

- Last Wednesday we looked at two songs written by David regarding the Law of the Lord, Psalm 9 and 119.
- Psalms 98 has the same purposes as the opening verses of Psalms 96 and 97, to prophecy about the King of Heaven in heaven and on earth, and of bring the Gentiles into it.
- To sing this Psalm with meaning shows the singer is committed to better things.
- The Psalm opens with David saying that he will sing a “new song” unto the Lord. (Psalm 98:1)
- This reminds us of Revelation 14:3 in which John explains sees a new song being sung in heaven. We sing a song about that very thing, called “The New Song.”
- David continues to explain the reason that we can sing a new song of praise is that He has done marvelous things. (Psalm 98:1)
- David mentions that God has made known his salvation, and that the Lord has shown his righteousness even among the “heathen” (people who don’t believe). (Psalm 98:2)
- Even in nature God has made himself known. Paul explains that should be enough. (Romans 1:20)
- The same thing applies to us. In fact, Jesus tell us to live in such a way that people can see God in us. (Matthew 5:16)
- David also talks about his righteousness and salvation. (Psalm 98:2) The two things are often coupled together, especially by the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 61:10; 46:13; 51:5)
- David next talks about how God has so often “remembered” or looked favorably upon, Israel. (Psalm 98:3)
- Next David instructs folks to “make a joyful noise to the Lord” (Psalms 98:4). That is almost exactly what he says in Psalms 100:1. Notice he is not instructing people to make an aesthetically pleasing noise, he is merely telling people to worship in song. It is always more important to praise God in song than to sound good but not be involved in an act of praise. Of course, doing both is good too.
- David tells people to worship with harp, trumpet and coronet. (Psalms 98:5-6). These and other instruments are frequently used in worship in the Old Testament. But not one instrument is ever mentioned in the New Testament. The only exception to this rule is in Revelation, where we still use them again in heaven.
- David then specifically mentions some elements of God’s creation in nature which should give praise to God. He references the sea and those who live in it, the earth and those who live in it, floods, and hills. (Psalms 98:6-7)
- We sing a song called “Hallelujah Praise Jehovah” which specially mentions all these elements as well.
- David closes out the Psalm by mentioning the fact that God will judge the earth. Commentators differ on what this verse means but the most likely explanation is that this verse isn’t just predicting Christ’s coming, but refers to His second coming. (Psalms 98:8)

Questions:

1. What is the purpose of Psalms 98?
2. What does it mean to sing this song with feeling?
3. What does the “new song” David refers to remind us of?
4. Why does David say we can sing a new song to God?
5. Who does David say God has made his salvation known to?
6. How has God made his power shown to all people?
7. Why do we need to behave well publicly?
8. What is God’s salvation often paired with?
9. What does “remember” mean in the Bible?
10. What is the significance of David instructing people to “make a joyful noise”?
11. Why do you think it is significant that no instruments are ever mentioned in the New Testament?
12. What elements of the earth does David say should give praise?
13. What song does this remind us of?
14. What does the last verse of this Psalm mean?