

Psalm 96 – A Global Call to Worship and a Certain Hope in His Coming

*"Oh, sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, bless His name;
Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.
Declare His glory among the nations,
His wonders among all peoples." — Psalm 96:1–3, NKJV*

A Song for All Nations

Psalm 96 opens with a call to all people everywhere: *sing to the Lord!* Not just the redeemed of Israel—not just one tribe or language group—but “*all the earth*.” This psalm pulls back the curtain of national boundaries and religious distinctions and calls every heart on earth to give glory to the One true Creator.

We’re not singing out of habit or tradition; we’re singing *a new song*. Why? Because His mercies are new every morning (Lamentations 3:23), and His salvation is not a one-time event—it is a daily reality for those who walk with Him. Day by day, we are invited to proclaim—not speculate, but declare with confidence—that God saves.

Personal Application: Has your relationship with God grown stale? When’s the last time you sang a *new song*—a fresh praise from a renewed heart? Praise isn’t just a ritual; it’s a living response to a living God.

*"For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised;
He is to be feared above all gods.
For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
But the Lord made the heavens.
Honor and majesty are before Him;
Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary." — Psalm 96:4–6*

A Contrast Between the Creator and Counterfeits

All other “gods” of the world—whether man-made deities, ideologies, or idols of the heart—are empty imitations. They are not living, they do not speak, they cannot save. But the Lord, Yahweh, is the Maker of the heavens. He is not a projection of man’s imagination, but the true and living God who existed before time and created all that exists.

His character blends both might and majesty, strength and beauty. His sanctuary is not marked by lifeless formality, but by awe-inspiring glory.

Personal Application: What holds the highest place in your life right now? If anything other than the Lord is central, it’s an idol—no matter how noble or respectable it may seem. Tear it down, and let worship rise.

*"Give to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
Give to the Lord glory and strength.
Give to the Lord the glory due His name;
Bring an offering, and come into His courts.
Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Tremble before Him, all the earth." — Psalm 96:7–9*

Worship that Honors God

We don't "give" God anything in the sense that He needs something from us—He is complete and self-sufficient. But we *ascribe* to Him the glory that is rightly His. Worship is our response to who God is and what He has done. It involves more than singing—it calls for reverence, surrender, and a life offered back to Him in love.

"In the beauty of holiness" is not about aesthetics, but about approaching God with hearts set apart—pure, sincere, and yielded.

Personal Application: Is your worship rooted in holiness or in hype? God is not impressed with performance. He desires hearts that are humble and lives that are surrendered. Bring Him not just your song, but your life.

*"Say among the nations, 'The Lord reigns;
The world also is firmly established,
It shall not be moved;
He shall judge the peoples righteously.'
Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
Let the sea roar, and all its fullness;
Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it.
Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice before the Lord." — Psalm 96:10–12*

Creation Responds to the Reign of God

This psalm doesn't end with personal praise alone. It looks forward to a worldwide, even cosmic, celebration. The whole of creation—sea, field, forest—erupts in joy because *God reigns*. Unlike human rulers who often bring injustice and disorder, the Lord's reign brings equity, stability, and reason for joy.

The natural world rejoices in His righteous rule—not out of fear but out of relief. He brings order where there was chaos, righteousness where there was rebellion, peace where there was conflict.

Personal Application: Are you rejoicing in God's reign or resisting it? We don't wait for the future kingdom to start living under His rule—we live under it now. Submit every area of life to the King who brings joy, not oppression.

*"For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth.
He shall judge the world with righteousness,
And the peoples with His truth." — Psalm 96:13*

A Coming King and a Righteous Judgment

The psalm closes with confident anticipation: *He is coming*. This is not merely poetic—it is prophetic. The Lord will return, and His second coming will be marked by **righteous judgment**. Every wrong will be made right. Every hidden thing brought to light. And He will do it not based on shifting human opinions but *in truth*—the unchanging standard of His own holy character.

This is not something for the believer to fear, but to hope in. Judgment, in God’s hands, is not vengeful—it is just. His coming is not doom for those who know Him, but deliverance.

Personal Application: Are you living in light of His coming? Let this truth shape your choices, your priorities, and your hope. The King is coming—and His justice is real. Make sure your life is aligned with His truth, not the passing winds of culture.

Conclusion: A Global Song for a Coming King

Psalm 96 is a psalm of praise, a call to mission, and a declaration of hope. It reminds us that:

- **Worship** must be joyful, reverent, and rooted in truth.
- **Witness** must be global—we proclaim His glory among all nations.
- **Watchfulness** is necessary—for the Judge is coming in righteousness.

Let your life be a new song to the Lord. Let your words declare His greatness. And let your heart rest in the confidence that the One who made the heavens is coming again—with justice, with truth, and with salvation.

“Even so, come, Lord Jesus.” — Revelation 22:20