

Psalm 98 ¹

The Call to All the Earth to Praise King Yahweh, Israel's Savior, for He is Coming to Judge the Earth!

A Psalm

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A1 THE CALL TO ISRAEL TO PRAISE YAHWEH WITH A NEW SONG ON ACCOUNT OF HIS SALVATION SEEN BY ALL THE EARTH 98:1-3

B1 The Command to Sing to Yahweh a New Song: {1} O sing to the LORD a new
song, **98:1a**

B2 The Reasons to Sing to Yahweh a New Song 98:1b-3

C1 Yahweh's wonderful, victorious works 98:1b

D1 For He has done wonderful things,

D2 His victory: His right hand and His holy arm have gained the
victory for Him.

C2 Yahweh's revelation of His righteous salvation before the nations 98:2

D1 {2} The LORD has made known His salvation;

D2 He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

C3 Yahweh's faithful, loyal love to Israel witnessed by the whole earth 98:3

D1 The fact: {3} He has remembered His lovingkindness and His
faithfulness to the house of Israel;

D2 The witnesses: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of
our God.

¹ Enthronement: Enthronement psalms celebrate God reigning as the greatest King. Some enthronement psalms (like Psalm 99) explicitly state that He reigns on earth, even from Mt. Zion. Others may assume that fact, but do not explicitly state it. Psalm 98 calls for praise because Yahweh, the King (98:6), has saved Israel (98:1-3) and He is coming to judge the earth (98:9)! According to Allen P. Ross, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary [TBKC]* (comments on Psalm 93), enthronement psalms are ... "prophetic pictures of the consummation of the ages when the Lord will establish His righteous millennial rule on earth through the Messiah." Enthronement psalms include psalms 47, 93, 95, 96, 97, 98, and 99.

A2 THE CALL TO ALL THE EARTH TO PRAISE YAHWEH VOCALLY WITH INSTRUMENTAL ACCOMPANIMENT, FOR HE IS KING! 98:4-6

B1 The Commands to Verbalize Praise Universally! 98:4

- C1 Shouting in Triumph: {4} Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth;
- C2 Joyfully Erupting in Praise Songs: Break forth and sing for joy and sing praises.

B2 The Commands to Sing and Shout Praise to King Yahweh with Instrumental Accompaniment 98:5-6

- C1 With the Lyre and Sound of Melody 98:5
 - D1 {5} Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
 - D2 With the lyre and the sound of melody.
- C2 With Trumpets and Sound of Shofar and Joyful Shout before the King, Yahweh! 98:6
 - D1 The accompaniment: {6} With trumpets and the sound of the horn
 - D2 The shout: Shout joyfully
 - D3 The audience: before the King, the LORD.

A3 THE CALL TO THE PLANET AND ITS INHABITANTS TO PRAISE YAHWEH, FOR HE IS COMING TO JUDGE PLANET EARTH RIGHTEOUSLY 98:7-9

B1 The Command for the Sea, the World, and Their Contents to Praise Yahweh 98:7

- C1 The Sea and Its Inhabitants: {7} Let the sea roar and all it contains,
- C2 The Planet and Its Inhabitants: The world and those who dwell in it.

B2 The Command for the Rivers and Mountains to Praise Yahweh 98:8

- C1 The Rivers Clapping Their Hands: {8} Let the rivers clap their hands,
- C2 The Mountains Joyfully Singing: Let the mountains sing together for joy

B3 The Object and Reason for the Commanded Praise 98:9

- C1 The Object of Praise – Yahweh! {9} Before the LORD,
- C2 The Reason for Praise – Yahweh is Coming to Judge Planet Earth Righteously!
 - D1 His coming to judge the earth: for He is coming to judge ² the earth,³
 - D2 His judgment of the planet with righteousness: He will judge the world with righteousness ⁴
 - D3 His judgment of the peoples with equity: And the peoples with equity.

EXPANDED ANALYSIS OF PSALM 98

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² 98:9 - He is coming to judge: Coupling the New Testament perspective with the Old, we know that Yahweh is coming to judge the earth in the person of Jesus Christ. Prior to His return to earth, Jesus, along with God the Father, will judge with great wrath the great evil of the earth's inhabitants during the Tribulation period (Rev. 6:15-17; 11:18; 14:9-11, 19; 15:1, 7; 16:1, 19). Then Jesus will personally return to earth to destroy His adversaries (Zech. 12:1-9; 14:1-4, 13-15; Rev. 19:11-21). Then He will sit in judgment on the earth over all humanity, including Israeli survivors of the Tribulation (Ezek. 20:33-38) and Gentile survivors (Matt. 25:31-46). Jesus will judge with righteousness and equity, for He will know the thoughts and intents of man's heart (Isa. 11:1-5). Then He will reign triumphantly (Zech. 14:9; Rev. 20:1-6). Following God's destruction of the universe (2 Pet. 3:3-12), He will create a new universe in which only righteousness exists (Isa. 65:17; 66:22; 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1). Then Jesus, along with God the Father, will reign eternally as co-regent over New Earth from their throne in New Jerusalem (Rev. 22:1-5) over His bond-servants, who will assist Him perpetually with His reign!

³ 98:9 - earth, world: Obviously earth (*erets*) and world (*tebel*) are used synonymously in the parallelism of the Hebrew poetry here. There does seem to be a technical distinction between the two. *Erets* seems to refer to the physical matter that makes up earth. For example, *erets* is used consistently in Gen. 1 in contrast to the heavens (heavens and earth), but also as (dry) land in contrast to the waters / seas. But *erets* can also refer to a specific piece of real estate. When God calls Abraham He promises him a specific peace of *erets* – the land of Canaan (Gen. 12, 15, etc.). In many cases *erets* might be clumsily translated land / earth. *Tebel* seems to refer to the globe or planet, especially (as here) to the inhabited world without reference to the composition of the matter of which the physical planet is made.

⁴ 98:9 - with righteousness ... equity: See Isaiah 11:1-5.