

# When You Need to Be Reminded of What Great Things God Has Done and Will Do

*Psalms 98, "Joy to the World"*

## The LORD calls on you to sing...

...\_\_\_\_\_, 1a

**Not because old songs are bad or wrong...**

*...unless they are theologically incorrect.*

**But because new is appropriate on occasion.**

"A new song must be sung for a new orientation" (Brueggemann, *The Message of the Psalms*, 144). The new song is the song which breaks through the restraints of the present circumstances and voices expectation and confidence in the future works of God (see Kraus, II, 836).<sup>1</sup>

A new song gives the singer a fresh perspective on who God is, what he has done, and what he will do and what all of that means to the singer. Psalm 96 and 98 aren't significantly different in content<sup>2</sup> but they do put a different perspective on similar truth that aids the worshiper in thinking in fresh ways about truth. They also aid the worshiper in getting out of his ruts in worship.

*That doesn't mean that all that is new is necessarily good, either.*

\_\_\_\_\_ **you should sing a new song: because of what he has done,**  
**1b-3<sup>3</sup>.**

*Three times the word "salvation" is used, deliverance, victory.*

**God has done \_\_\_\_\_ things,<sup>4</sup> 1c.**

*God by himself has done this.*

**Right hand (power)**

**Holy arm (right character)**

*God has made his salvation know...to the nations, v 2.*

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<sup>1</sup> Both quotes take from Tate, *Psalms*, from Psalm 96.

<sup>2</sup> A point that many commentators make.

<sup>3</sup> Isaiah 52:7—10 is the prophetic counterpart of the psalm. The prophecy uses the same vocabulary and idiom to announce that the return of Israel's exiled from Babylon would be a public display of the **LORD'S** reign. "All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God." What the prophecy foresaw, the psalm declares. On the basis of the declaration, it calls on the whole earth to join in Israel's joyous acclamation of the **LORD** as king. The psalm believes and claims that Israel's God had been shaping Israel's particular history to establish and reveal his rule over universal history.

<sup>4</sup> The occasion for its composition is apparently the deliverance of Israel from Babylonian Captivity. The reason for regarding this event as the event that gave rise to this psalm of praise is the fact that quite a few statements in the psalm are obviously quoted from Is. 40—66, where the constant theme is this very deliverance, Leupold, *Psalms*, p. 691.

*He remembered<sup>5</sup> his mercy, love, and his faithfulness to the house of Israel, and his salvation to the ends of the earth, v 3.*

**\_\_\_\_\_ should you sing, v 4-6.**

**Please note there is a time for loud, boisterous noise.**

**Not to say that this is always to be the case.**

**\_\_\_\_\_ this new song should be, 7-8.**

**All things should do it.**

*“And heaven and nature sing”*

**Do you get off the hook because you don’t feel like it or aren’t in the mood?**

***Because \_\_\_\_\_, v 9.***

Almost equally unique is the further thought that such judgment is a matter for which God is greatly to be praised, in other words, **judgment has something constructive about it**. It accomplishes so much of lasting good that men should rejoice exceedingly that the Lord does judge. The servile fear of the unregenerate and the typical approach of our day to the very idea of judgment are quite foreign to the thinking of this psalm.

***His \_\_\_\_\_ gives cause for rejoicing for his children.***

**Someday all of God’s children will see that the destruction of all wickedness as a good thing worthy to praise him for. They will praise him for his mercy in saving them, unworthy as they are, and for his justice in destroying all that is offensive to his character and harmful to his children.**

## **So what?**

***You need to reflect often on the \_\_\_\_\_ God has done.***

**In the ancient past.**

**In your life.**

**Reflecting upon God’s promises fulfilled in the past gives you hope that they will be fulfilled in the future.**

**Even when things aren’t going your way or you don’t feel like it.**

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<sup>5</sup> *Remember*, when used of God, never suggests he forgot. God’s remembering always implies his movement toward the object of his memory, action with regards to his promises to his people.

**You need to \_\_\_\_\_ and sing to the Lord a new song—often.**

Even when things aren't going your way or you don't feel like it.

**You need to have confident assurance that he will \_\_\_\_\_!**

It will help purify you, 1 John 3:3

It will give you hope to carry on in the darkest hour, 2 Tim 1:12.

Who is God?	What has he said?	What has he done?	What does that mean to me?