

December 5, 2010

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"Why JOY at Christmastime?"

Psalm 98, Luke 1:44-55 & 2:10-11 and Matthew 2:10-11

Erma Bombeck once said, "There is nothing sadder in this world than to awake Christmas morning and not be a child" ...

I think she was ALMOST CORRECT – I'd rather say ---

"There is nothing sadder in this world than to awake Christmas morning and not be a child of God"

We are not waiting for Santa, who does not exist, but for Christ, Who came on Christmas day, is with us now, and will come again!

I. Only Christ gives us reason to **REJOICE** every year (no matter how far past childhood we might be)!

1. Our lives are full of checkered circumstances, our years are filled with miles of Smiles, but also miles of Trials –

Consider the work of God; For who can make straight what He has made crooked? <sup>14</sup> In the day of prosperity be joyful, But in the day of adversity consider: Surely God has appointed the one as well as the other, So that man can find out nothing *that will come after him.* (Ecclesiastes 7:13-14 NKJ

2. Yet our PROMISE from God is all our trials will work for GOOD – And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. <sup>29</sup> For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Romans 8:28-29 NKJ) James 1:2

3. If our bodies ache, we are promised new bodies – So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. (1 Corinthians 15:42 NKJ)

4. If we die, we still have eternal life – "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (John 17:3 NKJ)

5. We rejoice because Christ has gained us salvation / victory – Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. <sup>11</sup> "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11 NKJ)

"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21 NKJ)

II. This is a singing, shouting, and trumpet blowing joy!

(1) <A Psalm.> Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! (each generation should have new music for God)

(2) <sup>4</sup> **Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth** (Jews and Gentiles, everyone who is saved);

(3) **Break forth in song** (like a musical),

(4) and **sing praises.** (but focusing on God)

(5) <sup>5</sup> **Sing to the LORD with the harp** (soft beautiful music),

(6) **With the harp and the sound of a psalm** (Holy themes),

(7) <sup>6</sup> **With trumpets and the sound of a horn** (Loud, energetic, victorious music);

Shout joyfully before the LORD, the King. (Psalm 98:1-6 NKJ)

- Notice 7 (or several) different kinds of rejoicing
- Then we start over again!

III. This is a "for He has done marvelous things" kind of JOY"!

For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory. <sup>2</sup> The LORD has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations. <sup>3</sup> 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.

1. Christ is His Arm – Isaiah 53:1

2. *His salvation is made known through Christ's appearing (Hebrews 1:1-3) and through the preaching of the Gospel – (Romans 10:17)*

3. *We realize the greatness of this JOY when we realize the darkness / gloom / depression He has delivered us from – Isaiah 9:1-7*

4. *When we realize the personal poverty and death He has saved us from – Matthew 5:3; Ephesians 2:1*

5. *Mary realized these things, even before Christ was born – Luke 1:46-55*

Commentator Adam Clarke puts it well -

“ This Psalm (98) is an evident prophecy of Christ's coming to save the world; and what is here foretold by David is, in the Blessed Virgin's Song, chanted forth as being accomplished. David is the Voice, and Mary is the Echo.

1. DAVID. "O sing unto the Lord a new song." (The Voice.) MARY. "My soul doth magnify the Lord." (The Echo.)

2. DAVID. "He hath done marvellous things." (The Voice.) MARY. "He that is mighty hath done great things." (The Echo.)

3. DAVID. "With his own right hand and holy arm hath he gotten himself the victory." (The Voice.) MARY. "He hath showed strength with his arm, and scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts." (The Echo.)

4. DAVID. "The Lord hath made known his salvation; his righteousness hath he openly showed, "&c. (The Voice.) MARY. "His mercy is on them that fear him, from generation to generation." (The Echo.)

5. DAVID. "He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel." (The Voice.) MARY. "He hath helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy." (The Echo.)”

Yet, Not ONLY Mary, but Isaac Watts, saw Jesus birth in this Psalm ... Isaac Watts wrote “Joy to the World” Basing it on Psalm 98

IV. *This is a rumbly, tumbly, earth shaking, river clapping, Heaven and nature singing, victorious (even over Satan) type of Joy!*

1. *The curse (Genesis 3:8-19; Romans 8:18-22) will be broken, nature will be redeemed!*

*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, far as the curse is found, far as, far as, the curse is found*

2. *Because of that even the inanimate creation should / will praise Him – Psalm 98:7-8*

Let the sea roar, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell in it;<sup>8</sup> Let the rivers clap *their* hands; Let the hills be joyful together (Psalm 98:7-8 NKJ)

3. *Because He will judge the earth – Psalm 98:9; Revelation 1:7*

before the LORD, For He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world, And the peoples with equity. (Psalm 98:9 NKJ)

Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. (Revelation 1:7 NKJ)

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.<sup>11</sup> Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of *persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, (2 Peter 3:10-11 NKJ)

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.<sup>2</sup> Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.<sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God."<sup>4</sup> "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21:1-4 NKJ)