

If you carefully listen to the lyrics of many secular songs that really make it big in this world, there is emptiness and somewhat of a depression to them.

For example, back in 1949, Hank Williams wrote and sang a song “I’m so Lonesome I could cry.” He wrote that song because of a troubled relationship he was having with his wife.

Back in 1968, Barry, Robin, and Maurice Gibb wrote and sang a song called “I started a Joke.” The lyrics are “I started a joke that started the whole world laughing, if I could only see, the joke was on me.” He sings the song and the whole world is laughing, but he was crying. In fact, this was the song that Robin’s son played on his phone just a few minutes after his father died.

Back in the early 70’s, Karen Carpenter sang songs like “I’ll say goodbye to love” and “Rainy Days and Monday’s always get me down.”

The truth is those are sad songs. In fact, we actually have a genre of music we call the “blues” because it is so sad and depressing. There are many sad things in this world and many songs are sung about those sad things.

But there will come a day when the songs of the world will be joyful and happy. That day will be when Jesus Christ is here in Person on earth reigning in all of His glory and majesty. Music will take on a new slant. There will be no more depressing songs about loneliness or dying. Songs will be alive, fresh, joyful and theologically sound. If ever you want to see this point, all we need do is examine Psalm 96. Psalm 96 teaches us this:

THERE WILL COME A DAY IN THE FUTURE WHEN EVERYONE IN THE WORLD WILL BE SINGING JOYFUL PRAISES TO GOD FOR WHO HE IS AND FOR ALL HE HAS DONE.

We often learn to sing songs before we know what they actually mean. For example, can anyone explain to me what “Rock a bye baby on the tree top means?” Has anyone rocked a baby up on top of a tree? Has anyone rocked a baby on top of a tree and had a branch break and a cradle with a baby in it falls to the ground? Just exactly what are we singing?

Well the song in this Psalm is a millennial Psalm. This Psalm will literally be fulfilled during the millennium, when Jesus Christ reigns for 1000 years.

Now this Psalm breaks down nicely into four main parts:

PART #1 – The exhortations for universal song/praise unto God. 96:1-3

There are three main exhortations given in these verses:

Exhortation #1 - The exhortation to sing. **96:1-2a**

There are three facts that are brought out about this singing that will take place during the Millennium:

(Fact #1) - There will be the singing of a new song. **96:1a**

The Millennium will feature a new relationship with God for all people. It will feature the righteous reign of Jesus Christ. Everything will be new because Jesus Christ will be here on earth actually reigning. He will be honored as King. The angels, Israel, and the Church will be singing new songs because there will have been nothing like it.

(Fact #2) - There will be the singing of all the earth. **96:1b**

There will be no national jealousy on the earth. There will be no singing of patriotic songs. There will be no singing songs about Santa Claus or the Easter Bunny. Everyone on earth will want to sing praises to God that are theologically accurate. There will be no such thing as some silly and shallow chorus. Singing will be powerful and Biblical all over the world.

(Fact #3) - There will be the singing that blesses God's name. **96:2a**

What this means is that there will be many songs that will exalt the name of Jesus Christ. All music will exalt God and glorify Him. Notice carefully that three times it stated "Sing to the LORD." Now why is this repeated three times? Do you suppose this is a coincidence? The number three is the number of the Trinity and the entire Trinity will be honored in eternity.

Exhortation #2 - The exhortation to proclaim. **96:2b**

During the Millennium, people will be proclaiming wonderful things about God every single day. They will be talking about good things and notice one of the great themes will be the subject of salvation. People will be talking about their salvation every day. We will all be amazed and we will all say, "I cannot believe we are here."

Everyone will be proclaiming truth about how God saved them. There will not be one conversation about how great man is; it will be about exalting God.

Exhortation #3 - The exhortation to tell. **96:3**

Now what is stated here is that Jewish people will be telling Gentile nations about the glory of God. Jewish people will be testifying of the greatness of Jesus Christ and all the wonderful things God has done among those who were non-Jewish.

The fact is for the past 2000 years we have been telling the Jews about the greatness of Jesus Christ. We have been testifying of His incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension.

But there will come a day when the Jews will be testifying of His greatness to all the nations of the world.

PART #2 – The explanation for universal song/praise unto God. **96:4-6**

There are **six reasons** given as to why people should go to God’s sanctuary and sing and worship God:

Reason #1 - Because God is a great God. **96:4a**

The greatness of God demands great praise.

Reason #2 - Because God is to be a greatly praised God. **96:4b**

Praise should be in proportion to its object and a great God deserves great praise.

Reason #3 - Because God is to be a feared God. **96:4c-5a**

A holy fear of God and a holy reverence for God is where real wisdom begins even for one living in the Grace Age. Make no mistake about this point; any “god” other than the true God of the Bible is a false idol invented by men. God will finally be feared and revered as the only God in the Millennium. By the way, for all eternity there will be a reverence for God.

Reason #4 - Because God is a creating God. **96:5b**

God is the one who made the heavens.

Reason #5 - Because God is a God of majesty and splendor. **96:6a**

Grandeur, majesty and splendor belong to God. Men cannot even mimic the majesty and splendor of God.

Reason #6 - Because strength and beauty are found in God’s sanctuary. **96:6b**

During the Millennium, there will be a real sanctuary that will feature the beauty and strength of God. God will be worshipped there and there will be nothing light or fluffy in existence.

PART #3 – The elements for offering universal song/praise unto God. **96:7-10**

Now what immediately catches our eye about **verses 7-8** is that we are to “ascribe” something to God. Those words mean we are to give to God what He deserves. So often we go to worship to see what we can get, but we need to think in terms of going to worship to ascribe things and give things to God.

There are seven elements brought out about this kind of worship that actually ascribes to the Lord the kind of worship He deserves:

Element #1 - Pure worship is worship offered by all the families. **96:7a**

No one will skip worship services during this time. All families of the earth will gather to praise and worship God. No one will stay home because they did not feel like going to church.

Element #2 - Pure worship is worship that ascribes to God glory and strength. **96:7b**

God's strength will have been fully manifested in the Tribulation and His strength and glory will be fully seen in the Millennium.

Element #3 - Pure worship is worship that ascribes to God the glory to His name. **96:8a**

The glory of the name of God will be forever known and praised:

- 1) YHWH (Jehovah) honors God as the sovereign, great covenant God of Israel.
- 2) Elohim (God) honors God as the sovereign, great creator of all things.
- 3) Adonai (Lord) honors God as the sovereign master of all things.
- 4) Lord Jesus Christ will be honored as being this great and glorious God. All glory will be brought to the names of God in the Millennium.

Element #4 - Pure worship is worship that features the giving of offerings. **96:8b**

In every dispensation, people who truly love God bring their offerings to God. This is a key part of worship. Giving offerings to God will not stop at the end of this dispensation. Giving offerings will continue during the Millennium. Malachi 1:11 predicts that there will be a time when God's name will be so great among nations that they will bring grain offerings to Jerusalem. This will not be some trade agreement; these will be free will offerings.

Element #5 - Pure worship is worship that will feature holy attire. **96:9a**

One cannot worship God and be dirty. One must be clean and holy. The clothing we need of course is the righteousness of God. But this verse does suggest that God does take notice of our spiritual and physical condition when we come to worship Him.

Element #6 - Pure worship is worship that trembles before God. **96:9b**

There is to be a real reverence for God. Keep in mind that this will be a time when Jesus Christ is reigning on earth. There will be "trembling" before Him. People right with God have a tremendous reverence and fear of the LORD.

Element #7 - Pure worship is worship that testifies of God's work. **96:10**

Look at what will be said in all the nations:

- 1) God reigns.
- 2) God has firmly established the earth. This earth will not be stable until God does this.
- 3) God judges the people. His judgments are righteous and equitable.
There is no bending of justice.

PART #4 – The excitement for the universal song/praise unto God. **96:11-13**

Now what is described in these verses is a time when the curse is lifted and all creation is rejoicing over what God has done:

Reality #1 - The heavens are glad. **96:11a**

Reality #2 - The earth rejoices. **96:11b**

Reality #3 - The sea roars. **96:11c**

Reality #4 - The field exults. **96:12a**

Reality #5 - The trees will sing. **96:12b**

Now **verse 13** explains when this will happen, when the LORD comes. The Lord is coming. The Lord is coming to judge the earth and when He does He will make all these things happen.