

**BIG IDEA: We joyfully worship JC because he saves!****1) INTRO**

- Time of year when we hear lots of Christmas songs – movies, radio, in mall, school concerts, singing in church – “Joy to the World” written by Isaac Watts in 1719 (300 yrs ago); Watts wrote “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” and “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” in his total of 750 hymns he wrote (makes one wonder what we’re doing w/ time...
  - As of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, “Joy to the World” was the most published Christmas hymn in North America
  - The scripture text that inspired Watts to write this hymn was Psalm 98
    - In talking about this hymn, Watts said, “I have formed out of the 98<sup>th</sup> Psalm; I have fully exprest what I esteem to be the first & chief sense of the Holy Scriptures”
  - Watts saw the Psalms pointing toward the NT, the redemptive work of JC
    - Watts didn’t intend for this hymn to only be sung during Advent or Christmas
      - But it does point to what we celebrate during this time of the year
  - “During advent we celebrate the threefold advent of Christ in his incarnation, his dwelling in our hearts by His Spirit, and his glorious return at the last day...Jesus saves us from the penalty pollution, power, and ultimately, the presence of sin”
    - We celebrate these three aspects of JC during advent – he came to earth (God with us/God-in-flesh), he dwells in us by the HS, and he will return one day

- BIG IDEA

**2) GOD HAS SAVED US IN THE PAST (vv1-3)**

- Psalm 98 was likely written by David
  - In its OT context, it’s likely that this is in reference to a military battle (though it’s not certain)

- And, it’s believed it was a psalm that was sung in worship following the Babylonian exile
  - Scholars aren’t 100% certain of its historical context, but these points seem likely
  - And, it is appropriate to see this Psalm along with the rest of the OT as looking ahead to JC
  - Living in 2019 we see that this Psalm has been fulfilled in JC...and I pray we’ll see this together as we walk through this passage
  - BIG IDEA
- “Salvation” is the resounding theme -and word- repeated in these vv
  - God saves!
- We have a God who has worked to save
  - And, he has done that in JC
  - We were separated from God
    - B/c of sin from first parents, Adam & Eve
    - That sin was passed down to each one of us
  - On our own, we’d be distant from God still
    - B/c we’re sinful and God’s holy
  - But, God’s plan was to send JC
    - JC willingly came to earth
    - To take human form and to live and die in our place
  - We needed to pay the penalty for our sin...or a substitute was needed
    - B/c JC came as the God-man – truly God and truly man – we have a substitute
    - He died in our place – on our behalf
- He’s done “marvellous things”
  - The “marvellous things” refers to acts of salvation
  - This is a marvellous thing God has done for us
  - HE has saved us
    - We couldn’t save ourselves
    - We don’t see here that God helps us save ourselves
    - Our sovereign God saves us – does marvellous things!
- He’s the reason we sing
  - Watching “The Voice” – sing about everything/nothing...Rose
- We sing b/c we have joy in JC...b/c he saves!

- And, we sing in jubilation/rejoicing of God’s work to save/redeem/deliver
  - We must not ever think singing is for the birds
  - Wizard of Oz – when witch died, “Ding, dong, witch is dead...”
- We sing b/c King JC has come to earth
  - He stepped down into time to “make known” his salvation
  - He came revealing that he’s here to save and redeem and restore our relationship w/ holy God
  - We sing b/c God’s worked the miracle of salvation in our hearts
    - He’s forgiven all our sin
    - He’s given eternal life to our dead souls
    - He’s shown us mercy and grace
  - How can we not respond in praising him for his saving us!?
    - Joy to the world, Amen!?
- Yahweh God has extended his steadfast love – hesed love – and his faithfulness to his people
  - First to Israel and then to “the nations/the ends of the earth”
  - He’s faithful to his promise to save his people
    - The plan he revealed in the Garden of Eden that he would send his Son to crush the enemy
    - He promised to Abraham that he would bless all the families of the earth
      - That’s happened in JC
    - We’re blessed in JC
    - Gal 3 – JC redeemed us by becoming a curse for us
    - God’s righteous & holy & cannot brush away our sin
      - The just penalty of sin is death – paid for by the sinner or by an acceptable sacrifice
        - This is JC
      - Steadfast love is most displayed by JC on cross
    - The birth of JC – his coming to world – demonstrates God’s steadfast love so all the ends of the earth might know salvation
      - Praise JC
  - Rom 1:16 – not ashamed Gospel, power of God salvation Jew
    - JC came to save – you, me, family, neighbors, friends

### 3) PRAISE GOD OUR KING IN THE PRESENT (vv4-6)

- Our response is to make a joyful noise to the Lord
- Again in these vv, the emphasis is on singing to Yahweh God
  - B/c he saves us
- Breaking forth into joyous song/noise is part of our daily & weekly worship
  - Nightly family worship – we sing
  - We all know the power/influence that music has on us
    - Recall certain memories, feelings, lyrics
  - May our music/songs be JC-centered
    - Listening to Christmas songs/hymns by Christians
- We have the sweet opportunity to worship JC weekly
  - Each week we get to sing songs that exalt our JC who saves
    - That he stepped down to the earth w/ purpose of saving/dong marvellous things
  - Been a joy worshiping w/ you these past 7 yrs
  - Know that Andrew is a gift – common heart, great musician
  - Style is/will be a little different, but that’s okay
  - We see this in these vv too – all these different instruments
    - Diff instruments signify diff styles
    - But that JC is exalted and worshiped is what matters
- The point of our weekly gathering is BIG IDEA
  - That’s to be true whether it’s Advent/Christmas or whenever

### 4) PRAISE GOD FOR COMING TO JUDGE IN FUTURE (vv7-9)

- We praise Yahweh God in the here and now for what he’s done to save us in JC nearly 2,000 yrs ago when JC first came to earth
- We also praise Yahweh God in the here and now for what he WILL DO to save us when JC returns to judge the earth
- Judgement isn’t normally something that we would find ourselves in joyful worship about
  - But, when JC comes to earth again, he will establish his victory/righteousness to his judgement
    - JC will come to rule over his people w/ uprightness/equity

- His second coming – and his judgment that comes w/ it – means that he will come to wipe out the influence of evil – the enemy and his servants
  - JC will come to eliminate the limited power the devil has – which Yahweh God has allowed him to have...like a dog on a leash
- JC came the first time to bring salvation to lost, sinful people like us
  - And, to come again to usher in the new heavens/new earth
    - Where there will be no more evil, sin, pain, sadness
    - This is our promise as believers who've placed faith, trust in JC as Lord and Savior
  - Breakfast w/ kids – talking about what heaven will be like
  - Knowing that this is our eternity b/c of JC gives us great joy
  - We see in these vv the picture of all creation worshipping God who will judge/separate the sheep from the goats
    - Those of us in JC will be worshipping JC when he comes again
      - I pray that each one of us here will be included in those who will worship Jesus/sheep
      - If not yet surrendered to JC, JC came for you... just like he came to earth for me and each person here

## 6) APP & CLOSING

- “Joy to the World” and Psalm 98 help us to not just see Christmas as a warm, fuzzy, baby Jesus thing
  - This song and this Psalm help us to see JC came on a mission
  - He came as our Victorious Warrior and Judge
- Our daily and weekly worship is a foretaste of the eternal worship of Yahweh God before his throne where, for all eternity, we will repeat the sounding joy