

Psalm 98:1-9
All Hail King Messiah

Introduction: This is a reference to the national salvation that occurs at the end of the Tribulation period. This psalm is like Ps. 96. There is no historic reference point in this psalm. It is entirely future.

In modern times, Ashkenazi (northern European) Jews, generally identified with Reform (Liberal, Progressive) Judaism, recite this Psalm in the Friday evening service that begins the Sabbath. (Peter Steveson)

Superscription: *A Psalm.*

1) All people should worship Yahweh for accomplishing salvation for Israel—98:1-3

- a) What are we to do?—98:1a ¹ **Sing** to Yahweh a new song,
 - i) “New” because there are new reasons for praising God
- b) Why are we to do this?—98:1b-3
 - i) Generally—98:1b *for* (because) *He has done wondrous deeds*,
 - ii) Those “wondrous (awe-inspiring) deeds” include three things.
 - (1) A deliberate display of His **omnipotent power**—98:1c
 - (a) *His right hand and His holy arm have worked out His salvation* **[yeha]**.
 - (2) A deliberate display of His **righteous work**—98:2
 - (a) ² *Yahweh has made known His salvation* **[yeshuah]**;
 - (b) *He has revealed His righteousness* **[tsedaqah]** *in the eyes of the nations* **[goyim]**.
 - (i) Salvation is righteous because it sets right what is wrong.
 - (3) A deliberate display of His **loyal fidelity**—98:3
 - (a) To Israel: ³ *He has remembered* **[zakar]** *His lovingkindness* **[chesed]** *and His faithfulness* **[emunah]** *to the house of Israel*;
 - (i) He has implemented His covenant promises to His people (Allen Ross)
 - (b) To the nations: *all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation* **[yeshuah]** *of our God*.
 - (i) They are witnesses to what God has done for His people.
 - iii) This salvation/victory is wholly supernatural, a single-handed exploit of the Lord. (Derek Kidner)

2) Israel should worship King Yahweh for accomplishing His salvation for Israel—98:4-6

- a) What they are to do—98:4 ⁴ *Make a loud shout to Yahweh, all the earth (The Land?); break forth and sing for joy and sing praises.*
- b) How are they to do this?—98:5-6
 - i) Levites with strings and voices—98:5 ⁵ *Sing praises to Yahweh with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of singing.*
 - ii) Priests with wind instruments—98:6 ⁶ *With (long metal) trumpets and the sound of the (ram's) horn [shophar] make a loud shout before King Yahweh.*

3) All restored creation should worship Yahweh for accomplishing His judgment—98:7-9

- a) Non-verbal worship of Yahweh by nature itself—98:7-9a
 - i) ⁷ *Let the sea roar, as well as its fullness, the world [tebel] and those who dwell in it. (cf. Ps. 24:1)*
 - ii) ⁸ *Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy ⁹ before Yahweh,*
 - iii) Cf. Is. 55:12; Rom. 8:19-21
- b) Why is this to happen?—98:9b *for (because) ...*
 - Just as it is His nature to save, it is also His nature to judge.
 - i) He will judge Israel first: *He is coming [has come, pf.] to judge [shaphat] the earth (The Land);*
 - ii) He will judge Gentiles second: *He will [impf.] judge [shaphat] the world [tebel] with righteousness [tsedeq] and the peoples with equity [mesharim].*
 - (1) Both *righteousness* and *equity* express conformity to a standard.
 - iii) Cf. Matt. 25:31-46

4) Things to remember:

- a) Pardon is secondary; praise is primary. (Steven J. Lawson)
- b) When he does come to make everything right, all of the people of the earth and all of nature will respond in ways that will reflect his majesty. (Allen Ross)
- c) William Varner wrote a prayer: I thank you, Lord, for the Psalms which reveal the fulfillment of Your love in Your kingdom. Help me to respond and enter that circle of praise, that along with the multitude of Your creation, I may give thanks for Your marvelous salvation, through Christ the Word by whom all things were made. Amen.
- d) Sing Isaac Watts hymn from 1719 on this psalm. “*Joy to the World!*” (HG # 224)