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Psalm 96

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Psalm 96.

Topics.

- Sing to the LORD a new song; all the earth! Tell of his salvation.
- All the gods of the peoples are worthless idols.
- Worship the LORD in the splendour of holiness; tremble all the earth.
- Strength and beauty are God's sanctuary: tremble all the earth.
- The Lord comes to judge the earth in righteousness, and faithfulness.
- Say among the nations the Lord reigns.
- Creation rejoices and the return of Christ.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION

Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

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BOOK FOUR (PSALM 90-106)

PSALM 96:1-5

Sing to the LORD a New Song; all the Earth! Tell of His Salvation.

- **Psalm 96:1-5:** Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! ²Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. ³Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous works among all the peoples! ⁴For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. ⁵For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

In this context the earth can refer to all the people of Israel at the time of this Psalm or to a call to all people dwelling upon earth to sing praises to the Most High God of the earth. A new song often carries the idea that a new age or new lifestyle has come or is coming. It is certain that this Psalm would have an historic and local fulfilment that applies to one of Israel's great victorious and triumphant occasions similar to any of the following:

- The miraculous and triumphant Exodus from the bondage of Egypt.
- The awesome and breathtaking descending of God upon Mount Sinai.
- The glorious day David took the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem.
- The completion of Solomon's Temple and the sanctuary being filled with God's glory.

- The people of Israel leaving their seventy-year captivity in Babylon and returning to their beloved city Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple.
- Or to some other joyful, glorious and triumphant moment in Israel's history.

When Christ finished his work on earth, and was received into his glory in heaven, his apostles and evangelists showed forth his salvation among the unbelieving world and the church began to sing a new song to the Lord and to bless his name.

Tell of his salvation from day to day: (v2) this is the call of all the faithful of all generations from the creation of Adam and will be the call for all the faithful until that glorious day when Christ returns in glory to gather the faithful to himself.

All the gods of the peoples are worthless idols: (v5) this statement implies that there are other gods, yet the Bible clearly teaches that there is only one true God so who are these other gods? These other gods are gods that are created by the imagination in the mind by a strong belief in them. The human nervous system does not have a mind of its own and therefore automatically responds to whatever is pictured on the imagination whether it is real or false. The stronger the belief the greater effect the mental image on the imagination of the mind will have on the human nervous system. This is why deception is so deceptive. It matters not if the god people believe in is real or not the nervous system responds accordingly. If the god a person believes in is a wrathful, vengeful and judgmental god they will feel emotions of guilt and fear in contrast to this if the god a person believes in is a god of love and compassion, they we feel emotions of love and comfort. This is why faith should be based upon the Scriptures of the Bible and never upon on emotions. This does not mean emotions should be denied, God gave them to us to enjoy (especially in worship and praise) it just means that they should not be the foundation of our faith and what we believe. It is through reading the Bible that we learn who the one and only immortal, invisible, eternal God is and His eternal will, plans and purposes for the world, the earth and for eternity.

For further information see:

- Demons in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Clearly not one of these gods of the imagination have any power to create the earth, the mountains the seas there is only one God who has such awesome power and He is the invisible, immortal, Holy Almighty God of all creation and the source of all life the great I AM the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

PSALM 96:6-9

Worship the LORD in Holiness; Tremble all the Earth.

- **Psalm 96:6-9:** Splendour (honour in KJV) and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. ⁷Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! ⁸Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! ⁹Worship the LORD in the splendour of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

Ascribe to the LORD, splendour (honour in KJV) and majesty: (v1) can apply to the sanctuary in Israel the Most Holy Palace and the Ark of the Covenant with the mercy seat covered by the wings of the Cherubim were the presence of God overshadowed it and His glory dealt and to the earth, the heavens and the entire universe since all these parade God's majesty, power and glory, but He is not only due honour for His mighty works of creation, but also for His love, mercy and grace shown toward His people and His spiritual relationship with them.

Strength and beauty are God's sanctuary: (v2) because His power, grace goodness and all His perfections flow out from His dwelling place and all the beauty we see adorning creation has its home in God and proceeds out from him. The sanctuary can refer to both God's sanctuary on earth the holy place His sacred abode at the time of this Psalm or to God's sanctuary in heaven since all the mighty wonders, marvels and splendour of God's manifestations flow out from Him. Added to theses God strength, splendour and beauty are also manifested in His power to deliver sinners from the domain of darkness and transfer them to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in who they have redemption and the forgiveness of sins. (Col. 1:13-14). The words, "splendour (honour in KJV) and majesty are before him," (v1) can also be seen as an echo of God not only laying upon Jesus all honour, power and majesty and crowning him with glory, but also of Jesus sitting at the right hand of the throne of His heavenly Father and being adorned with all God's eternal power, glory and authority to rule as the Lord and King of heaven and of earth to convert sinners to God by the Gospel which is the power of God to salvation and deliver them from the darkness of death to eternal life and everlasting happiness.

Tremble before him, all the earth: (v9) in God's presence there is an unconceivable glory and majesty in His countenance and in the place of His presence and in His Holiness that our finite mortal mind cannot comprehend. Should any one of us stand before Him without a covering such pure light would destroy us and therefore all dwellers upon earth should tremble and fear at His name and His glory. The fear of the LORD has the following two aspects:

- 1 An eternal aspect: wisdom teaches that mankind is separated from God because of sin and without God a person has no hope of eternal life and will be judged accordingly. The fear of the LORD in this context is wisdom because it motivates a person to seek God and eternal life.
- 2 An aspect for the present moment: the fear of the LORD in the present moment motivates mankind to obey God's Ten Commandments which are all designed to protect the innocent from harm, physically, financially, sexually, verbally, emotionally and spiritually. The fear of the LORD in this context is also wisdom because if everyone feared the LORD humanity would live in harmony with each other. Sadly, there is very little fear of the LORD in the world today and so we see rampant rebellion, violence, crime and wars in most countries.

The fear of God and Christians: those in Christ look to the bloodstained cross of Calvary and understand and experience Christ's great love and God's grace in their hearts and minds and no longer act from fear, but from love in the same way that a man in love with a woman does not do things to please her from fear, but from the love dwelling in his heart. Likewise, it is with the faithful who belong to the Lord's global family.

PSALM 96:10-13

The LORD will Judge the Earth in Righteousness, and Faithfulness.

- **Psalm 96:10-13:** Say among the nations (the heathen in KJV), "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity (righteously in KJV)." ¹¹Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; ¹²let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy ¹³before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness (in his truth in KJV).

Say among the nations the LORD reigns: (10) the following verses show that this is an evangelical call not only for the people of Israel and the inhabitants of Jerusalem but for all the faithful of all generations:

- How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns. (Isaiah 52:7).
- Jesus came and said to them (the apostles), “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matt. 28:18-20).

Say among the nations the LORD reigns, means declare to world:

- God’s Kingdom will be established it shall not be moved.
- God will judge the people according to righteous judgment.
- God has fixed His throne, and set up his Kingdom in the earth it will be established.
- God will accept the praises of all who seek to promote His kingdom.

The world is established means that the Kingdom God promised to Abraham is established and will be completed at the appointed and fixed time it means that it is immovable and it cannot be moved. God’s King the Lord Jesus Christ is not temporary like the kings of the earth are, but is eternal and his Kingdom is so fixed upon the earth that nothing can destroy it or move it from its place.

He will judge the peoples with equity: (v10) means he will judge the people of all lands and all nations of the earth with fairness, impartiality and justice and will not abuse his power and dominion to oppress the people, as other kings and princes often do, but will govern by the rules of justice and fairness according to righteousness which the following verse shows is the only foundation of true and lasting peace.

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- The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. (Isaiah 32:17).

Being judged accord to righteousness: means being judged according to whether we have: -

- Lived in the fruits of the Spirit (i.e., love, kindness, gentleness, compassion, mercy, grace, patience and forgiveness.
- Done what is right and good.
- Treated others with respect and decency and with honest justice.
- Lived a life that honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Say among the nations the LORD reigns: (10) echoes the Lord Jesus Christ who not only reigns over his people with a sceptre of righteousness and according to the laws of righteous, but also justifies them with his own righteousness and forms a new man within them which is created in righteousness, but also sets up a Kingdom within them which consists of righteousness. Added to these he keeps them in his grace and by his love for his eternal treasure and reigns in the hearts of his people by his Spirit, love and grace and will reign more gloriously with the faithful amongst the world as King of kings and Lord of lords for a thousand years during the New Kingdom millennial age after which all eternity in its perfect fulfilment begins in all its royal glory and eternal splendour.

Say among the nations the LORD reigns is a direction to the apostles; all those converted to Christ amongst Jews and Gentiles; to ministers of the word; preachers of the Gospel; evangelists sent into all the world and to everyone who belongs to Christ’s global Kingdom. Isaiah the great prophet inspired by God foresaw that:

- To us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. (Isaiah 9:6-7).

Creation rejoices: (Psalm 96:11-13) let the heavens be glad; the, earth rejoice; the sea roar; the field exult, and everything in it! Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy. When all creation sees God rise up to judge the world in righteousness and Christ reigning over the earth if it were possible for the sea; the waves; the trees of the forest; the oaks; the cedars; the pines; all their branches; the leaves; the flowers; the fields and everything in them to speak they would stand up with rejoicing and sing a new song (v1) of joy and happiness not only for themselves, but for all mankind (v11-12).

In the book of Romans, it is written:

- Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. (Rom. 8:19-22).

Isaiah the prophet wrote:

- Sing, O heavens, for the LORD has done it; shout, O depths of the earth; break forth into singing, O mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, and will be glorified in Israel. (Isaiah 44:23).

When Christ returns in glory not only will all those who belong to his Kingdom rejoice with abundant joy, but all of creation will unite to rejoice with them in the anthem of celebration, because not only will the faithful be adorned with immortal bodies, but all of creation will be healed from its curse of decay and a new and glorious age will begin on earth.

An echo Jesus: the focus of this Psalm is the invisible, immortal, Holy Almighty God the creator of all things and the source of all life, but the words, "For he comes, he will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness" echoes, the return of the Lord Jesus Christ in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to destroy the antichrist and his kingdom and establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign. The dead in Christ (Old and New Testament) and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth. Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

In Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

The great prophet Isaiah wrote:

- They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information see titles:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
