

Behold our God! Reflections in Psalms

[Psalm 98](#)

“God is Faithful”– December 17, 2023



Introduction

This psalm centers on the exuberant celebration of Yahweh as the victorious King. Upon returning from victory in battle, the Israelites would have sung this psalm acknowledging God as the One who won the battle for them.

We too are engaged in a type of warfare. It is much more dangerous than any physical war. Ephesians 6 reminds us that it is a spiritual battle. We can call upon God, our warrior King, to help us. Are you tempted to believe that there isn't enough armor to fight the enemy? The news, our own sin, and even fears and doubts can cause us to feel that the battle is frustrating or even unrelenting. Does that leave you in despair?

The good news is that Yahweh has come to us in the person of Jesus. For those of us who have come to faith in Christ, He is our warrior King who dwells within our hearts. Yet while He sustains us when we battle, we can still grow weary. This psalm reminds us that we can sing a new song in the midst of trouble. We can praise Jesus, the King, who marvelously saves and righteously rules.

Sermon Outline

1. Praise Jesus, the King, who marvelously saves. (Vs. 1-6)
2. Praise Jesus, the King, who righteously rules. (Vs. 7-9)

Read & Discuss

1. Read Vs. 1-6

The call to sing a new song was a reminder to God's people of all the marvelous things that God has done. Time and again, God had been faithful to keep His covenant promises. Can you recall all of the marvelous deeds that God has done for you through Christ? Take time this week to recall and give praise to God for all the marvelous things that He has done for you. All who are united with Christ have been given real and lasting salvation from sin.

Praise Jesus - He is your King who has marvelously worked salvation for you. You can rest in joy and peace because you are counted among those with whom He is pleased. Then remember that the light of God's salvation is to be extended to all the earth. ([Is. 49:6](#); [Luke 2:22-32](#)) Think of all of the generations that have passed since the time of Jesus. The fact that we know of the name of Jesus is a miracle of the sovereign grace of God.

This invitation to join into the joyful celebration of Christ as King still applies today. Look to Christ who is able to save you from the weariness and brokenness of sin. With Jesus as your king, His marvelous deeds will satisfy you with great things.

Our aim should be to bring this joy of salvation to the ends of the earth. Let us exalt Christ and make His salvation known. We can all learn, pray, give and go. With whom can you share the joy of salvation this week? If you have not trusted in Christ for this salvation, will you confess Him as your King while there is still time?

2. Read Vs. 7-9

Here, the scope of God's praise has expanded to the entire universe. God created nature as well as people. All creation gives glory to God! Here, Jesus is still the King, but He is also the righteous Judge. He rules justly now. We were made to submit to His righteous rule and thus flourish. This causes all of creation to flourish as well.

If Christ is the King of my heart, and He rules as a righteous Judge, are the relationships and places in which He has placed you flourishing? Is His righteous rule in your life evident to others?

There will be a time in the future when Jesus will return and rule as the righteous judge. All of creation waits for that day. ([Romans 8:18-24](#)) When Adam and Eve fell into sin, all of creation lived under the curse. We live in a fallen world. We, along with creation, eagerly await the final judgment of Christ. Then, we will have freedom from the curse. The fullness of our relationship with God will be restored. It will be at that time when ALL of God's people will know the fullness of God's saving grace given to us in Christ. Perhaps on that day, we will sing this psalm - a new song. We look forward to that day.

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at fbcum.org

Next week's sermon text: we turn to Psalm 8 "God is Immanent"
