

Joy to the World

Psalm 98

_Read Psalm 98

James 1:2-3, "*My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, **3** knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.*"

Proverbs 10:28, "*The hope of the righteous will be gladness, But the expectation of the wicked will perish.*"

1 Peter 1:8-9, "*whom having not seen you love Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,*"

Romans 15:13, "*Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*"

Nehemiah 8:10, "*Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."*

Isaiah 12:5-6, "*Sing to the Lord, For He has done excellent things; This is known in all the earth. 6 Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion, For great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!"*

Hebrews 12:2, "*looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*"

John 16:24, "*Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.*"

John 16:22, "*Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.*"

Romans 14:17, "*for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*"

John 15:11, "*These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.*"

John 17:13, "But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves."

1.) The History of the Hymn

Date: 1719

Author: Isaac Watts

—Isaac Watts, "To see the dull indifference, the negligent and thoughtless air that sits upon the faces of a whole assembly, while the psalm is upon their lips, might even tempt a charitable observer to suspect the fervency of their inward religion."

—Christianity Today, "His illness and unsightly appearance took its toll on his personal life. His five-foot, pale, skinny frame was topped by a disproportionately oversized head. Almost every portrait of him depicts him in a large gown with large folds—an apparent attempt by the artists to disguise his homeliness. This was probably the reason for Elizabeth Singer's rejection of his marriage proposal. As one biographer noted, 'Though she loved the jewel, she could not admire the casket which contained it.'" (From "131 Christians You Need To Know")

—Isaac Watts, "They ought to be translated in such a manner as we have reason to believe David would have composed them if he had lived in our day."

Composer: George Frederick Handel

Arrangement: Lowell Mason

2.) The Theology of the Hymn

A.) We Are Joyful Because Christ Saves (v. 1-3)

v. 1 "Oh, sing to the Lord a new song..."

Revelation 21:5, "...Behold, I make all things new..."

v. 1, ""Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! For He has done marvelous things;"

i.) Christ Has Gained Victory

v. 1 "His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory"

Psalms 110:1, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool!"

ii.) Revealed His Salvation

v. 2, "The Lord has made known His salvation..."

Romans 3:21-25, "But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, **22** even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, **25** whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith..."

iii.) Revealed His Righteousness

Verse 2, "His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations,"

Isaiah 52:10, "The Lord has made bare His holy arm In the eyes of all the nations; And all the ends of the earth shall see The salvation of our God!"

iv.) Remembered His Love for Israel

_Read Verse 3.

Joy to the World, the Lord is come.

Let earth receive her king.

Let every heart prepare him room. And Heaven and Nature Sing

B.) We Are Joyful Because Christ Reigns (v. 4-6)

Verse 4, "Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth;..."

i.) He Reigns Over All the Earth

"There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, Mine!" —Abraham Kuyper

_Read Verse 6.

ii.) He Reigns Because He is the King

_Read verses 4-6.

C.) We Are Joyful Because Christ Conquers (v. 7-8)

_Read Verse 7.

No more let sins and sorrows grow.

James 1:21, "Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."

*Romans 8:20-21, "For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; **21** because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God."*

D.) We Are Joyful Because Christ Returns (v. 9)

verse 8-9, "...Let the hills be joyful together 9 before the Lord, For He is coming to judge the earth..."

***He rules the world with truth and with grace.
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love,***