



# WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

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## Psalm 98

(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 98.

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### Topics.

- God has made known His salvation and His righteousness to all nations.
- The history of the Babylonian captivity.
- Make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD! Let the world rejoice.
- Let the sea roar, the hills sing and all the world sing for joy.
- An echo of Christ's return.

**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.

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### INTRODUCTION

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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)

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### PSALM 98:1-3:

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A Psalm.

### God has made Known His Salvation and Righteousness to Nations.

- **Psalm 98:1-3:** Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvellous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. <sup>2</sup>The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. <sup>3</sup>He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**A New Song:** often means a new age or lifestyle has come or is coming. Since the Psalm does not give any specific detail of the events it could apply to the birth of Jesus; his death and resurrection; his return in glory to gather the faithful to himself; to any triumphant and victorious event in Israel's history, but before looking at these glorious events, we will consider the immediate and local application at the time of the Psalm being written which would most likely be the end of Israel's seventy years in captivity to the Empire of Babylon.

**The history of the Babylonian captivity:** Israel set their hearts diamond hard against the word of God's prophets they rebelled against the LORD they turned to other gods and entered into gross sin so the LORD used Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon (who He called His servant (Jer. 25:9) to bring the curses of the covenant upon them. The curses of the Covenant are found in (Deut. 28:15-68) and the blessing of the Covenant in (Deut. 28:1-14). The fierce armies of Babylon invaded the land of Judah, laid their farm land waste, attacked Jerusalem (the two tribes of Judah) and pillaged the temple. Zedekiah was blinded and carried

to Babylon, and the great bulk of the population was taken in chains there with him (around 587 B.C.). Later Babylon conquered Assyria who had previously taken Israel (the ten tribes in the land of Samaria) captive. They went into captivity to the Empire of Babylon as two rebellious nations who had turned from God to idols and who were even sacrificing their own children to pagan gods and were under Babylonian rule for the next seventy years. Archaeologists have found that all of the cities of Judah were completely destroyed at this time, thus ended the glorious kingdom of David and Solomon. Observers would have said that the Hebrew nation was annihilated, and indeed, the other nations conquered by the Assyrians and Babylonians did cease to exist. But the prophets proclaimed a better hope for the chosen people. "A remnant shall return" Isaiah had said, and in time this remnant, purged and returned, became the basis on which a new Israel would be built.

**Now here is the good news:** while in captivity God moulded them like a master potter moulds a beautiful clay jar, Israel and Judah went into Babylon as two unfaithful nations that had turned away from the LORD to idols and other gods. Seventy years later, Cyrus (King of Persia) who the LORD called His anointed shepherd (Isaiah 44:28) and took by His right hand (Isaiah 45:1) to conquer the Empire of Babylon gave written permission for Israel to return to Jerusalem.

Under Ezra and Nehemiah God brought Israel and Judah back to their beloved city Jerusalem as one united nation faithful to only one God, the LORD their God, the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob (Israel never turned to idols or pagan gods again). Multitudes of Jewish families who had been scattered throughout the nations returned to Jerusalem and the land of Israel with triumphant joy and rejoicing. When the temple of God was completed their faith was once again established and a time of prosperity and peace followed. Sadly, Israel as a nation never recognised their Messiah the Christ when he came, but even this was in the LORD'S sovereign will. The prophet Zechariah tells us when, the Lord returns in glory:

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- God will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn (Zech. 12:10-14).

In, verse one of this Psalm, the Psalmist wrote:

- Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvellous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

After seventy years in bondage to Babylon there is no-doubt the people of Israel would be singing a new song as they marched with great joy from Babylon to their homeland and their beloved city Jerusalem. The words of verse two:

- The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

Also, beautifully fit Israel's freedom from Babylon as all the surrounding nations would have most likely written them off as a nation and then they see them marching with great rejoicing back to their homeland as one united nation with one united faith.

Added to this the following words of verse three:

- He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Would certainly apply to the people of Israel who had been held in captivity by a pagan nation, separated from Jerusalem the Holy City of God and the Temple, it is almost certain many felt as though God had forsaken them at this time.

**Make a Joyful Noise before the LORD! Let the World Rejoice.**

- **Psalm 98:4-6:** Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! <sup>5</sup>Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! <sup>6</sup>With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

In our modern age today, there are certain churches that teach that it is a sin to use musical instruments in church services, because they recognise that music can be used to manipulate the minds of congregations. It is certainly true that music can be used to manipulate people to respond in certain ways (i.e., give more money), but just because a thing can be abused does not make the thing itself sinful. If we lived by the principal music can be used to manipulate people into certain behaviour therefore music is sin, and applied this principal to all other things we would have to conclude that the Bible cannot be used in churches because some religious ministers twist and pervert the Scriptures to manipulate their followers for their own advantage and to fulfil their own selfish goals. Obviously, this would be foolish reasoning, but it does shine a light upon the truth that just because a thing is abused does not make the thing itself sinful or wrong. Gifted singers and those who have learned to skilfully play musical instruments are a gift to the House of God and were clearly used on the Sabbath Day in the Temple of God and enjoyed by everyone else in the House of God. (Psalm 92:1-4).

The following verses show that this Psalm can also apply to the following three events:

1. The birth of Jesus.
2. Jesus death and resurrection.
3. Jesus glorious return to gather the faithful to himself.
  - Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvellous things (v1).
  - God's right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him (v1).
  - The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations (v2).
  - All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God (v3).
  - He comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity (v8).

All nations of the earth will rejoice when Christ has established God's Kingdom on earth, because it will be a Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace and fairness to all.

In the following two majestic events, the birth of Christ, his death and resurrection an new song was sung; marvellous things were seen; God's right hand (referring to the Lord Jesus Christ) worked salvation upon the earth and his righteousness was revealed to the ends of the earth and all saw the salvation of God and rejoiced before the King of glory. Likewise at his return in glory to gather the faithful to himself an new song will be sung; marvellous things will be seen; God's right hand (referring to the Lord Jesus Christ) will work salvation upon the earth and his righteousness will be revealed to the ends of the earth and all will see the salvation of God and rejoice before the King of glory.

**Let the Sea Roar, the Hills Sing and all the World Sing for Joy.**

- **Psalm 98:7-9:** Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it!  
<sup>8</sup>Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together <sup>9</sup>before the LORD, for comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

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 of joy and happiness not only for themselves, but for all mankind. In the book of Romans, it is written:

- Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup>For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>For 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 sing a new song 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.

**Echo of Christ's return:** the invisible, immortal, Holy, Almighty God of all creation and source of all life, will ultimately make His salvation, that He planned and purposed in His eternal mind before time began outwardly known to all the world, at the glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ 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).

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*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.*

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