

“Joy to the World” – Psalm 98, Daily Meditation Readings

Meditation Reading #1 - Psalm 98:1

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things;
his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

- According to this verse, why are we to sing a new song to the LORD?

We sing a new song, a song of joy, a song of amazement because “He has done marvelous things”. He has provided us with “salvation”.

Meditation Reading #2 - Psalm 98:2

² The LORD has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

- What does this verse mean to you? How does it connect to the Christmas story?

It was on that first Christmas that the incarnate God appeared as the baby Jesus. On that day He made Himself known to us as the Savior of the world. In Luke 2:10-11, the angel said, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” This is good news to all the nations! Psalm 98:2 reminds me that God made Himself known as our salvation to all people on that first Christmas day.

Meditation Reading #3 - Psalm 98:3

³ He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

- According to this verse, what is the reason for God’s salvation which came through the birth, death, and resurrection of His Son?

God is loving and faithful to His people. Because of His love and faithfulness He has provided a means of salvation. The Christmas story is about so much more than Santa, Reindeer, trees, lights, decorations, even a Baby in a manger. Christmas is about God’s love for His people that would move Him to do anything for them including sending His one and only Son into the world as a sacrifice once for all. You want to read a real Christmas verse, try John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Meditation Reading #4 - Psalm 98:4-8

⁴ Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;
⁵ make music to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,
⁶ with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—
shout for joy before the LORD, the King.
⁷ Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.
⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands,
Let the mountains sing together for joy;

➤ What does this verse tell you about the importance of singing, music and joy to the world? The song “Joy to the World” is a response to the message. Psalm 98:4-8 is a response to the message of Psalm 98:1-3. God wants His people to respond in joy and jubilation. He wants us to respond in music and singing. He wants us to shout and clap for joy! Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

➤ What is your favorite song expressing the joy of Christmas? Why
Let people share for the fun of discussion. I love so many Christmas songs. “Go Tell It on A Mountain” is one of those because it reminds me that the joy of the message of Christmas needs to be shared.

Meditation Reading #5 - Psalm 98:9

⁹ let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

➤ Why will knowing Jesus is coming to judge lead us to sing?
Our righteous judge who has covered our sin and claimed us as His own is the same one who will judge. It is so comforting to know that my Jesus full of grace and truth determines my future. I can sleep well with that truth imbedded in my heart.