

Psalm 98

Today's Psalm begins with a familiar, if slightly uniquely phrased, command, "Sing to the Lord a 'new song'". The entirety of the Psalm works to justify and motivate obedience to this opening command and, frankly, the Psalm does a marvelous job of outlining why we should adhere to these words of exhortation! We have multiple reasons to sing and rejoice as God's people. Today, I'd like to give you three that are explicitly found in our passage.

1. God has accomplished salvation
 - a. We are reminded that God has accomplished His salvation with "his right hand, his holy arm"
 - b. What does that mean?
 - i. Commentators seem to be split on what this means
 - ii. Some take this statement to mean God accomplished salvation with ease
 1. The meaning then would be akin to us saying "I'll fight you with one hand tied behind my back!"
 2. God didn't even need to use both appendages (figuratively speaking) to win the battle
 - iii. Others note that the right hand is typically the dominant hand and, therefore this is a picture of God's strength
 1. The right hand wields the sword and God's right hand had not failed to win the victory
 - iv. Perhaps the best summary of these ideas is found in the preaching of Charles Spurgeon who said ""So Christ fought our battle with his right hand; he did it with ease, with strength, and with infinite wisdom."
 - c. The larger truth is key to uncover here as we are reminded that God has done all that His people need to be liberated from the enemy
 - i. In the immediate context, Israel would have thought back to His leadership in battles over the Egyptians and Philistines and the like
 1. In those moments, God was faithful to overcome an enemy they were powerless against
 2. He saved His people from tyranny, oppression and embarrassment (often brought upon them by their own foolishness and wickedness)
 - ii. Today, however, in light of Christ we realize that God has given us an even greater reason to sing
 1. Now, Jesus has liberated us from the bonds of one who is even more terrifying and strong than Pharaoh
 2. When Christ came, He thwarted all of Satan's attacks and overwhelmed the devil's greatest weapons including the grave
 3. In this way, he disarmed our greatest enemies, putting them to open shame (Colossians 2:15)
2. God has revealed to us salvation

- a. Now, the Lord has not only accomplished all these things, He has told us about His work as well
 - b. How terrible would it be to realize that Christ has triumphed but we didn't know!
 - c. God, in His mercy, has "made known" (v. 2) His salvation
 - d. In previous times, His salvation was made known through His public works of military conquest, His prophets and His supernatural provision
 - e. In these days, however, the Lord has made known His greatest work of salvation through Christ
 - i. The Bible reveals to us that Christ is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords
 - ii. We are commissioned to tell the world about the One in whom all authority in heaven and on earth dwells
 - iii. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life indeed no one comes to the Father (i.e. is saved) except through Him
 - f. God, in His mercy, has overcome all that assails us AND taken great pains to reveal to us what He has done... what a marvelous and merciful God we serve
 - g. What a reason to sing!
3. God has honored His promises of salvation
- a. The Lord has "remembered His steadfast love"
 - b. This steadfast love is most easily encapsulated and understood in terms of God's covenantal promises with His people
 - i. It is in these Words that we read that God will bless Israel and through Israel, all nations will be blessed
 - c. To be clear, there were times that it was at least questionable (from a worldly perspective) as to whether or not God would honor His Word to such ungodly people
 - d. Would the Lord really bail them out again?
 - i. Would He redeem them after such a misstep?
 - ii. The answer is yes and the reason is because our God is steadfastly loving
 - e. His plan of redemption, mentioned in v. 3, to bless the ends of the earth through Christ have now come to fruition
 - i. God has proven that He can be trusted and this gives us reason to sing!
 - f. If God was faithful to send His Son to die to redeem a people from all nations, just as He promised, won't He be faithful to return again as He has guaranteed?
 - i. Furthermore, if God was faithful to forgive and atone for the sins of Israel, won't He forgive yours as well?
 - ii. Lastly, if God was faithful to His promises in the past, can't we trust His promises in our day? Can't we rest in the truth that He has gone to prepare a place for us? Can't we know that He is coming again?
 - iii. Yes! And these are wonderful reasons to sing!