

PSALMS 96 *Let the Heavens Rejoice*








Theme: *As Creator and King, God alone deserves our worship and praise.*

Prayer

Topics: The Task

- Understand the Context (Psalm 96)
- GOD'S REIGN (PS. 96:1-6)
- GOD'S MAJESTY (PS. 96:7-9)
- KEY DOCTRINE: Evangelism and Missions
- * GOD'S JUDGMENT (PS. 96:10-13)

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Personal Study Guide 
Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible 
Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary 
Bible Verses (CSB) 
Supplementary Sources/Commentary 
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Set the Stage MHCC Summary of Chapter 13

(Psa 96:1-9) A call to all people to praise God.

(Psa 96:10-13) God's government and judgment.

 Video  Aleph and Beth



Psalm 96:11-13 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof. Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice Before the LORD: for He cometh, for He cometh to judge the earth: He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with His truth.

SUMMARY OF PSALMS 96

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

PSALMS 96:1-13

Psalm 96 is at the center a series of enthronement psalms celebrating God's kingship over all of creation (Pss. 93–99). Psalm 96 shares similar expressions and motifs with the other six psalms in this series. Furthermore, along with parts of Psalms 105 and 106, 1 Chronicles 16 incorporates nearly the entirety of Psalm 96 as it describes the celebration of the people of God when the ark of God was brought into Jerusalem and placed in the tent David had prepared for it. The superscription of the Greek translation of Psalm 96 indicates David wrote it. Psalm 96 sheds light on a widespread misconception in the church today that there is no indication in the Old Testament of God's mission to save people from every nation. It is true that the outworking of God's mission to save people from every nation comes into greater focus with the coming of Jesus as He sent His followers to go into all the earth to be His witnesses (Acts 1:8). However, in the Old Testament, one of God's purposes for Israel was to be His witness and a blessing to the nations (see Gen. 12:2-3; Isa. 43:8-13). Psalm 96 provides a glimpse of this truth.

40 Three sections make up Psalm 96. The first section (vv. 1-6) is a call to worship God,
41 since He alone is God. Similarly, the second section (vv. 7-9) is a call to worship the
42 Lord because He reigns over all of creation. Finally, the third section (vv. 10-13)
43 contains another call to worship. The reason given is that the Lord is coming to judge
44 all of the nations with righteousness and faithfulness.

45 In Psalm 96, David called Israel to proclaim good tidings of the Lord's salvation and to
46 tell of His glory and wonderful deeds among all the nations. Then he exhorted all of the
47 families from every nation to worship the Lord and declare that the Lord reigns. Finally,
48 as David rejoiced because the Lord is coming to make things right on the earth, there is
49 an inherent warning to all of the nations that when that day comes, they will stand
50 before God in judgment.

51 As you read Psalm 96:1-13, identify the things God's people are to include in their
52 worship of the Lord. reject our message doesn't mean we should stop witnessing.
53

54 EXPLORE THE TEXT x

55 GOD'S REIGN (PS. 96:1-6)

56 *1 Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! 2 Sing to the LORD,*
57 *bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. 3 Declare his glory among the*
58 *nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! 4 For great is the LORD, and*
59 *greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods 5 For all the gods of the peoples*
60 *are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens. 6 Splendor and majesty are*
61 *before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.*
62

63 VERSES 1-2

64 Verse 1 contains the first two of six consecutive imperatives or exhortations in verses
65 1-3. *The first imperative is to sing to the LORD a new song.*

66 What is new about this song? It could be that when David wrote it, it was a new song
67 because there was some new event or experience that prompted him to write it. It
68 could be referring to God's tender mercies that are "new every morning" (Lam. 3:22-23).
69 Or perhaps what was new about this song was that it was to be sung not only by the
70 Israelites but also by people of all nations who experience the Lord's salvation (vv. 3,7).
71 It was a new song because of their new relationship with God. Therefore, David
72 exhorted all the earth to turn to God and sing this new song.

73 Verse 2 turns to the content of this new song. First, to bless his name is to praise God,
74 that is, to speak well of who He is and what He has done. It is a demonstration of
75 concern for God's reputation in the whole world. This was not a suggestion but a
76 command. Second, the new song was to be a proclamation of the Lord's salvation from
77 day to day. One of the noun forms of the word tell means "messenger." As people sang
78 this new song, they were messengers making known the Lord's salvation.
79

80 VERSE 3 The last imperative in verses 1-3 is to declare his glory among the nations.

81 To declare God's glory is to clearly make known the magnitude of His splendor, His
82 holiness, and His marvelous attributes and deeds. There is synonymous parallelism
83 between his glory and his marvelous works. The emphasis is on what God has done, is
84 doing, and is yet to do in the future, as the remainder of the psalm attests.

85 This glory is on display as God the Creator, Ruler, Savior, & Judge over all of creation.
86

87 *The declaration of God's glory is to go out to every nation and every group of people*

88 **VERSES 4-6**

89 When the nations hear the imperative to worship the Lord, some may ask, “Why
90 should we worship the Lord?” David provided a straightforward answer. They should
91 worship *the Lord because great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised*. Because of
92 who He is and what He has done, the Lord is worthy of the highest praise. There is no
93 one else who compares to Him. His majesty and glory are transcendent and so far
94 above all others that He renders all other so-called gods worthless in comparison. The
95 Lord said through Isaiah, “Beside me there is no god” (Isa. 44:6).

96
97 In the Bible, the fear of the Lord is both the beginning of wisdom, the product of
98 wisdom, and wisdom itself. It is having God at the center of one’s life. It is what results
99 when you realize that, if not for the merciful forgiveness of God, you would experience
100 His wrath.

101 Another reason the peoples of the earth should worship the Lord is because splendor
102 and majesty are before him. Whenever this phrase occurs in the Old Testament it
103 describes God’s glory as King. Both splendor and majesty are His royal escorts. This
104 combination of words describes both who God is and what He does (Ps. 104:1; 111:3).
105 He is the only legitimate King over all of creation and His righteousness as King is
106 unquestioned.

107
108 **KEY DOCTRINE: Evangelism and Missions**

109 It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord
110 Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. (See Matthew 28:18-20;
111 Romans 10:13-15.)

112
113
114
115 **GOD’S MAJESTY (PS. 96:7)**

X

116 *7 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and*
117 *strength! 8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come*
118 *into his courts! 9 Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all*
119 *the earth!*

120
121 **KEY DOCTRINE: God’s Purpose of Grace** X

122 Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies,
123 sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and
124 comprehends all the means in connection with the end.

(See John 1:12-13; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14.)

125
126
127
128 **GOD’S JUDGMENT (PS. 96:10-13)**

129 *49 The word of the Lord spread through the whole region. 50 But the Jews incited the*
130 *prominent 10 Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established;*
131 *it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.” 11 Let the heavens be*
132 *glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; 12 let the field exult,*
133 *and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy 13 before the*
134 *LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in*
135 *righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.*

136 **VERSE 10**

137 Verse 10 begins with yet another imperative. David instructed the people of God to
138 speak to the nations, communicating three affirmations about the Lord. First, the
139 people of God must declare to the nations the Lord’s sovereignty. He who created the
140 heavens is the one and only King who reigns over all of His creation.

141 Second, they must declare the stability of His kingdom. God’s kingdom is established
142 and shall never be moved. This means no one can thwart God’s will; it will “be done, on
143 earth as it is in heaven” (Matt. 6:10).

144 Third, the people of God are commanded to deliver the message that the Lord will
145 judge peoples of the world with equity. All peoples need to prepare themselves for His
146 coming judgment, for God will bring every act of humanity to judgment (Eccl. 12:13-14).

147 ***Humanity alone is too small to give God the praise He deserves.***

148 **VERSES 11-13**

149 The entirety of all creation is called upon to rejoice in the Lord. Humanity alone is too
150 small to give God the praise He deserves. So, as in Psalm 148, it is fitting that all of
151 creation join in rejoicing and in praising the Lord its Creator.

152 *The sevenfold completeness of creation, the heavens, the earth, the sea and all that fills*
153 *it, the fields and everything in them, and the trees of the forest*
154 *are exhorted to sing for joy. But why?*

155 Verse 13 provides the answer. ***Jesus is coming again!*** Paul wrote that when
156 He comes, “the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption” (Rom.
157 8:21). The Lord will set things right for creation. Also, when Jesus returns, He will judge
158 everyone, both the righteous and the wicked (Matt. 25:31-46; John 5:22; 2 Cor. 5:9-11; 2
159 Tim. 4:1). The Lord has the right to judge humanity, given that He is the Creator of all
160 humanity. He will judge the whole world in righteousness and his faithfulness. This
161 means His judgments will not be arbitrary or unfair. Instead, He will hand down His
162 judgments according to His righteous and faithful character.

163 **Moreover, this means that when He establishes His kingdom on earth, him**
164 **He will rule in righteousness and truth (Isa. 2:4; 9:7; Rev. 11:15-18).**

165 **Psalm 96-God Reigns**

166 Psalm Category: Royal & Praise
167 Author is Unstated Quotes From
168 David Song in 1 Chron 16: 8-36
169 Words are Repeated to Give Emphasis

- Sing (X3) - Tell
- Ascribe (X3) - Worship
- Rejoice - Gladness (X3)

165 **All creation (v11)**

- Let the heavens rejoice,
- Let the earth be glad,
- let the sea resound, and
- All that lives in it.

174 **No more curse of the fruit (v12)**

- Let the fields be jubilant
- And everything in them.
- Let all the trees of the
- forest sing for joy.

174 **Sing a New Song!**

175 The “New Song” speaks of a new revelation of
176 God’s presence.

177 **Psalms Book IV (90- 106)-** corresponds to Numbers-
178 God’s presence dwells in the tabernacle-
enthronement songs – they all are concerned
about God Reigning.

1 Chron 16: 8-36 David’s new song as the ark
is returned to reside in the Temple.

Psalm 96 -99 - God reigns & judges over all the earth.
Rev 5:9 Four creatures sing a new song as Jesus
as God’s right-hand takes the scroll and
begins to judge.