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**Tuesday, July 25, 2023 ▫ Read Psalm 96:1–6**

*Questions from the Scripture text: What does v1a command to do? Unto Whom? What sort of song? Who is to sing this new song (v1b)? What does this singing aim at doing (v2a)? How frequently are they going to proclaim what (v2b)? Among whom are they going to declare what (v3a)? Among whom are they going to declare what else (v3b)? What are they to declare about YHWH Himself (v4a)? What should be done exceedingly unto Him? What else ought to be done unto Him (v4b)? Above whom? Why—what's true about these other gods (v5a)? But what is true about YHWH (v5b)? What go in front of Him (v6a)? What are in the place of His holiness (v6b)?*

**What does the great conclusion to redemptive history declare?** Psalm 96:1–6 looks forward to the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these six verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the great conclusion to redemptive history declares the glory of YHWH.**

This is a song for a monumental occasion in the future. It looks forward to the great day when YHWH rules over all the nations (cf. 33:3; 98:1; 1Chr 16:23–33; Isa 42:10). The “new song” language doesn't mean that we are to be constantly coming up with new songs but that this song belongs to the future great event referred to in all of these passages. There are several important things that we can observe about this song.

**The duty to sing.** Few commands are given as frequently and urgently in the Scripture as the command to sing, which is triply given in the first verse and half. It is well-suited to follow Ps 95, which had mandated forceful amplitude in this singing. There, as here, the cause for singing is the greatness of YHWH.

Those who know the God of such greatness must sing! I wonder, dear reader, how we are doing at giving ourselves to this obviously important and intensely urgent duty. SING unto YHWH!

**The objects of this singing.** This singing is obviously God-ward—to YHWH (v1a)! To YHWH (v1b). To YHWH (v2a), blessing His Name (v2a). But the singing is also directed at others—proclaiming (v2b) and declaring (v3a). This dynamic also features especially in Christian congregational singing (cf. Eph 5:19; Col 3:16). We must sing loudly enough, clearly enough, that we can all hear all of the rest of us. (Blaring pipe organs, or other accompaniment that drowns out the human voice, run directly contrary to what this and other Scriptures command for our singing).

But if our singing is proclaiming and declaring, then not only must we sing; we must also listen. We must be soft-hearted. The “today if you will hear His voice do not harden your hearts” of Ps 95:7–8 has a singing counterpart in the “submitting to one another in the fear of God” of Eph 5:21. As v2–3 say “Proclaim!” and “Declare!” they are reminding us that we need to sing (and hear others singing) soft-heartedly and submissively in the fear of God.

Dear reader, as we sing in the public worship, is your mind engaged in understanding what is being said, and is your heart engaged in receiving it? In particular, when we are singing and hearing of His salvation and His glory as in v2–3, are you receiving the message, and seeking that grasping His salvation and glory penetrate your heart by the work of the Spirit (cf. Eph 5:18b, Col 3:16)?

**The subject of the song.** The subject of the song is YHWH Himself. It is occasioned by an event—salvation for the nations and all peoples (v2–3), among whom He now reigns and judges (v10), when He comes for that purpose (v13).

But the occasion of the song is not its main theme. The song's main theme is YHWH Himself. His glory (infinite weightiness, v3a). His wonders (marvels or marvelousness, v3b). His greatness (v4a). His awesomeness (fearsomeness, terribleness, v4b). His honor (splendor, v6a) and majesty (v6a). His strength (v6b) and beauty (v6b).

So great is each of these attributes, so superlative, that when it appears by itself it may be translated as “glory.” But here is glory upon glory, each with its own shade of meaning. Here is the glory of the God Who Is—YHWH, Who is always everything that He is, all in one infinite, seamless perfection.

The very heavens, though seemingly infinite to us, are just His finite creatures (v5b). Even when man comes up with an idea of a god, it always ends up powerless and worthless (the meaning of the specific word translated “idols” in 5a). This is one reason that accurate theology is so important. When the idea about God is one that proceeds from ourselves, it falls short—literally infinitely short. It is not “god as I'd like to think of him” that is worthy of the praise of this Psalm but the true and living God, the God Who made all things, the God Who is coming to judge the earth, the God Who reveals Himself here and throughout the Scripture. The God Who reveals Himself ultimately and superlatively in Jesus Christ!

How heartily do you sing in public worship? How thoughtfully and submissively? Who is the God that you praise?
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*Sample prayer: Lord, we bless Your Name and proclaim the good news of Your salvation and declare Your glory and Your marvelousness. You are great and greatly to be praised and feared. Give us the ministry of Your Spirit to stir our hearts up to this reverence and awe. You have gathered us from among many nations. Unite us in Christ, as we come through Him into the place of Your holiness to behold Your honor and majesty and strength and beauty. Present Yourself to us especially in Christ Himself, even as Your Spirit stirs up our faith in Him, that we might be presented to You in Christ, which we even ask through Him and His Name, AMEN!*

Suggested songs: ARP96A “O Sing a New Song” or TPH96 “Sing to the Lord, Sing His Praise”

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Psalm, 96 the first six verses? These are God's words. Oh, sing to the offer a new song. Sing to your face. All the earth. Sing to your point bless his name. Proclaim, the good news of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations. His wonders among all people four.

Your way. Is great and greatly to be praised. He is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods and the peoples are idols. But you also had made the heavens. Honor and majesty or before him? Strength and beauty. Are in his sanctuary. So far, the reading of gods inspired.

And an errant worked. This is a new song and it is a new song because it deals with a new event. God, giving us already. Uh, the songs for Even the second coming of the lord jesus, which We see in verse 12. We'll get two lord willing next week.

So this doesn't mean that every time you sing or that over the centuries, we should continually be coming up with new songs. As people have. Uh, missed that when he says a new song here is talking about an event that this song. This song praises god for this is the new song that is being commanded.

And so, We are to sing, even with a view towards that, which the lord jesus will do. Just because it is in the future does not mean that it is any less certain Or any less of a reason or cause. For worshipping and praising him. Notice the command to sing three times.

This reminds us even of last week's lesson in psalm 95 with singing that is loud and hearty. And so we are to sing. In the public worship, singing to god is a duty. Places, perhaps one of the Least well obeyed. Commands. In an age in which whether it's a blasting pipe organ or a blasting band, or some Someone on stage with a microphone speakers.

That. Things so loud that you can't hear yourself anyway. And we are very non-singing culture, but we are to sing. It is a duty to sing god created. Song music. Uh, for the use, especially of singing his word and singing to head that we might be filled with his spirit as ephesians 5 says that.

We might have his words, dwell in us richly. As Colossians 3 says. And so there's a duty to say, And then we sing. Uh, to him. Verse 1 and the first line of verse 2 sing to you always sing. Do you always think do y'all way? But We also sing address one.

Another As we sing proclaim, the good news of its salvation declare. His glory among the nations declare, his wonders among the people's And so we are to sing, not only unto the lord. But we are to sing as a declaration to one another in song of god's greatness and god's glory.

Which means that as we sing, we should also be listening. Means you need to sing loud enough for people to hear you. And it also means that we should be thinking about the words. That we should be receiving them with a soft heart. And even by the use of the heart in song, embracing them.

This helps us embrace his word and have his word embrace us. And so, when we sing, Uh, in the public worship in particular. It's not just unto God, it's also unto one. Another And notice then the subject of the singing, The subject is the lord himself. His salvation. His glory is wonders.

So, his actions Uh, but also yahweh is great and greatly to be praised. He's feared above all gods. He is the creator not the creature. All other uh, all other quote, unquote gods. Our idols made by people. But god made everything. The heavens. As it says here. And also Uh, the earth all that is in them.

But he himself then. There's the subject of the singing. You know, i just want to this and i just want that. Um, We are not to be. The subjects of Of our songs. The lord is to do the subject. Of the songs. Notice his? His glory hears so many times.

The words, honor, majesty strength, beauty, each one of these is a Particular word that is glorious in and of itself. Uh, For every one of those. Well, for at least three of them. Uh, there are different words that could Uh it could be used but all of them are glorious but his glory has all of these different aspects.

As well. So there's a richness and there's an intensity. To the glory of god. That we are. To sing. So we have a duty to sing. We're just saying to god, and Uh, To one another addressing one another and therefore also receiving it from one another and god himself.

His his great glory as the only Creator, the only true god. Is to be. The great subject of our singing. May the lord help us. To do that in his worship. Let's pray. Our gracious. God and our heavenly father, we thank you for This portion of your word, we pray that Your spirit would bless it to us, we pray that you would help us.

To obey it. That we would. Sing your praise rejoice and you And that we would. Do so in a way that both addresses use sincerely, and Addresses. One another help us. To receive your word, a song by the rest of the congregation. When we're saying in the public worship.

And we do pray that you yourself, the Lord would be the subject of our songs. Not just And the words that we repeat, but in the focus of our mind and of our heart. That we would praise and exalt. Your glory. We ask it in jesus name.