King.

⁷Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

⁸Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together

⁹Before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.

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✚ This is a Psalm of great praise and great expectation of God returning to rule his people. Remember who created the heavens and the earth (Jesus John 1-6 which says that it was Jesus and that without him was nothing created)

1. Who is coming to judge the earth? – Its going to be Jesus.
2. Who is known as the LORD the King in our text Psalm 98:6 – Jesus
3. So Psalm 98 is speaking about Jesus the LORD. Stop and think about that for a moment. It is Jesus who the Psalmist was referring to as the LORD in the OT.

- ✓ Of course as we said. This was fulfilled in Jesus coming to save all his people from their sins.
- ✓ And he will come again to judge the world.
- ✓ God is perfectly loving and perfectly just in all his ways.
- ✓ He is merciful when he punishes, and he will overlook no sin.

✚ We ought to praise him for his return again.

Introduction:

Would you not say life is great when things seem to be going your way? The answer is probably yes.

If you were to ask that same question when things weren't so great in your life then the answer would more than likely be no. In fact you would probably say that life sucks, meaning there is no joy in it.

The truth of the matter in view of those questions needs to be looked at from a spiritual perspective and not just a physical one.

✚ Whilst things may appear to be great when you feel great, it may not be so "spiritually" with you. The reverse could also be true, in that even if you were not physical benefiting by your condition, you may be in a better "spiritual position".

- The problem with the human race is that most of us all measure our status by how we feel, which is wrong.

Psalm 98:1-9

I. A GREAT AND WONDEFUL GOD (V1)

¹O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.

1. Sing unto the Lord a new song.
 2. He has done marvellous things
 3. His right hand and Holy arm has gotten him the glory.
- All through scripture we see the same message over and over again. We are to praise God.
 - Isaiah was no different in delivering the message as did the Psalmist.

Isaiah 42:10

Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth, ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein; the isles, and the inhabitants thereof.

Exodus 15:6

⁶Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.

Who's the enemy? The enemy is anyone who is against the Lord. He has dashed them in pieces before and he will do it again in the future. He will judge as the righteous judge.

- With great hind sight we are able to see that also Psalm 2 was speaking about Jesus coming to save His people from their Sins.

As we read the NT we are greatly aware of the miracle of salvation that the scripture was promising, and if we read John 3 we get the full understanding of who is the enemy of God and who is the friend of God.

- Let's take a look at John 3 as Nicodemus comes to Jesus to ask Him the question perhaps that we would have asked if we were there.
- With these questions comes the greatest answers for salvation which many a theologian has corrupted in presenting the gospel of salvation.
- Let's take a look at the first 21 verses of John 3.

John 3 King James Version (KJV)

3 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

² The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

³ Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

⁴ Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

⁵ Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

⁷ Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

⁸ The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

⁹ Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?

¹⁰ Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

¹¹ Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.

¹² If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

¹³ **And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.**

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

¹⁵ **That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.**

¹⁶ **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

¹⁷ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

¹⁸ **He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**

¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

²⁰ For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

²¹ But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

- John 3:18 is very clear about who is saved and who is not, so is 1 John 5:13.

1 John 5:13

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

- Salvation is by faith alone in Christ alone.

II. A GREAT SALVATION IN GOD (V2-3)

²The LORD hath made known his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.

³He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

1. He made known his salvation in verse 2.
2. And the reason he has made known his salvation to all is that message we see in 1 Thessalonians 5:9.

1 Thessalonians 5:9

For **God** hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain **salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,**

3. He has shown his righteousness in the sight of all unbelievers. V2.
4. He declared himself to all heathen. V2.
5. He has remembered his mercy towards Israel. V3.
6. He has remembered his truth toward Israel. V3.
7. He has shown salvation to all the world.

Isaiah 52:10 ¹⁰The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Luke 1:54,72

⁷²To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;

1. What was this mercy that was promised to our fathers?
2. And why was it so important to remember his holy covenant?

- ✓ The answer lies which is here in the NT as well as in the OT.
- ✓ But today we can see more clearly what was to take place. (look at Romans 3:25)

Romans 3:25

²⁵Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

- As we read Luke we see the picture very clearly now.
- Propitiation is the word used for a sinless offering able to appease the wrath of God.

Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,

⁶⁹And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;

⁷⁰**As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:**

⁷¹That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us;

⁷²**To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;**

⁷³The oath which he sware to our father Abraham,

⁷⁴That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear,

⁷⁵**In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.**

⁷⁶And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

⁷⁷**To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,**

⁷⁸**Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,**

⁷⁹**To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,** to guide our feet into the way of peace.

- People are sitting in darkness, until such time as the Saviour comes to bring them the light.

- Unless the light is come they will continue in the darkness of the world.

III. A GREAT AND CARING GOD (V4-6)

⁴Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

⁵Sing unto the LORD with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm.

⁶With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King.

1. Making our self known to the Lord. V4.
2. With the Saviour that was to come and is come already, we are to make it known to others.
3. We need to announce the Saviour of the worlds to all people.
4. Singing praises to the Lord. V4.
5. Singing with the voice of a Psalm to the Lord. How are we to sing? We are to sing with the harp and a voice of a psalm.
6. The psalms were very much poetry, bringing praises to the Lord.
7. A joyful noise before the Lord was almost always in an atmosphere thanking God for what he had done for the Israelites. Either delivering them from battles that they engaged in or providing for them in everyday affairs.

We should be so thankful that we can express our praise to God in psalms and spiritual hymns to show our love and gratitude to him for what he has done for us.

IV. A GREAT CREATOR OUR GOD (V7-8)

⁷Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

⁸Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together

1. Recognising Gods creation is a sign of Gods power and control. As the sea roars, you can only stare at the power that is behind it. The waves are driven on and on, the waters never cease to pound the shore, and the waves never cease to roll on and on. Yet they are bound by the shore, where the Lord has allowed them to be.
2. As you look out over the expanse of the ocean, where is the end in sight? It is far beyond the horizon that the Lord has created. Its swell bares the volume of nothing like it on earth. But as we consider the ocean even further, we notice that in it is life. Beneath the waters that swell and heave, and crash onto the seashore, Gods creation is in them. From the great whales that swallowed Jonah to the tiny fish and other creatures that bares witness and testimony to His great and mighty hand.
3. Even the floods, (the rivers) v8, clap their hands. They run a course which the Lord has chosen for them. They roar and gush past the hills

that hold them in place. They are at one in nature, as the creator our Lord has set them in order.

4. All this is a testimony to its creator. God is the creator. He has created them from the beginning for his pleasure, they were created.

➤ **Just as David would praise God in Psalm 96, (paralleled in 1 Chronicles 16:23-36)**

1 Chronicles 16:33

Then shall the trees of the wood sing out at the presence of the LORD, because **he cometh to judge the earth.**

Psalm 96:13

Before the LORD: for **he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth:** he shall **judge** the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.

V. A GREAT JUDGE IN OUR GOD (V9)

⁹Before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.

1. Just as the world and all therein was created. So are we created for his pleasure.
2. Just as the seas roar and show off the mighty hand of God, so to much those in the Lord, who have been redeemed and made NEW in the Lord, show forth His mighty hand of work in them.
3. Let them praise him, and sing spiritual songs. Let them say I have been redeemed.

Psalm 24:1 ¹The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

4. For as the rivers and oceans parade before him, so to will we be judged. For the Lord will come to judge the whole world, not just the earth.
5. And when he comes, he will judge with equity.
6. The equity or (fairness, just, and impartiality) with which he will judge is by his word. And by his word will everyone be judged equally.

- ✓ Just as Isaiah the prophet of God would say in time to come. That those who are redeemed shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace.

Isaiah 55:12

¹²For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

- I would like to close this morning with these last two messages from scripture as found in the book of Revelation.

Revelation 5:9

And they sung a **new song**, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

Revelation 5:8-10 (in Context) Revelation 5 (Whole Chapter)

Revelation 14:3

And they sung as it were a **new song** before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that **song** but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

Revelation 14:2-4 (in Context) Revelation 14 (Whole Chapter)

I hope this message from the Word of the Lord encourages you, and renews your Spirit in Him.

Let us rely on Jesus for everything that we need, and let us remember that He said he would send us the Holy Spirit which would be our guide, and our teacher, our comforter and our reprover of all sins.

Let us live, as if Jesus will come at any minute.

I pray you all have a blessed day, and we all hope that we can begin to meet again in the Lords house when he gives us the wisdom to return.

- ✓ Let us stay safe and stay in the Word of the Lord.

PRAY.....