

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 96, 97, and/or 98

SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND

Since our preaching schedule is a bit uncertain, we're providing a brief lesson that fits with the current sermon series but does not overlap it. Be sure to pray for the health and well-being of our several ill church leaders.

Tucked into the Psalms, roughly two-thirds of the way through, we find three entries that seem very similar. At first glance you might notice that each focuses on the King—and it isn't the earthly king. But going farther, you'll see that they also mention God's judgment and the return. You could think of these as the "Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven" Psalms.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

READ ONE OR MORE OF PSALM 96-98

1. How does this Psalm describe God? What are His qualities, attributes, and traits?
2. What works of God are mentioned and praised here?
3. What is the "New Song" mentioned in 96 and 98?
4. How does this Psalm indicate that the King (or Messiah) is coming? Does this Psalm mention that coming in clear terms? Are there more subtle indications that things are not as they have been before His coming? (Hint: There are.)
5. Can we understand why the Jews of Jesus' day would have expected a different set of actions from Him?
6. How should those who do not follow and obey God feel at his coming in power?
7. How should those who do follow and obey God feel and respond?

APPLY IT TO YOUR LIFE

1. Pray through this Psalm, proclaiming the things that should be proclaimed and asking God to help you to make your life conform to His standards.
2. What habits or behaviors in your life are you most glad will not face the righteous judgment of God?
3. How can your life better proclaim the Glory of God and the reality of His return—whether it be this week or a thousand years from now?