

When you look around the world today or when you listen to the news today, there is not a whole lot to sing about because there is not much that you will see that makes you happy to the point that you even want to sing. This is certainly true when you look at news pertaining to the Middle East.

But what is described in this Psalm is a day when the whole world will be happy and joyful and singing. What is most amazing is one reason why the world will be singing. There will actually come a day when all people of the world will be singing and praising God because God has fully redeemed and reclaimed Israel. It was this very Psalm that prompted Isaac Watts to write the hymn "Joy to the World."

Just imagine this. There will come a moment when the entire world honors God and honors Israel and sings joyfully about the fact that He has redeemed her. As difficult as it may seem to believe, there will come a day when the world will honor and praise God because of what He has done for Israel. That is the point of this Psalm:

THERE IS COMING A DAY WHEN ALL THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD WILL SING JOYFUL PRAISES TO GOD FOR ALL HE HAS DONE IN REDEEMING ISRAEL.

It is almost impossible for us to imagine such a time because we have never seen such a time like this. We have never seen a time when the whole world honors Israel and praises God. However, this is exactly what is predicted to happen.

Now there are five observations we need to make:

OBSERVATION #1 – The song that will be sung will be a new song. **98:1**

If we consider the fact that this song will be sung worldwide and the fact that this song is one that honors God and honors Israel, you bet it will be a "new song." Never before has the world ever sung a song of praise to God because He has elevated Israel far above every other nation in the world.

But this new song will be sung because of the wonderful things God has done for Israel. Satan will be gone; the Antichrist will be gone; the False prophet will be gone; Demons will be gone and Israel will be exalted and the King of Kings will be reigning on earth.

Now this new song will be sung after the Great Tribulation. Those who are left after the Tribulation will have seen the delivering power of God. They will have seen God's great power on display in what He did for Israel.

I want you to observe from this verse that this new song will be sung:

- 1) Because God has done wonderful things.
- 2) Because God has done powerful and holy things by his own right hand and holy arm.
- 3) Because God has done victorious things “for Him.”

So God will end up saving Israel for Himself. He has promised that He will do it and He will do it.

OBSERVATION #2 – The new song that will be sung to the LORD will be a song of salvation. **98:2-3**

There are five facts we want to observe about the salvation of God that delivers Israel. These saving acts of God should prompt us to celebrate in song:

Fact #1 - The salvation of Israel is His salvation. **98:2a**

God will make known His salvation by delivering Israel. Salvation in any dispensation is God’s salvation. He does it and He gives it. God is going to save Israel because this is the nation He has decided to save. He actually entered into a covenant relationship with Israel, which guarantees He will save her. God will save us for the same reason. He has decided to save us.

Fact #2 - The salvation of Israel reveals God’s righteousness. **98:2b**

All nations of the world will realize that God is a righteous God who has saved Israel in accordance with His promises and Word. Salvation and righteousness are critical to God’s just order on this earth.

It will be a time for great joy when Jesus Christ is reigning in total righteousness.

Fact #3 - The salvation of Israel remembers God’s lovingkindness. **98:3a**

Now we love to think about the grace and mercy and lovingkindness of God, but God must remember this because this is what enables Him to save Israel and save us.

The salvation of Israel is a tremendous statement for the grace and mercy of God just as the salvation of any individual is also a tremendous statement for the mercy of God.

If God forgot about His grace and mercy for one second, we would all be condemned and rightly so.

Fact #4 - The salvation of Israel remembers God’s faithfulness. **98:3b**

Make no mistake about this point, God does not save Israel or save us because of our faithfulness; He will save Israel and save us because of His faithfulness.

God is faithful to fulfill what He promises to fulfill even when we are not faithful. As Paul told Timothy, “If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself” (II Tim. 2:13).

Fact #5 - The salvation of Israel will be seen by the entire world. **98:3c**

The Great Tribulation will be a worldwide judgment and the gathering of Israel will be a worldwide gathering and the entire world will have seen it and known about it.

OBSERVATION #3 – The song that will be sung will be a loud, joyful praise of all the earth.
98:4-6

Notice that “all” the earth will enter into loud praise and worship of God for what He has done for Israel. There are six elements brought out about this praise time in history:

Element #1 - The praise will be loud. **98:4a**

Element #2 - The praise will be joyful. **98:4b**

Notice the joyful and loud praise will be made “to the LORD.”

Element #3 - The praise will be worldwide. **98:4c**

Everything on earth will be joyfully praising God.

Element #4 - The praise will include singing. **98:4d-5a**

Element #5 - The praise will include instruments. **98:5b-6a**

Element #6 - The praise will be before the King. **98:6b**

The entire world will be singing praises to Jesus Christ, who is the King and the LORD. All will magnify Him for who He is and for what He has done for Israel.

OBSERVATION #4 – The song that will be sung will include music from all creation. **98:7-8**

Now I believe this will literally happen. There will literally come a time when all of creation will be praising God with a new joyful sound. Now any sound we have heard in nature is a sound coming from a fallen nature. So when we hear the sounds of the sea or the rivers or the mountains, it is coming from that which is fallen. However, there will come a day when all of creation will sing a new song with new sounds. This new sound will be in view of what God has done for Israel.

There are four realities brought out here:

(Reality #1) - The sea and all in it will roar and praise God. **98:7a**

(Reality #2) - The world and all who dwell in it will praise God. **98:7b**

(Reality #3) - The rivers will clap their hands. **98:8a**

(Reality #4) - The mountains will sing for joy. **98:8b**

OBSERVATION #5 – The song that will be sung will be sung when the Lord comes to judge.
98:9

One student of Scripture observed the prospect of God coming to judge to balance the scales of justice is a good reason for universal rejoicing.

Jesus Christ is coming to judge. He will judge all people on earth. He will judge with righteousness and He will judge with fair equity.

Now the judgment will be in part connected to how nations treated Israel.

This worldwide joyful praise and worship to God will not happen until Jesus Christ returns to establish His Kingdom on this earth. When He does that Israel will be seen and known as the exalted nation of God and the entire world will praise God for it.