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All Creation Joins in Praise

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **January 8, 2017**

Psalm 96:1-6, 10-13

Introduction: This psalm is similar in structure and design to Psalm 95:1-11. It is an exhortation to **universal praise**, and was doubtless designed to be used in **public worship** - in the service of the sanctuary.

The psalm has no title in the Hebrew, and its authorship cannot with any certainty be determined. There is, however, a very marked similarity between this psalm and a **portion** of that which was composed and sung at the removal of the ark by David, as recorded in 1 Chronicles 16:7.

1 Chronicles 14:8, And when the Philistines heard that **David was anointed king** over all Israel, all the Philistines went up to seek David. And David heard of it, and went out against them.

1 Chronicles 15:1-2, 28, And David made him houses in the city of David, and prepared a place for the **ark of God**, and pitched for it a **tent**. Then David said, None ought to carry the ARK of God but the Levites: for **them** hath the LORD **chosen** to carry the Ark of God, and to minister unto him for ever. ... Thus all Israel **brought up the ark** of the **covenant** of the LORD with **shouting**, and with **sound** of the cornet, and with trumpets...

1 Chronicles 16:1, 7, So they brought the ARK of God, and set it in the midst of the tent that David had pitched for it: and they offered burnt sacrifices and peace offerings before God.**"Then on that day David delivered first this psalm to THANK the Lord, into the hand of Asaph and his brethren."**

Of the original psalm, therefore, David was undoubtedly the author. Psalm 96:1-13 is merely an abridgment (condensation) of that one, or more properly an extract from it, since it is essentially similar to one portion of it, and is taken from it with very slight variations, 1 Chron. 16:23-33. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/psalms-96.html>)

Psalms 96:1, O **SING** unto **the LORD (Jehovah [Yahweh])** a **new (fresh)** song: **SING** unto the LORD (Yahweh), **all the earth**.

NOTE: Wiersbe noted that the expression "may mean NEW in **time** or NEW in **expression** The Spirit of God can make an **old song** NEW to us as we grow in our knowledge of God and his Word, or as we have **new experiences**, and He can also open our hearts to a **new song completely new to us**" (The Bible Exposition Commentary, Cook).
(Source: *The Bible Expositor and Illuminator, Union Press Publication-Christian Life Series*)

Revelation 5:8-10, And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the **Lamb**, having every one of them harps, and

golden **vials (broad shallow cup)** full of **odours (incense)**, which are the **prayers** of SAINTS. And they **SUNG a NEW SONG**, saying, Thou art WORTHY to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast **redeemed us** to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God **kings and priests:** and **we shall REIGN** on the earth.

Psalms 96:2, Sing unto the LORD (Yahweh), **BLESS** (glorify, magnify) **his name; shew forth (announce)** **his salvation (deliverance, victory)** from day to day.

NOTE: ...**bless his name** - This verse is substantially the same as 1 Chronicles 16:23; "Sing unto the Lord, all the earth; show forth from day to day his salvation."

Show forth his salvation - His interposition; the fact that he has **saved or delivered us**. This may have referred originally in particular to what he had done to SAVE the people in time of DANGER, but the language is such also as to express **salvation** in a higher sense - **salvation** from **SIN** and **death**. As such it may be employed to express what God has done for MANKIND - for all people, Jews and Gentiles - in providing a **way of salvation**, and making it possible that they should reach heaven. For this all people have occasion for praise.

From day to day - Continually; always. It is a fit subject for unceasing praise. Every man should praise God every day - **on each** returning **morning**, and on every **evening** - for the ASSURANCE that there is a way of salvation provided for him, and "that he may be happy forever." If we had right feelings, this would be the first thought which would burst upon the MIND each morning, irradiating, as with sunbeams, all around us; and it would be the last thought which would linger in the soul as we lie down at night, and close our eyes in slumber - making us grateful, calm, happy, as we sink to rest, for whether we wake or NOT in this world we may be forever happy.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/psalms-96.html>)

Isaiah 49:5-6, And now, saith the LORD (Yahweh) that **formed me** from the **womb** to be HIS servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be NOT gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD (Yahweh), and **my God** shall be **my strength**. And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a LIGHT to the Gentiles, that **THOU mayest be MY SALVATION** unto the **END** of the **earth**.

Psalms 96:3, **Declare** his **GLORY** among the **heathen**, his **WONDERS** among all people.

NOTE: Among the nations; the people who are NOT Hebrews. The meaning is, Let it be proclaimed in all lands, among ALL people. Let it NOT be confined to those who are professedly his people, but let it be announced everywhere. ...literally from 1 Chron. 16:24.

His wonders among all people - His "marvelous works;" those things which are suited to produce astonishment in the MIND. The reference is to those **WORKS** and **doings of God** which lie so far beyond the power of any created being, and which by their vastness, their **wisdom**, and their benevolence, are suited to **produce** a **DEEP impression** on the human **MIND**. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/psalms-96.html>)

Thought 1. The reason for this directive is clearly seen in many accounts of people who have HEARD of "God's works and doings." In short, the "reason/PURPOSE" for this being done is to produce "WISDOM", then FAITH, in the MINDS of the people who hear the NEWS. Scripture says the FEAR of the Lord (Yahweh) is the "BEGINNING of wisdom."

Psalm 111:10, The **FEAR (reverence)** of the **Lord** (Yahweh) is the **BEGINNING** of **WISDOM:** a good understanding have ALL they that DO his commandments...

Proverbs 14:26, In the **FEAR (reverence)** of the Lord is **strong confidence** (assurance [utmost certainty, **FAITH**].)...

Fear defined 3374, reverence (1. deep RESPECT and esteem (HIGH VALUE) mingled with **FEAR** and affection (LOVE). 2. The FEAR acceptable to God, is a filial [CHILD in relation to his parents] fear, an awful reverence of the divine nature, proceeding FROM a just esteem [high value] of his PERFECTIONS [infinite POWER, holiness, justice, benevolence and wisdom], which produces IN us an inclination (leaning of the MIND or WILL) TO his service and an **unwillingness** to OFFEND him.).

Thought 2. Next, let's look closer at what happens when God (Yahweh) "WORKS." As we know, God's Spirit and his angels DO whatever his wisdom dictates in order to bring "salvation (deliverance/ help)." When that happens, his Power, Authority, Sacredness, and Sublimeness (that which goes beyond the ordinary) is REVEALED: seen and heard of. The effect of these FOUR things on the MIND is they produce the "the FEAR (reverence) for God (Yahweh)! An acronym for these FOUR things is "**PASS**", **P**ower, **A**uthority, **S**acredness, and **S**ublimeness. Now, let's look at an example of this truth.

Joshua 2:8-11, And before they were laid down, SHE came up unto them upon the ROOF; And said unto the men, **I KNOW** that the Lord **hath given you** the land, and that your **terror** is fallen upon us, and that ALL the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. For we have **HEARD** how **the Lord (the self-Existent or Eternal)** dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; (*40 years ago*) and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. (Num. 21:21-35) (*1 year ago*) And as soon as we had **HEARD** these things, our **hearts** did melt, neither did there remain any more **courage** in any man, because of you: for **the Lord your God, he is GOD (the supreme (Highest) God [deity])** in heaven above, and in earth beneath. (*Source: Reese Chronological Bible, pgs. 345, 139, 253, 268, 270*)

Hebrews 11:31, By **faith** the harlot Rahab perished NOT with them that **believed not**, when she had received the spies with peace.

Thought 3. This principle of "**PASS**" also works to "EARN reverence" for people. This is why God worked through Moses, and then Joshua, working miracles to deliver Israel.

Joshua 3:17; 4:14, And the **priests** that bare the **ark** of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on DRY ground in the midst of **Jordan**, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan. ...On THAT DAY the Lord **MAGNIFIED** [augment [INCREASE] the esteem [opinion of value] or RESPECT in which one is held) **Joshua** in the **SIGHT** of all Israel; and **they FEARED (reverence)** him, AS (*just like*) they **FEARED** Moses, ALL the days of his life.

Thought 4. This principle of "declaring God's wonders" is also seen in Jesus' (Yahshua's) command to "PREACH the gospel." When people HEAR it, and get UNDERSTANDING, FAITH is produced, and they are born again because of their faith IN him.

Romans 10:14-17, How then shall they **call on** him in whom they have **NOT believed?** and how shall they believe in him of whom they have **NOT heard?** and how shall they **HEAR** without a **preacher?** And how shall they preach, except they be **sent?** as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that **preach** the **gospel of peace (DECLARE good tidings [NEWS])**, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then **FAITH** cometh by HEARING, and HEARING by the WORD OF God.

Hearing defined 189, hearing (the sense (discernment: UNDERSTANDING) or the thing heard): **fame (REPORT of great actions).**

Of, 1. FROM 2. denoting reference to a thing; ABOUT.

Thought 5. Now, let's look at Romans 10:17 along with the definitions.

"So then FAITH comes by **REPORT** of great actions and by understanding, and understanding (comes) by the WORD FROM or ABOUT God (Yahweh)."

1 John 5:1, Whosoever **BELIEVETH** that **Jesus** (Yahshua) is the Christ is **BORN** of God...

Believeth defined 4100, to entrust (especially one's spiritual WELL-BEING to Christ).

Psalms 96:4, For the LORD (Yahweh) is **great**, and greatly to be **praised (celebrate)**: he is to be **FEARED (reverence)** ABOVE all gods.

NOTE: For the Lord is great - Yahweh is great. See the notes at Psalm 77:13. This verse is taken literally from 1 Chronicles 16:25.

And greatly to be praised - WORTHY of exalted **praise** and **adoration**.
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/psalms-96.html>)

NOTE: "To be feared above all gods" Leupold remarked that, "If any of the entities commonly called gods produced FEAR in the minds and hearts of their worshippers, how much MORE would the knowledge of God **Most High** do so? This naturally implies that the **fear** which the knowledge of ALMIGHTY God evokes is wholesome and true; it is a **godly reverence.**" (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/psalms-96.html>)

Psalms 96:5-6, For all the gods of the nations are idols: but **the LORD** (Yahweh) **MADE** the heavens. **Honour** and **majesty** are before him: **strength** and **beauty** are in his sanctuary.

NOTE: "...gods of the peoples are idols" And what is an idol? It is a man-made device resembling some human being or some allegedly mythical character, and it supposedly represents a "god." An idol cannot see, cannot hear, cannot move itself, is utterly helpless, having no abilities whatever. This writer once visited the temple of the **Diabhutsu** in **Japan**, and a number of the niches surrounding the **great idol** were adorned in posters, printed with red and black letters, carrying the message, **"THESE GODS ARE OUT OF REPAIR!"** The near-insanity of idol-worship is surely indicated by this.
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/psalms-96.html>)

1 Corinthians 10:18-20, Behold **Israel** after the flesh: are not they which EAT of the sacrifices partakers of the altar? What say I then? that the **IDOL is any thing**, or that which is offered in sacrifice to IDOLS is any thing? But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to **devils (dæmonic being)**, and NOT to God: and I would NOT that ye should have FELLOWSHIP (a state of being together; companionship [association {UNION;}]) with **devils (dæmonic being)**.

NOTE: Contrasted with the feeble, helpless gods of the pagan Gentiles is the majestic **power** and **holiness** of the **TRUE God, Creator** of the **heavens** and **everything else** in the UNIVERSE. The galaxies themselves unfurled as a banner in the night sky proclaim God's glory.

"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handiwork"
(Psalms 19:1). (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/psalms-96.html>)

Psalms 96:7-9, Give unto the LORD (Yahweh), O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD (Yahweh) glory and strength. Give unto **the LORD** (Yahweh) the glory **DUE unto his name**: bring an offering, and come into his courts.

O **worship the LORD** (Yahweh) in the **beauty of holiness: FEAR** before him, **ALL the earth**.

NOTE: Whereas, in the first three verses, Israel might have been able to interpret the message there as meaning that the **Israelites** alone would be the ones to proclaim the glory of God among all nations; but here, there is no room for such a misunderstanding. It is clear enough that **the Gentiles will be accepted** into the **fellowship of God** upon the basis of their honoring the True God and bringing a sacrifice into his courts.

"**Ye kindreds of the peoples**" (Psalms 96:7). These can be none other than the Gentiles of all the earth. The prophet Malachi prophesied the acceptance of the Gentile world into fellowship with God, as follows.

"From the rising of the sun even to the going down of the same **my name** shall be great among **the Gentiles**; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the Gentiles" (Malachi 1:11).

"**An offering.**" "This word is the one commonly used to denote a **'bloodless' offering** such as a **thank-offering.**" This surely indicates that "**the offerings**" which the **Gentiles** are here invited to bring are not the same as the bloody sacrifices of the Old Covenant. In the **New Covenant**, God's **family** of worshippers are called by the apostle Peter, "A spiritual house ... to offer up SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:5). "Through him (Christ) let us offer up a **sacrifice of praise** to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips which make confession to his name" (Hebrews 13:15).

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/psalms-96.html>)

Psalms 96:10, Say among the **heathen** that **the LORD** (Yahweh) **reigneth**: **the world** also shall be **established** that it shall NOT be moved: he shall **judge** the people **righteously**.

NOTE: Among the nations; **all nations**. Make this **proclamation** everywhere. This is changed from the parallel passage in Psalm 93:1.

The world also shall be established ... - Under the reign of God. The meaning is, that the world is FIXED or IMMOVABLE. It has its place, and it cannot be moved out of it. The government of God is fixed and stable. It is NOT temporary, changing, vacillating, like the dynasties of the earth, but is steadfast and abiding, and is well represented by the earth – so fixed and firm that nothing can move it from its place.

He shall judge the people righteously - The people of all lands; the nations of the earth. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/psalms-96.html>)

Psalms 96:11-13, Let the **heavens REJOICE**, and let the **earth be GLAD**; let the **sea roar**, and the **FULNESS** thereof. Let the field be **JOYFUL**, and all that is therein: then shall ALL the trees of the wood rejoice Before **the LORD** (Yahweh): for he cometh, for he cometh to **judge** the **earth**: he shall **judge** the world **with righteousness**, and the **people** with **his TRUTH**.

NOTE: The earth stands in contrast to the heavens on one hand, and the sea on the other. The field is opposed to the wood. The physical world shall unconsciously express **joyous sympathy** with the **moral world**, both alike being **"DELIVERED from the bondage of corruption"** (Romans 8:21; Romans 8:23; 2 Peter 3:13; Isaiah 44:23; Isaiah 55:12-13).

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/jfu/psalms-96.html>)

NOTE: Before the Lord - This is altered from Psalm 72:2-4; and the notes at Isaiah 11:2-5. What is here stated occurs now, wherever the **gospel reigns** in the hearts of **people**; it will be fully accomplished when the **Lord Jesus shall come again** and **judge the world**.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/psalms-96.html>)

Romans 2:14-16, For when the Gentiles, which have NOT the **LAW**, do by **nature** the things contained **IN** the **LAW**, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which **SHEW** the work of the law written in their **hearts**, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;) **In the day when God shall JUDGE** the secrets of men **by Jesus Christ** according to my GOSPEL.