

Sermon Title: "JOY TO THE WORLD"

Date: December 17, 2023 - Psalm 98

Central Idea: Understanding God's gift of salvation should stir our hearts to worship Him with boundless joy. Are you rejoicing?

Introduction: From Psalm 98, the song writer Isaac Watts found the inspiration for his popular hymn, "Joy to the World." Often classified as a Christmas carol, it can more accurately be identified as a "kingdom hymn." Watts was describing Christ's second advent, the Messianic kingdom, and not His first, the manger.

As Christians, we have a cherished collection of songs, hymns, and spiritual songs that have been handed down to us and which, in turn, we can pass along to future generations. We should praise the Lord for this!

I. Praise the Lord Because of His Redemption, vv. 1-3.

The term salvation appears in each verse of this section.

- 1. God wants His people to sing, v. 1.**
- 2. Salvation is known! And shown! v. 2.**
- 3. God had remembered His mercy, v. 3.**

II. Praise the Lord with a Joyful Song, vv. 4-6.

- 1. Praise Him with shout and song, v. 4.**
- 2. Praise Him with musical instruments, vv. 5-6.**

III. Praise the Lord with Anticipation, vv. 7-9.

**The anticipation of His coming excited creation.
Surely, it should excite us!**

Conclusion: The psalmist often exhorts us to "sing a new song." (See Psalms 33:3; 40:3; 96:1; 98:1; 144:9; 149:1.) The word translated "new" means "fresh, new in quality." The song may be an old one, but our growth in the Lord and our new experiences of His grace enable us to sing an old song with fresh new meaning and blessing. This may explain why the Lord allows us to go through trials. Perhaps He is tuning us up to praise Him in a new way!