

ALL CREATION SINGS

Intro: Following the nature section in Job, where God reveals His majesty, dominion, and love simply by pointing Job to His wonderful works in creation, we are going to look at several of the Psalms that highlight the role of creation in displaying the glory of God as well as helping us to worship and praise Him. We begin with a Psalm familiar to us as a call to worship, an invitation to us to join all nature in extolling the wonder of our Creator and LORD.

- This psalm is a call, an invitation, an exhortation to realize and respond to the wonders of our God.
- Though not didactic *per se*, it nonetheless shows us how and why to worship the Lord.
- Even more than invitation, instruction, it also serves by the Holy Spirit to inspire and draw us into worship.

Outline: Sing, Sing, Sing; Give, Give, Give; All Creation Join In (Three sets of imperatives)

Sing, Sing, Sing (1-6)

- How?
 - A New Song: Perhaps the New Song of Revelation, the song of Redeemed; at least sing “newly.”
 - Universal call to all the earth to join in—both nature and mankind
 - Proclaiming Gospel: verbal declaration of His salvation. Public and more!
- Why?
 - The LORD is great and worthy to be praised > His character, His deeds, His exalted supremacy.
 - The LORD is to be feared > Respect, honored, obeyed, revered...
 - The Lord is true God, above all gods = incomparable.
 - Gods of people are many, typically reductionistic, focusing on one or few powers, missing His.
 - High gods fall short: materialism, humanism, self, power, influence, knowledge, sports (?)
 - His is *splendor, majesty, strength, beauty*.

Give, Give, Give (7-10)

- How? Ascribe = Give, Reckon, Offer
 - Gathered as families
 - Giving glory and strength—not only verbally but with all of life and being.
 - Bringing an offering—not just money, but value of heart, will, passion, time.
 - *Worship in holy attire*: Not Sunday-best, but the beauty of holiness. Called to holy lives, dedicated to God.
 - *Trembling*: Two senses with a common physical response, fear of and in awe of the LORD. Both!
- Why?
 - Because He reigns as King. Ps. 96 the middle of a seven-set series on the Lord’s kingship and rule.
 - Because He reigns, the world is firmly established—there is security in knowing He reigns over nature.
 - Because His reign is not only all-comprehensive, but it is perfectly just, according to divine justice.

All Creation Join in Praise (11-13)

- How does Nature/Creation join in praise?
 - Obviously non-verbally and not intentionally, but instinctively and reflective of God’s creative governance.
 - Yet, with sound beyond mere function, exhibiting joy and gladness.
 - Roaring of sea and everything in it, field exult and all in it, trees singing (waving branches, birds, etc.)
 - >There is an abandon and spontaneity in nature’s praise, often a tepid formality in ours
- Why?
 - Because the King is coming. Note: He has come, He does reign, and He is coming again.
 - In His coming, Creation is set free from bondage caused by Man’s sin. Yet, joy already evident (Is. 40).

In conclusion two questions: In terms of enthusiastic participation, which of the following looks more like the worship described in Ps. 96? A typical Sunday morning worship service or an exciting game of our favorite sports team? Second: How are we doing at the public aspect of worship—publicly declaring the glory of God to the whole earth?