



8/18/26

The psalms were written to the people of God BEFORE Jesus had come to give His life for us. They spoke of His splendor and majesty because they knew that He spoke the world into existence, and because He had delivered the Israelites from Egyptian slavery. How much more do we get to speak of His splendor and majesty now? He who spoke the world into existence laid down His life for our salvation! He delivered us from the domain of eternal darkness and gave us eternal life with Him!!! That's a reason to sing about and celebrate the gospel... daily.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Psalm 96 ~

This week I'm storming the throne for the church. It's so easy for me to focus on God's word as meant for the individual only. Some see it as a self help book. Some as a rule book. But most of the scriptures are directed to His PEOPLE, not just a PERSON. This call from Psalm 96 was directed to the PEOPLE of Israel, and it carries over to the body of Christ. What can I be praying for from this psalm?

Vs. 1-3 ~ "Oh sing to the LORD Yahweh a new song; sing to the LORD Yahweh, all the earth! Sing to the LORD Yahweh, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples!"

Three times in a row this calls us as a church to sing to our LORD Yahweh. Why sing? Singing stirs the heart and the emotions. When we mix our heart and emotions with the truth, we're able to remember better. So many times when people are struggling, what do they turn to? Music. Even if the pain is so much that they don't know what words to say, they can turn on worship music that speaks to their soul and brings hope and comfort. When there is reason to celebrate, people love to cheer and sing. Music reaches everyone. Why not focus on music that celebrates the truth?

What should our song rightfully be? A song of blessing, focusing on the name of our Lord. In Jewish culture a name represents someone's character and reputation. We're called to bless His name, because His name is holy and good and righteous.

We sing of His salvation from DAY TO DAY. It's not just for Sundays. Why does it need to be daily? Because I'm always singing something to my heart. If I'm not singing of His salvation to my heart, what am I singing? My flesh will fill the space with lies if I'm not constantly singing and speaking truth. And it's not just about me. Hebrews 3:13 says that we as a church are to "encourage one another EACH DAY... that NONE of us will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin." NOT singing and speaking the truth of our salvation daily WILL necessarily harden our hearts.

We are called to declare His glory wherever we are, to each other and to the nations, to testify of the incredible wonders and works He does among ALL people. God is at work at all times. I need to be looking for what He's doing and then declare it to others so that we can be encouraged and draw closer to Him.

Vs. 4-6 ~ "For great is the LORD Yahweh, and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD Yahweh made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary."

What will we as His people speak of and sing about among His people and among the nations? He's GREAT, important, mighty! And He deserves more praise than any roar of a touchdown!

He is to be feared... to be worshiped, respected, honored... above all little g gods. We are tempted to put many false gods on the throne of our hearts because we think they'll give us some satisfaction that God can't. It's a lie. That's why it's so important to DAILY focus on the truth. Other gods are worthless idols, made by man to justify living a lie. No matter what it is that we put above the Lord, it is worthless. O Lord, please help us to get that!!! Only YOU made the heavens by speaking it into existence. Only You hold the universe together by the word of Your power.

In 1 Samuel 5, the Philistines had captured the ark of the covenant. They put it in the house of their god, Dagon. In the morning, they found Dagon face down before the ark of the Lord. They put it back in its place on their throne. The next morning, it was on the ground face down before the ark with its head and hands cut off. God did that. He does not share His throne. All other gods are worthless idols.

Splendor and majesty are before HIS face. His temple is filled with strength and beauty. No one can measure up to His worth. Why would we NOT sing of His greatness???

Vs. 7-9 ~ "Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts! Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before Him, all the earth!"

Three times we're called to ascribe to the LORD... to give YAHWEH something. I have to notice first that this is calling FAMILIES to do this. The LORD is the source of "every family in heaven and on earth" (Ephesians 3:14). Give Him... glory and strength. Honor Him with all we've got! Give Him the glory He deserves. How much honor and glory does the one who spoke the world into existence and gave Himself for my salvation deserve? All of it!!! No one can do what God has done.

Bring an offering to Him. This is far more than giving Him of my money. This is about me being a living sacrifice to Him because He was a dying sacrifice for me. This is not about SOME doing this for Him. This is about ALL His people offering ourselves to Him. What would our church look like if we ALL offered ourselves to Him DAILY, singing His praises, encouraging one another in love with His truth? O Lord, I pray we'll find out!

Worship Him... bow down before Him... recognize the splendor, the majesty, of His HOLINESS. Holiness is BEAUTIFUL. Holiness is pure. His love is a holy, pure love. His power is a holy, pure power. His wisdom is a holy, pure wisdom. The more His people worship Him, focusing on the beauty of His holiness, the more we become like Him.

Let the whole earth tremble before Him! James 2:19 says, "The demons believe, and they tremble." Let all the earth tremble because the God they refuse to worship IS on His throne in majesty and glory. There is a day coming when they WILL bow down and call Jesus Lord. Let God's people do that NOW!

Vs. 10 ~ "Say among the nations, 'The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity.'"

What happens when we say that the Lord reigns to the nations? We get mocked... disrespected... sometimes even persecuted. For us to say this is to say, "I am NOT ashamed of the gospel," even if it means I am reviled by others. The Lord is still on His throne. He is a righteous, just Judge. He has firmly set this world in place, and it cannot be shaken unless or until He shakes it. Do we believe this? O Lord, please make it so! Please help Your church to be so secure and confident in who You are that we are not ashamed to speak Your truth! YOU are the final Judge. You will judge in righteousness and fairness. You are not able to be bribed or manipulated or negotiated with. Please help us to stand firm with You, under Your authority.

Vs. 11-13 ~ "Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before 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."

It's not a matter of IF Jesus will return and judge the world. It's a matter of WHEN. Romans 8:19-21 says that the world is subjected to futility... right now feeling the pains of childbirth... wanting to be restored to its original beauty and incorruption. And that will come. Isaiah 55:12

says that as the word of God goes out on the earth, the mountains and hills break out into singing and all the trees of the field clap their hands. He is LORD OVER ALL. He WILL come to judge the earth. He WILL judge the world in righteousness, perfect and holy righteousness. He WILL judge the people in faithfulness. What does this mean? It means that the LORD Yahweh deserves all our praise, all our worship, all our obedience. His glory and majesty are not just for SOME to honor. His attributes are for ALL to honor!

O LORD, please help us, Your church, to sing Your praise faithfully and without apology. Help us to honor You and encourage each other DAILY. Help us to bring ourselves before You as an offering. You deserve ALL glory, strength, splendor, majesty, and praise. Amen.