

Sovereign KING and JUDGE ~ Psalm 96:1-13

→ **Scripture Reading** Psalm 96:1-2, 4-5, 9-10, 12-13

A Call to WORSHIP ~ Psalm 96:1-6

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. ² Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. ³ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

Missions exists because worship does not. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. J. Piper

⁴ For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. ⁵ For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. ⁶ Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

IMPLICATIONS

→ **It is NOT enough to merely LIVE the gospel - it will take WORDS**

² ...PROCLAIM His SALVATION day after day.

Romans 10:14 (NLT) But how can they call on Him to save them unless they BELIEVE in Him? And how can they BELIEVE in Him if they have never HEARD about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone TELLS them?

→ **God does NOT want to share my Heart with Idols**

⁴ ...He is to be FEARED above all gods. ⁵ The gods of other nations are mere idols, but the LORD made the heavens. (NLT)

Isaiah 44:18-19 (NLT) ¹⁸ Such stupidity and ignorance! Their eyes are closed, and they cannot see. Their minds are shut, and they cannot think. ¹⁹ The person who made the idol never stops to reflect, "Why, it's just a block of wood! I burned half of it for heat and used it to bake my bread and roast my meat. How can the rest of it be a god? Should I bow down to worship a piece of wood?"

Isaiah 42:8 (NET) I am the LORD. That is my NAME. I will NOT share MY glory with ANYONE else, or the praise DUE ME with idols.

→ **It is Impossible for FINITE humans to Fully Grasp an INFINITE God**

⁴ ...He is to be FEARED above all gods. ⁶ Honor and majesty surround Him; strength and beauty fill His sanctuary. (NLT)

Give God the GLORY He DESERVES ~ Psalm 96:7-9

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, O families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. ⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. ⁹ Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.

In this call for the universal worship of God, we hear the missionary heartbeat of this psalm. Williams

IMPLICATIONS

→ **There is an Invitation to ALL NATIONS to Worship the True God**

⁷ O nations of the world, recognize the LORD; recognize that the LORD is glorious and strong. ⁸ Give to the LORD the glory he deserves! Bring your offering and come into his courts. (NLT)

Galatians 3:8-9 (NLT) What's more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would declare the Gentiles to be righteous because of their FAITH. God proclaimed this good news to Abraham long ago when he said, "All nations will be blessed through you."⁹ So all who put their FAITH in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith.

Mark 11:17 (NIV) ...Is it not written: My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations? ...

God WILL JUDGE ~ Psalm 96:10-13

¹⁰ Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns." The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity.

Isaiah 9:7 (NIV) Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign ON David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever...

Instead of ongoing international chaos in human history the world will be SETTLED and efficiently managed by the Messiah in the millennial kingdom. MacArthur

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it; ¹² let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy; ¹³ they will sing before the LORD, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his truth.

Romans 8:19-21 (NIV) The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

IMPLICATIONS

→ There is Anticipation and JOY Waiting for God to come and JUDGE

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice... let the sea resound... ¹² let the fields be jubilant... all the trees of the forest will sing for joy... ¹³ they will sing before the LORD ...he comes to judge the earth

The ancient near east was a world where judges usually needed to be bribed and right judgment was exceedingly hard to come by, especially for weak, poor, or disadvantaged persons. CS Lewis

TAKE AWAY ??

¹⁰ Say among the nations: The LORD REIGNS. The world is firmly established; it cannot be shaken. He JUDGES the peoples FAIRLY. (HCS)

John 3:16-18 (NIV) For God did not send his Son into the world to CONDEMN the world, but to SAVE the world through Him. ¹⁸ Whoever BELIEVES in Him is NOT condemned, but whoever does NOT BELIEVE stands condemned already because he has not believed in the NAME of God's one and only Son.