

Shout Joyfully to the LORD

Psalm 100

Halifax: 7 December 2003

Introduction

Over the last six months,

- we have been taking a Psalm (each month) from that series of Psalms that call the world to worship the Lord who has come to reign.
- These Psalms point in particular to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ...
 - who came in human flesh in order that He might redeem a people from every tribe and tongue and kindred to serve Him.
 - These Psalms were written in the glad anticipation of the coming of King Jesus, the Messiah, to establish His righteous Kingdom in this world of unrighteousness.

This month, we come to the last Psalm in this series, Psalm 100.

- And what a glad Psalm it is!
 - Many of the other Psalms in this series contain solemn and fearful warnings to those who reject His reign,
 - but this Psalm has only a call to come and delight in the LORD's sweet excellence and grace.
 - It anticipates the glad joy with which every sinner and all sinners may approach God now that King Jesus has come to bring them righteousness from Heaven!
 - My friends, this is the glad joy that has been brought into this world by the coming of Jesus.
 - Every man, woman, and child in this world is called to find this joy in our gracious God!
 - Thus the psalm begins with a warm and hearty call:

I. "Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands!"

A. You see that this call goes out to all the earth—no one is excluded!

1. Those words "all you lands" is more literally translated, "all the earth!"
 - a. It speaks of the earth collectively and because it says **all**, it excluded no one.
 - It is a summons to the whole earth to make this joyful shout to God!
 - b. The call is for you!
 - It doesn't matter what language or nation you are from...

- It doesn't matter what gods you have worshipped in the past or what religion you were brought up in...
 - It doesn't matter what sins you have committed...
 - You are called to come and make the joyful shout to Yahweh,
 - The one and only true God...
 - The one who revealed Himself first to Israel and now to all nations through Jesus Christ.
 - The one who is revealed in the Bible.
- c. This parallels with the words of the resurrected Jesus...
- who command that the gospel be preached to every nation in all the world...
 - and to every creature without exception.
 - Jesus has made the way for every one to come before God with joyful shouts of praise!
 - All are commanded to come delight in the riches of His kingdom!
2. It is not a call to come grovelling in guilt...
- Neither is it a call to come as one who has been forced against his will...
 - Oh no—it is not that at all!
 - It is rather a call to come with a joyful shout—
 - To come as those only may come who come with faith in what Christ has done to make them acceptable to God...
 - to come by the way that He has thrown open for us.
- B. But just what is this joyful shout or joyful noise that is spoken of here?
1. In Hebrew it is the word עוֹרָא (roo ah) which simply means “to raise a noise,”
- The noise can be raised with a trumpet or some other instrument...
 - or with the human voice shouting or singing.
 - For us in New Testament worship, it consists especially in singing.
 - It also seems to include the corporate Amen—
 - where God's people together shout the Amen after a call to worship, a prayer, or a benediction.
 - In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul mentions saying “Amen” when thanks is given.

- That is something I would like to see incorporated in our services...
 - that together we would say “Amen” after prayers and blessings and the call to worship.
2. We can learn a lot about the ewr by looking at how it was employed in the Old Testament,
- and then by considering those examples in the light of the coming of King Jesus.
- a. First of all, the ewr was used when Israel was preparing for battle.
- 1) God commanded it in Numbers 10:9 with a promise:
 - Num 10:9: When you go to war in your land against the enemy who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm (ewr) with the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the LORD your God, and you will be saved from your enemies.
 - Here the ewr is used not only to muster the troops,
 - but also to muster God Himself to go out to battle with His people.
 - The battle is the LORD’s and He wanted His people to remember that...
 - so in preparing them for battle,
 - He taught them to look for Him to come among them to fight their battles when the ewr for battle was heard.
 - 2) An striking example of this is given at Jericho when the people sounded the ewr and the walls of Jericho fell flat.
 - 2 Chron 13:15 is another example:
 - Then the men of Judah gave a shout; and as the men of Judah shouted, it happened that God struck Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah.
 - At the sound of the ewr , God came among them to help them.
 - 3) How much more cause do we have to sound the ewr now that King Jesus has come into this world to fight our battles!
 - Truly, Yahweh Himself has come among us to conquer all our foes...
 - Let us shout for joy!
 - Because the world was sleeping when He came,
 - the angels sounded the ewr for us, singing and giving praise to God, saying,
 - “Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, good will toward men.”

- But now we too are summoned to join the ewr that they began!
- Each Lord's day when we come together as God's people,
 - we are to raise the joyful ewr because the Lord Jesus has come into our midst...
 - He has even taken to Himself human flesh.
 - He has come to help us fight our battles in this world...
 - We make a joyful noise because He is with us,
 - By the ewr **we** are reminded that He is with us...
 - And **He** is reminded of His promise to be with us until the last enemy has been destroyed!

TRANS> But the ewr was not only used to prepare for war.

- b. The ewr was also heard in Israel when a battle was won!
- 1) You may remember how Moses and Miriam raised a joyful song to the LORD after He had brought them through the sea and destroyed the Egyptians.
 - Although the word itself is not used, this was a ewr , a joyful shout to the LORD for the victory.
 - 2) Isaiah used the term in Isa 44:23, calling for a victory ewr:
 - Sing, O heavens, for the LORD has done *it!* **Shout**, you lower parts of the earth; Break forth into singing, you mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, And glorified Himself in Israel.
 - 3) How much more cause does the world have now that Jesus has gone to the cross and secured victory over death and Hell for us!
 - He has disarmed Satan and secured the victory! His has risen triumphantly from the grave!
 - Let us raise the ewr each Lord's Day to rejoice in His victory for us!
 - We gather together to encourage one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs in what King Jesus has done for us.

TRANS> And so you see that the ewr was used both to prepare for battle and to rejoice in the victory after the battle was won.

- But that is not all...

- c. The *ewr* was also heard in Israel at the coronation of her kings.
- 1) An example of this is found in 1 Samuel 10:24 when Saul was presented to the people as their king:
 - 1 Samuel 10:24: And Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see him whom the LORD has chosen, that *there is* no one like him among all the people?" So all the people shouted (*ewr*) and said, "Long live the king!"
 - It was true enough that Saul was a man who was like no other—
 - He stood head and shoulders above his fellows...
 - but it turned out that this worldly superiority was not at all what Israel needed...
 - 2) But how rich do the words that Samuel spoke of Saul become when we apply them to our King Jesus:
 - “Do you see Him whom the LORD has chosen, that there is no one like him among all the people.”
 - No one like Him indeed!
 - No one so valiant and brave as to take on God’s curse for us!
 - No one so loving and gracious as to die for sinners!
 - No one so full of wisdom and truth to guide us and teach us!
 - The whole world is called to raise the *ewr* to King Jesus now that, as Peter said in His first sermon:
 - “God has raised up the Christ to sit on David’s throne...”
 - He said:
 - “This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.”
 - “God has made this Jesus both Lord and Christ.”
 - Brothers and sisters,
 - “Do you see Him whom the LORD has chosen, that there is no one like Him among the people?”
 - Let the world raise the shout to King Jesus!
 - Let us raise the shout to Him each Lord’s Day!

TRANS> So we have seen that the *ewr* was raised to prepare for battle, to celebrate victory in battle, and at the coronation of a king...

- There is yet one more occasion for the *ewr* that I want to mention:

d. The *ewr* was raised in Ezra when the foundation of the temple was laid.

- Ezra 3:10-11: When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests stood in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD, according to the ordinance of David king of Israel. And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD: "For *He is* good, For His mercy *endures* forever toward Israel." Then all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.
- Now there is a greater foundation laid for the temple of the LORD.
 - Jesus Himself is
 - “the stone that was rejected by the builders which has become the chief cornerstone, nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”
 - That foundation is laid for us—
 - whom He has redeemed out of this world—
 - that we might be established as God’s dwelling place, a holy temple to the LORD!
 - Let the world raise the shout that God has laid a foundation for the inhabitants of this world to become His holy house!
 - Jesus has made us holy and acceptable to God so that God is pleased to dwell among us!
 - His house we are who believe!...
 - a house whose builder and maker and is God!
 - Let the world come and join themselves to this house and rejoice in this house and raise the shout to God for it!
 - The foundation has been laid for us!

TRANS> And so you see clearly that the world—every man, woman, and child—has good reason to raise a *ewr* to our God.

- Jehovah is our King who has come among us to fight our battles and to make us into a holy temple for God.
- “Make a joyful shout to the LORD all the earth!”

II. But how is this *ewr* to be presented to the LORD?

- The rest of the Psalm tells us how we should present the *ewr*.
 - A. Verse 2 calls you to perform this service with gladness before Him.
 - B. Verse 3 tells you to come in the happy knowledge that the LORD is God.

C. Verse 4 & 5 say you are to come into His very courts with thanksgiving and praise because of who He is

Let us consider of each of these points in turn.

A. Verse 2 calls you to perform this service with gladness before Him.

1. It says, “Serve the LORD with gladness!”

a. Do you see what a wonderful calling this is?

- God calls you to leave your old oppressive master who ruled over you with an iron hand...
 - The one who led you into the paths of sin and misery, who holds out empty promises and then mocks you when they fail.
 - The one who held you in bondage to your sinful lusts and desires and would not let you go.
- You are called away from that old master to serve the LORD!
 - You remember how Israel was brought out of Egypt as a picture of that glorious redemption that is now for the whole world in Christ!
 - The LORD demanded of Pharaoh, “Let my people go...” and do you remember why?
 - “Let my people go **that they may serve me!**”
 - God wanted them to come and worship Him,
 - to be set free from Pharaoh that they might serve Him!

b. The LORD is the one who delivers us from bondage to Satan and sets us free to live as we were meant to live!

- to live in harmony with Him and with one another in the excellent sweetness of love!
- to live in the sure of promise of freedom from death and suffering and sin!
- To live in the reality of sins forgiven and debts all paid to our God!

c. Come to this service of God with gladness!

- There is no reason for sadness!
- You have been set free from a tyrant to serve a new master—and that Master is the LORD Himself.
 - Serve the LORD with gladness!
 - He is a kind, gracious, wise, powerful Master, and there is none that can compare with Him.

- Run to Him to serve with joy!
- Glad submission is fitting because you have such an excellent Master to serve.

2. Indeed, come before His presence with singing!

- as verse 2 goes on to explain.
 - a. What a privilege it is for such a great God, whose enemies we were, to now invite us to come into His very presence with singing!
 - Not with shame and sorrow;
 - but with singing!
 - The blood of Christ has purged our consciences so that we do not need to serve out of guilt!
 - You have been cleansed from all your sins—
 - You cannot be any cleaner than you have been made by the shed blood of Jesus Christ!
 - So come not with the noise of weeping, but with the noise of singing!
 - Oh, I do not mean to say that there will be no weeping in this world.
 - Even Jesus was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief...
 - But all the weeping is subordinate to the joy of His service...
 - The occasion for weeping for a believer is always subordinate to the joy of mercy and forgiveness...
 - We do not sorrow as others who have no hope.
 - It is not the sorrow of condemnation and terror, but the sorrow of sinning against the great mercy that has been shown to me.
 - It is sorrow in the context of joy!
 - b. With glad singing, that is the way He wants you to come!
 - Not with a downcast, moping spirit as one who is oppressed and serving a tyrant.
 - But as one who is rejoicing before a gracious benevolent master who is kind and tender toward His dear servants!
 - This is how he wants you to present yourself before His face.

B. Verse 3 goes on to tell you to come in the happy knowledge that the LORD is God.

- “Know that the LORD, He is God.”
1. You all know that there are many religions and that there are many gods (or gods so called) that are worshipped.
 - There is Allah, and there is Baal, and there is Zeus...
 - a. Truly, the human heart is an idol factory, making up its own gods to worship and serve!
 - How foolish this is!
 - god created in the image and after the desires of man!
 - It is preposterous, yet, this is what most religion is all about.
 - b. But the true God is the God who has revealed Himself to world as Yahweh.
 - You are to know that Yahweh, or as it is translated here, the LORD is God and no other.
 - 1) You will notice that the word translated LORD in verse 3 is written with all capital letters.
 - The translators of our English Bibles do that to indicate that it is the translation of the word Yahweh or Jehovah.
 - 2) This is God’s covenant name by which He is revealed to us.
 - When He sent Moses to Egypt with the promise to redeem His people, He said that Yahweh was His name.
 - It was by this name that He established His covenants, promising to one day redeem the world by Jesus Christ from sin.
 - And the Son Himself is none other than Yahweh our righteousness.
 - He is the LORD (Yahweh) who came into the world to establish His righteous kingdom in this world of sin.
 - This name, Yahweh, tells us that He is the self-existing One through whom everything else has its being.
 - It means, “I am that I am.”
 - He is His own origin and not another.
 - 3) Yes, there are many religions and many philosophies, even many that bear the name Christian or that use the name Yahweh...
 - But there is only one Yahweh, and He is God.
 - He is the One who established a covenant to truly deal with sin, and establish a people in righteousness...

- This is something that no idol has ever done—
- And so in coming to worship God and to raise a shout to Him...
 - The world is to know that this one, the LORD, He is God, and no other!

TRANS> And there are other things that you are to know about this Yahweh when you come to worship...

2. You are to know that He is the One that made us, and not we ourselves!
 - a. Oh the folly of those who believe in self-creation!
 - Who would have ever thought that virtually a whole society could come to believe in self-creation!
 - To think that the atoms some how generated themselves into human beings!
 - No, it is Yahweh, the self-existing One, who is the source of all life.
 - We are to come and worship Him as the One who has given us life.
 - We owe our being and all that we are to Him and to no one else...
 - Certainly not to ourselves!
 - What folly is the notion of a self-made man!
 - Come and worship Jehovah, raise a joyful song to Him, for He is your Maker!
 - b. But this refers to more than our first creation.
 - After the fall of all mankind into sin, a second creation was necessary.
 - 1) Because of sin,
 - we were cut off from God, no longer His people.
 - He disowned us because we had disowned Him.
 - He cast us out because we had corrupted His glorious image in which we were made.
 - 2) But the world is called to come and know Jehovah as the One who makes us into His people again!
 - He takes what was ruined and what was not a people and makes them into the people of God!
 - In Isaiah 60, God calls the redeemed,
 - “the branch of my planting, the work of my hands.”
 - And in Deut. 32:6, Moses asks,

- “Has he not made you and established you?”
- Not one of you can make yourself into one of God’s people!
 - You are not able to pay the penalty of your sins...
 - Nothing but the blood of the Son of God could pay that penalty!
 - You are not able to change your stony heart of rebellion into a heart that loves God and chooses His way.
 - No power but that of the Holy Spirit, working in you mightily to give you new life, can accomplish so great a task.
 - You are to come to Jehovah Jesus as the One who alone is able to make you into one of God’s people!
 - He is the LORD, it is He that has made us, and not we ourselves.
- c. And to add to the richness of all this, it adds that we are not only His people, but also “the sheep of His pasture.”
 - 1) If Yahweh is the One who makes us His people, then He is the One who maintains us as His people.
 - A self-made Christian is an insecure Christian.
 - If he thinks he made himself,
 - then it is up to him to keep himself.
 - He may fall away any day!
 - 2) But if it is the LORD who made us and not we ourselves, then it is He that will keep us to the end.
 - This is what Jesus says in John 10:27:
 - "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father’s hand. I and *My* Father are one."
 - 3) As your shepherd, He gives His life to make you His sheep...
 - Then He feeds you with His own flesh so that you will never hunger...
 - And He refreshes you with the Spirit of grace who continually washes you and sanctifies you...
 - And He guards you from all enemies so that none are able to destroy you.

TRANS> All men are called to come and know the LORD in this way,

- The whole world is invited to come and worship this Yahweh who is revealed as the One who makes His enemies into His people.
- All men everywhere are commanded to turn from their own ways and know that the LORD, He is God!
 - They are to come to Him, looking to Him to make them to be His people who were not a people.
 - This is the LORD, the one before whom the whole earth is to raise a joyful shout of glad adoration!
 - Do you see how kind He is?
 - He bids the whole world to come and know Him as He is revealed in Christ.
 - He calls all to come and live in the security and certainly of His love to us in Christ.
 - The gospel is to be preached to every creature so that every creature might come with joy and gladness before Him.

C. Verse 4 & 5 say you are to come into His very courts with thanksgiving and praise.

- “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise!”
- 1. All along, I have spoken about coming to Him, and here it is even more explicit when it says to come into His very courts!
 - We need to consider what this means!
 - a. Is God not present everywhere?
 - How can we then be called into His presence?
 - It is that we are called into a place where He especially reveals Himself to us.
 - In the Old Testament, God established a house for Himself in the midst of His people—
 - first a tent when His people were in tents,
 - then a solid house when his people were settled in the land.
 - b. And God established His house with a gated courtyard.
 - He invited His people to come and meet with Him there, and there He revealed to them His glory.
 - There He blessed them, strengthening them to live in His grace and encouraging them with His promise of forgiveness and acceptance...

- And there He received from them their praise and thanksgiving.
 - c. This is what worship is all about! This is what is supposed to happen when you come before God in worship.
 - It is God revealing Himself and His promises...
 - God giving grace (help and life) to His people...
 - And His people responding with praise and thanksgiving.
2. But in the Old Testament times, the people were forbidden entry into the house itself, except the priests,
- a. And even they were forbidden entry into the most holy place behind the veil except for once a year, and then only the high priest.
 - However, after Jesus came,
 - all are now invited to come into the most holy place by the blood of Jesus.
 - b. This nearer access means that now we can see the glory of God more than the Old Testament saints ever did...
 - though they saw fire come down from heaven and saw the glory cloud and felt the earth shake...
 - And we can have a more certain assurance of acceptance in His promises...
 - And we can have obtain a greater grace to serve Him...
 - In short we can draw nearer to God so that the least in the Kingdom of Christ has nearer access to God than the greatest prophet who ever lived in the Old Testament!
 - c. Do you know how this is so?
 - It is because now you can see God as the reconciled to us in Jesus Christ.
 - They could only see that through the shadows, but we see it through Him in the gospel record,
 - revealed to us outwardly in the word...
 - and inwardly by His Spirit.
 - You can see His glory revealed in the love that sent Jesus to the earth to die on the cross...
 - And in the righteousness that demanded the blood of this great one to atone for our sins...
 - And in the power that conquered death and the curse...

- And in the fruit of the Spirit who transforms sinners and makes them new.
3. The whole world is invited to draw near to Him with thanksgiving and praise on account of this!
- a. This thanksgiving and praise is all directed toward God who has reconciled you in His Son.
 - We do this in family worship and in private worship in our own prayer closet.
 - But we do it most of all on the LORD's day when we assemble to worship Him in Jesus' name.
 - b. Jesus is the One who made the way into the holy of holies opened to us because He went in before God with His blood to atone for our sins.
 - He opened the gates that had been closed to us so that we might draw near to God!
 - Enter His gates with thanksgiving!
 - When He went to the cross for us, He promised that if God delivered Him for our sakes, He would gather His people from the earth to come give thanks to God for answering Him!
 - He made a vow that He would gather us together to worship God, to raise a joyful shout to Him with singing.
 - This is precisely what He promises in Psalm 22:22-28.
 - 21 You have answered me...
 - God did not leave Him to perish in the grave, but raised him up for our justification.
 - 22 I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You.
 - He has commanded that the gospel be preached in our assemblies so that God's name can be declared to those He has redeemed.
 - 23 You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel!
 - He calls all who believe the gospel to praise and worship Him.
 - 24 For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; Nor has He hidden His face from Him; But when He cried to Him, He heard.
 - The reason for the worship is because God has graciously accepted His priestly sacrifice for us.

- 25 My praise *shall be* of You in the great assembly; I will pay My vows before those who fear Him.
 - He vows to the Father that this worship will be given in the assembly which is the church.
 - Vows were made to thank and praise God for answered prayer for deliverance.
- 26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied; Those who seek Him will praise the LORD. Let your heart live forever!
- 27 All the ends of the world Shall remember and turn to the LORD, And all the families of the nations Shall worship before You.
- 28 For the kingdom *is* the LORD’S, And He rules over the nations.
 - Here is the promise that there will be a worshipping people from the world who will assemble to thank and praise God.
 - This is parallel to Hebrews 10 that we read where, after talking about how a new way has been made by Christ for us to approach God, we are then exhorted to draw near with heart of full assurance...
 - And then told not to forsake this awesome privilege of assembling together “as the manner of some is.”

4. That is just what you are told in Psalm 100!

- You are to come and make a joyful shout to the LORD.
 - There is a repetition in verse 4:
 - After saying, “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise.”
 - It then repeats, “Be thankful to Him and bless His name.”
- a. This is what you are supposed to do when you assemble together on the LORD’S day.
 - This is the joyful shout that is to rise from the world!
 - It is our thanks for the Father’s acceptance of us through the blood of Jesus,
 - And our praise of God, or blessing of His name because of the wonderful things we learn about Him that are revealed in Jesus!
- b. And those things we learn about Him in Jesus are listed for us in verse 5...
 - 1) That the LORD is good.
 - What a solid statement this is!

- There is no question about it—
 - O taste and see that the LORD is good...
- 2) His goodness is explained in two ways:
- a) In that His mercy is everlasting...
- The word translated “mercy” is that wonderful word *dox* which speaks of His loyal love.
 - It is a love shown to the undeserving that is so strong and so committed that He spared not His Son for us to redeem us.
 - A love that caused the divine God to sacrifice for His rebellious creatures in order that they might be saved.
 - It is a love that will not let anything keep it from continuing to love, and will overcome every barrier and obstacle to bring blessing to the one on whom it is fixed.
 - You cannot sin away this love or move away from it...
 - No one or nothing can prevent its exercise...
 - It is a love that always overcomes and always conquers.
 - It is a fountain that never runs dry but keeps on blessing and blessing and blessing forever and ever.

TRANS> And the second way that His goodness is explained is in that:

- b) His truth endures to all generations.
- God is always consistent with Himself.
 - There is no double-mindedness or shifting from one thing to another.
 - There is no compromising or altering of anything, for there can be no distortion of anything about Him.
 - This is so clearly seen in our redemption in Christ where God promised to save the world—
 - that the families of the earth would be blessed through Christ.
 - But how could any sinner truly be blessed—he might receive a blessing here or there, but how could a sinner be blessed?
 - God must be true to Himself and sinners must therefore be cursed, else God would condone what is contrary to truth.
 - His truth is seen in that He found away not only to maintain truth while saving sinners and pardoning them...

- But even a way to highlight His beautiful unchangeable truth!
- By the open display of Christ crucified to redeem sinners.

Conclusion: My friends, God is to be praised because He is good!

- How kind He is to invite the whole world to raise a joyful shout to Him.
- How kind He is to invite **you** to come before His presence with singing!
 - With a heart that has been melted to become a singing heart by His love.

- The door is opened to all sinners by this gospel:
 - “Make a joyful shout to the LORD all the earth!”

 - As Ralph Erskine once said:
 - “You may come to Christ as freely as a dog will come in an open door;
 - yea, more freely and boldly;
 - for dogs may time come in uncalled, and therefore we beat them out again;
 - but here is both a call to come and a promise of welcome.”