

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Psalm 149

A NEW SONG IN WHICH TO PRAISE THE LORD

Praise the Lord with a new song!

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Introduction

- When the Israelites were taken captive (as a result of repeat sin) they 'lost their song'
- The truth is they had already lost their song long before the captivity

Psalm 137:1-4

NLT ¹ Beside the rivers of Babylon, we sat and wept as we thought of Jerusalem. ² We put away our harps, hanging them on the branches of poplar trees. ³ For our captors demanded a song from us. Our tormentors insisted on a joyful hymn: "Sing us one of those songs of Jerusalem!"

IOW - their tormentors were taunting the Jews!

That is why the Jews responded

NLT ⁴ But how can we sing the songs of the Lord while in a pagan land?

137:4 How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?

- But the most amazing thing is this . . . IT CAN BE DONE . . . IT MUST BE DONE
- Even in a foreign land, we can have a song to the Lord . . .

- If . . . we are willing to submit and surrender to Him

- If . . . we are willing to be obedient and faithful to our Saviour

But our first (and primary) task in order to get that song back in our hearts . . .

- Is to confess our sins to the Lord

In time GOD will restore the joy of our salvation

This truth was on the psalmist's heart as he wrote Psalm 149

Psalm 149

¹ Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, *And* His praise in the assembly of saints.

² Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

³ Let them praise His name with the dance; Let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp. ⁴ For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation. ⁵ Let the saints be joyful in glory; Let them sing aloud on their beds.

⁶ Let the high praises of God *be* in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand,

⁷ To execute vengeance on the nations, And punishments on the peoples; ⁸ To bind their kings with chains, And their nobles with fetters of iron; ⁹ To execute on them the written judgment— This honor have all His saints. Praise the Lord!

The psalm causes us to turn our minds to singing

¹ Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, *And* His praise in the assembly of saints.

- Praise the LORD . . . Hebrew . . . Hallelu Yah
- Sing to the Lord a new song
- Shiru l'Adonoi shir chadash (Sing unto Hashem a new song)
 - Not the performing kind of song
 - Not thinking about large audiences
 - Not think about X Factor
- But the kind of singing that takes place (within) a person's heart
- The kind that takes place because a person is happy and singing seems to be the most natural way to show delight
- It occurs from within the heart . . . personal
- It generally indicates a close walk with the LORD

- It generally indicates a person has every good reason to worship

To praise GOD

To give GOD Glory

Perhaps after a time renewal

- It can happen in a church too – like-minded believers seek to rejoice and praise GOD

SINGING A NEW SONG . . . it PREPARES THE HEART FOR WORSHIP

- That is why we sing the Great Hymns
- There are many songs that glorify GOD. . . and many that are particularly uplifting
- But the psalmist wants us to think beyond that . . . he wants us to consider what a 'new song' means to the people of GOD

How do we know that?

- Because in the psalm the word "saint" is mentioned three times – each stanza 1, 5 and 9
- The saints desire to praise GOD with a 'new song'
- That isn't a 'new idea' about who GOD is
- It is new in the sense of a renewed energy and passion for the LORD within the heart – that should be occurring daily

SING A NEW SONG . . . it PREPARES THE HEART FOR REVERENCE

- Worship is a serious business
- As we study the Book we sense the magnificence and power of GOD
- And the only way we can know more about Him is through the Book
- As we gain more understanding we want to magnify truth
- There is probably no better way than in songs
 - The fact that GOD is a loving GOD
 - GOD is the living GOD
 - GOD gave Himself to us in Jesus Christ
 - GOD continues to give Himself to us through the Holy Spirit
- Such truth calls for a response from the 'saints'
- Singing provides that response

We express delight in GOD because He expressed delight in us

- The truths about GOD that the psalmist takes delight in are outlined in the next two stanzas
- These are things for which we must be grateful

1. We must be perpetually grateful that GOD is our Creator and King and Saviour (2-5)

NLT ² O Israel, rejoice in your Maker. O people of Jerusalem, exult in your King. ³ Praise His name with dancing, accompanied by tambourine and harp. ⁴ For the Lord delights in His people; He crowns the humble with victory. ⁵ Let the faithful rejoice that He honors them. Let them sing for joy as they lie on their beds.

a) He is our Maker

- The beginning of all understanding about GOD is to know Him as the Creator
- He created everything . . . therefore what is there that could possibly get you down?
- Beginnings were so important in Bible in Schools – key message that Lupe shared with her class

b) Beyond that He is our King

- He is King of the entire universe and all nations
- The world may not recognize Him but it doesn't change anything
- Yes the people of the world are hostile to Him
- But they need to be taught – to be shown this is wrong
- Who is going to teach them? – a bunch of angry overly righteous Christian fundamentalists with a score to settle . . . or believers that have a 'song in their hearts'?
- One thing for sure it will be those who have accepted His rule in their lives

c) Beyond that He is our Saviour

- Man rebelled against GOD
- And yet GOD punished His Son!
- That has to get a response

2. We must be perpetually grateful that victory is ours in Him (6-9)

NLT ⁶ Let the praises of God be in their mouths, and a sharp sword in their hands—
⁷ to execute vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples, ⁸ to bind their kings with shackles and their leaders with iron chains. ⁹ to execute the judgment written against them. This is the glorious privilege of his faithful ones. Praise the Lord!

- The stanza is difficult
- People don't like the idea of war
- They don't like the idea of GOD being involved in encouraging people to war
- Yet war in a fallen world is a very necessary thing
- Being a soldier is not an unworthy calling for a follower of Christ
- But the issue is more about contending for the faith – not killing people
- This is in fact a song of anticipation
- Clearly GOD's army is marching onward toward victory

Romans 8:35-39

NLT ³⁵ Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ³⁶ (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake

we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.”) ³⁷ No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- The enemy in this case is the Devil

Ephesians 6:12

NLT ¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Revelation 12:10-12

¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens, “It has come at last—salvation and power and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth—the one who accuses them before our God day and night. ¹¹ And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony. And they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die. ¹² Therefore, rejoice, O heavens! And you who live in the heavens, rejoice! But terror will come on the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you in great anger, knowing that he has little time.”

Sing a New Song

Is it just an OT thing?

- When Jesus was born it called for a 'new song'

Luke 2:14

NLT ¹³ Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

Is it something just for this life?

- One day we will sing a glorious new song in Heaven
- One composed by the saints

READ Revelation 5:9-13

- I don't think we will ever get tired of singing that!
- We gain . . . and maintain . . . a song in our hearts when we are walking closely with the LORD
 - Such joy fills you that you want to sing
 - Singing is a natural reaction to a joy filled heart
 - Take a look at a person who has just recently 'fallen in love'!
- When we are not . . . the opposite occurs
 - It is hard to sing when the joy is gone
 - It is hard to get motivated to want to contemplate singing