

**DECLARE HIS GLORY
PSALM 96**

INTRODUCTION

Without a doubt, Psalm 96 is one of the most beautiful Psalms in the Bible.

This Psalm states Israel's purpose as the nation of God and it states our purpose as the people of God in verse 3.

Look with me in this Psalm as we learn some ways to "*Declare His Glory.*"

I. WE DECLARE GOD'S GLORY BY PRAISING! (Vs. 1-2, 4)

Psalm 22:23—"Ye that fear the LORD, praise him; . . ."

Do you fear God tonight? Then you should praise Him!

In fact, we were chosen in Christ Jesus to show forth the praises of God in our life!

1 Peter 2:9—"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"

Look at 1 Chronicles 16. This chapter tells us of an occasion that turned into one of the most festive days in Israel's history. For a long period of time the people of God did not have the ark of God in their midst. Even when they did get it back it wasn't in its proper place in Jerusalem.

But David finally brought the ark of God home and put it in a tent that he had pitched for that purpose. He then offered up many burnt sacrifices and peace offerings to God.

Then he got some people to stand in front of the ark and thank and praise the Lord God.

Others were continually playing on their harps and cymbals, and it says in **verse 6** that a couple of the priests played their "*trumpets continually.*"

They were praising God because they had the ark of God back.

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The ark of God was a symbol of the manifest presence of God in their midst!

Having the ark of God back where it was supposed to be caused a praise revival among God's people! The Glory of God was back!

Listen to me, when the Glory of God is in our lives where it should be, then our lives will also be full of praise!

When God's glory is shining in our lives, we live to praise Him and we find there is no way that we could praise Him enough!

Our Saviour and King is worthy of all honor, and glory, and power, and praise and we should give it to Him!

Charles Wesley wrote in a hymn of his,
*O for a thousand tongues to sing, My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of His grace. . .
Glory to God and praise and love, Be ever, ever given
By saints below and saints above, The Church on earth and heaven.*

Psalm 50:23—"Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me:"

WE DECLARE GOD'S GLORY BY PRAISING!

II. WE DECLARE GOD'S GLORY BY PROCLAIMING! (Vs. 3)

Spurgeon called this chapter the "*Great Missionary Hymn.*"

But what really is this "*glory*" that we are supposed to declare?

We Are To Declare The Glory of His Incarnation!

We Are To Declare The Glory of His Perfection!

We Are To Declare The Glory of His Salvation!

We Are To Declare The Glory of His Resurrection!

We Are To Declare The Glory of His Word!

We Are To Declare The Glory of His Person!

We Are To Declare The Glory Of His Coming Again!

We Are To Declare The Glory Of His Judgment!

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Notice the breadth of the declaration: it says *“Declare His glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people.”*

As best I can tell, there are some 266 countries in this world, and the world population now surpasses 7 billion.

The world contains approximately 24,000 people groups, many with their own language, culture, and customs. But I’m told only about 2,000 of the more than 6,500 spoken languages have the entire Bible in their language.

I’ve seen a breakdown by religion saying that 6% are Buddhist, 13% are Hindu, 20% are Muslim, 33% claim to be “Christian,” 13 % are other religions, and 15% are non-religious or Atheists.

Jesus said to His disciples in *John 4:35*, *“Look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.”*

Upon another occasion, He also made this statement found in *Matthew 9:37*, *“The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few.”*

Acts 1:8–*“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”*

We must declare the Lord’s glory!
WE DECLARE GOD’S GLORY BY PRAISING!
WE DECLARE GOD’S GLORY BY PROCLAIMING!

III. WE DECLARE GOD’S GLORY BY PARTICIPATING!(Vs 7-8)

A. Give Him “glory and strength.”

This is not us actually giving Him anything per se, because the word “give” is the same word for “ascribe.”

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The idea is for us to recognize His great glory and strength and then to show forth in our lives our dependence on Him so that others can see God working in our lives.

When people look at our lives, do they see that we are leaning on the glory and strength of the LORD? Or are we leaning on some other source?

Who do we ascribe glory and strength to?

B. Give Him “Offerings” (vs 8)

The truth of the matter is that bringing offerings to God is a way of Declaring His Glory!

Just as the Old Testament priests and people would bring tribute offerings into the temple courts, so we are to bring our offerings to God to help with world evangelism.

It is not a matter of convenience or ease, rather, it should cost us something– maybe we delay some financial project of our own so that God’s purposes can be met first!

After all, we are dealing with souls that will spend their eternity in a Christless hell without our help.

C. Give Him Ourselves.

I am reminded of the Churches of Macedonia when Paul said in 2 Corinthians 8:5, that they *“first gave their own selves to the Lord.”*

Every one of us must ask ourselves if God is calling us to go to a mission field other than the one where we are.

Remember, when God puts that overwhelming burden on our hearts, we must respond and go.

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IV. WE DECLARE GOD'S GLORY BY PREPARING! (Vs. 11-13)

Verse 13 says, *"For He cometh, for He cometh to judge the earth."*

Notice that the coming of God to judge is here a cause and reason for joy!

All of nature is called upon to celebrate His coming!

Conclusion

The essential thing for all of us is to do what verse 3 says, *"Declare His Glory."*

This is done in **praising Him...in proclaiming His Glory to Others...in participating by giving and going,...and by preparing for His coming!**

May God help us not to take away from His glory or to minimize the glory that belongs to Him!

*1 Corinthians 1:30-31—"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: 31That, according as it is written, **He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.**"*

Also *2 Corinthians 10:17—"But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."*

1 Corinthians 10:31—"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

Colossians 3:17—"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."