

REPEAT THE SOUNDING JOY

Wednesday, December 31

Reading: Psalm 96

Psalm 96:7 Ascribe to the LORD, all you families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. **8** Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering and come into His courts.

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns / Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks hills, and plains / Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy / Repeat, repeat the sounding joy*

Psalm 98 reads, “Sing to the LORD a new song.....all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God...Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; let them sing before the LORD, for He comes to judge the earth” (98:1, 3, 7-9). When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, His birth went almost completely unnoticed. But when Christ returns to reign, all of creation will break out in praise.

Psalm 96 contains many of the same thoughts and phrases as Psalm 98. In fact, the words of Psalm 96 are a repetition of the song sung by David and the priests at the Tabernacle in 1 Chronicles 16:23-33! These two psalms both begin with “Sing to the LORD a new song...” and end with “He comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness.” Both psalms focus on the praise given by creation and the command for people to praise God as well. But Psalm 96 adds some depth to this command.

“Proclaim His salvation day after day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples.” (96:2-3) – The good news of salvation cannot be kept to ourselves. We must share this joy with others – all the time. It is not a message for just a few select people – it is for the nations, for all people.

“Say among the nations, ‘The LORD reigns’” (96:10) – Our message is not only that Jesus saves, but that He reigns! He is in charge! He is King! That is why the idols (the things people put in the place of God) are worthless (96:4-5). One day, Jesus will return “to judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in His faithfulness” (96:13). Should we not be doing what creation has done all along. Should we not “repeat the sounding joy” of God’s salvation to the world!

The NIV uses the word “ascrbe” to translate the Hebrew word *yahab*, which means ‘to give.’ This passage uses the word in the sense of giving to God what He deserves; for only the Lord is “most worthy of praise” (96:4). What words does the psalmist use in the following verses to describe the Lord:

96:6

96:9

What are we to give (ascrbe) to the Lord because of who He is?

96:7-8

Meditate on these verses and determine how you will “worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness.” What does it mean for you to “bring an offering and come into His courts”?