

– Psalm 98 –
4th Sunday of Advent 2021
Isaac Watts & “Joy to the World”

Psalm 98 ¹ Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory. ² The LORD has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations. ³ He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. ⁴ Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth; Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises. ⁵ Sing to the LORD with the harp, With the harp and the sound of a psalm, ⁶ With trumpets and the sound of a horn; Shout joyfully before the LORD, the King. ⁷ Let the sea roar, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell in it; ⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands; Let the hills be joyful together before the LORD, ⁹ For He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world, And the peoples with equity.

* What was Watts’ family and childhood like?

* What hard providences did Watts endure?

* How did Watts respond?

* What was Watts known for on the personal level?

* What Watts hymn is his imitation of Psalm 98?

* What are some of the things Watts excelled at?

* What did Watts mean by “psalm imitation”?

* What are the themes that resound in Watts' hymns and psalm imitations?

* Who was the Psalter likely arranged by, and what is its structure?

* What annoying habit did Watts have as a child?

* What place does Psalm 98 hold, and what is its message?

* How did Watts start writing hymns?

– Vs 4-6

– Christ's judgment of the world is a cause of rejoicing for the righteous:

1) Because of _____ in Christ.

Acts 10 ⁴² "He [Jesus] commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ To Him all the prophets witness that through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins."

Rom 8 ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

2) Because final judgment in the Bible does not mean

Rather, it means putting everything _____,
making everything just the way it should _____, and
fully restoring _____ of God's glorious intentions
from the beginning.

– Vs 7-9

* Why is Christ judging the world something to be rejoiced over?

– What is one of the greatest honors accorded to Christ?

John 5 ²² "[T]he Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, ²³ that all should honor the Son just as the honor the Father."

1King 3 ⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?" ⁶ And Solomon said ... ⁹ "[G]ive to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil."

*Psalms 98 ⁶ ... Shout joyfully before the LORD, the King. ...
⁹ For He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world, And the peoples with equity.*

– What was one of the leading truths of the Gospel for the apostles?

Acts 17 ³⁰ "God ... now commands all men everywhere to repent, ³¹ because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

Rom 2 ¹⁶ God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ

* How well does Watts imitate Psalm 98 in "Joy to the World"?

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found.*

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