

PRAYER AND PRAISE // 25TH AUGUST 2020

Reading: Psalm 98

Read (1-3) Like Psalm 96 and 97, here we have a call to sing a new song (which will end up being Psalm 99). Why should we sing? (If you need some help, ask: whom has the LORD saved?)

- God has *brilliantly* saved non-Jews (most of us!) as well as Jews! Remember what comes just after our verse for the year: Salvation is “first to the Jew, then to the Gentile” (Rom 1:16).

Read (4-6) “Sing! For [literally] crying out loud, sing!” Name as many ways you can think of to praise God!

Read (7-8) The whole world is joining in a cosmic peer pressure to encourage you to sing! Can you imagine the sounds?

Read (9) Verses 1-3 gave the first reason to praise God. What’s the second reason?

- The LORD’s impending judgement. It’s quite terrifying to imagine Christ coming to judge every single person. The LORD comes to make everything right.

If salvation was the first reason, and judgement is the second reason, is it possible to have salvation and judgement separate? How does the person and work of Jesus help us understand this?

- Believers are **in** Christ by faith.
- At the cross, the LORD brought **justice** to bear on our sins in Christ.
- In Christ, we are **saved** from holy wrath and enjoy Christ’s sonly relationship to the Father.

Prayer Focus – themes from Jeremiah, often nicknamed, “The Weeping Prophet”

(A) Confession: Jeremiah 14:7-9

*⁷ Although our sins testify against us,
do something, LORD, for the sake of your name.
For we have often rebelled;
we have sinned against you.*

Be sorry for your sins, grateful that God *did* do something about it!

(B) Grief for the Lost: Jeremiah 8:18-9:3

*²¹ Since my people are crushed, I am crushed;
I mourn, and horror grips me.*

Let your heart be broken about unbelievers close to you. Grieve over their current unrepentance.

(C) Complaining that Evil isn’t Punished: Jeremiah 12:1-4

*³ Yet you know me, LORD;
you see me and test my thoughts about you.
Drag them off like sheep to be butchered!
Set them apart for the day of slaughter!*

Complain and ask why wicked people do well. Ask why God doesn’t punish them – but remember they’re often the same people as in (B).

CREED: The Resurrection of the Body, & the Life Everlasting. Amen
“But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.” (1 Cor. 15:20) Jesus’ resurrection was the “firstfruits”, that is, the prototype of resurrection. Our resurrection will be the second-, third-, and so on fruits, since Christ lives inside us by his Spirit! Praise God for everlasting resurrection-life! With Job, be grateful that *“after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God”* (Job 19:26)