

Psalm 149

This psalm, like the previous one, is paired with **Deuteronomy 32:44 - 34:12** - Moses blessing of the tribes and the death of Moses.

Some rabbis considered this psalm as referring to God's victories over His enemies in the times of Messiah. In some manuscripts it is titled "Concerning the New Temple."

Psalm 149:1 - "Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints."

This is the new song of redeeming grace through Jesus Christ, the song of the Lamb, in distinction from the old song of Moses and the children of Israel at the Red Sea, on account of their deliverance from bondage in Egypt.

John in his vision puts this into the context of the Messiah:

- **Revelation 5:9** - "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 have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

- **Revelation 14:3** - "They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth."

The "new song" takes multiple forms as expressed through the hymns and song of the church:

- **Ephesians 5:19** - "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord"

Psalm 149:2 - "Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King."

"Let Israel rejoice in him that made him" - Like the previous psalm, God as Creator is exalted, this time as creator of Israel, His people.

A direct reference to **Deuteronomy 32:6** - "Do ye thus requite the LORD, O foolish people and unwise? is not he thy father that hath bought thee? hath he not made thee, and established thee?"

- **Isaiah 44:2** - "Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen."

- **Psalm 100:3** - "It is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves."

"King" -

- **Revelation 11:15** - "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever."

- **Daniel 7:14** - "And He was given dominion, glory, and kingship, so that every people, nation, and language should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and His kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."

Psalm 149:3 - "Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp."

Like Miriam on the shore of the Red Sea:

- **Exodus 15:20** - "And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances."

And like David - the type of Messiah and skillful on the harp - who "danced with all his might before the LORD" (**2 Samuel 6:14**)

Psalm 149:4 - "For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation."

"the LORD taketh pleasure in his people" - literally, "accepts." This is the essence of the acceptance offerings, the sweet savor offerings, that offer God a "sweet savor of Christ."

- **2 Corinthians 2:15** - "For we are unto God a sweet savor of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish"

He beautifies His people with the garments of salvation, and the robe of righteousness of Christ - their salvation.

- **Revelation 21:2** - "And I John saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband"

Psalm 149:5 - "Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds."

When they arise and when they lie down to sleep. But also it implies a posture of rest and peace, safety and security. In another context, the grave is a bed, where their flesh rests in hope, and the dead are "asleep in the Lord."

So Spanish rabbi Isaac ben Moses Arama (c. 1420 – 1494) interprets this to refer to the saints on their beds, those that lie in the grave, when they shall rise at the resurrection.

Psalm 149:6-7 - "Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand; o execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people;"

The word "praises" is not in the text, and so may be read, "the high things of God" ; or, "the heights of God", as in the Septuagint.

Rashi - "Lofty praises of God in their throats": and they will be for them a double-edged sword.

Targum: "the praises of God in their throats, and as two-edged swords in their hands"

The writer of Hebrews puts this in the context of conquering the Promised Land, as in our Deuteronomy passages:

- **Hebrews 4:11-12** - Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Praise, based on scripture truth and exalting Jesus, the Word/Logos, is powerful as a two-edged sword in destroying those inward enemies and "giants" that hinder us from entering the Rest of God.

- **Ephesians 6:17** - "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God"

Psalm 149:8-9 - "To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; To execute upon them the judgment written: this honor have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD."

Binding with chains:

- **Revelation 20:1-2** - "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years"

Again, this is another link back to Deuteronomy and the Song of Moses:

- **Deuteronomy 32:41** - "If I whet my glittering sword, and mine hand take hold on judgment; I will render vengeance to mine enemies, and will reward them that hate me."

- **Isaiah 27:1** - "In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea."

- **Revelation 19:15** - "And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should

smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."

"this honor have all his saints" -i.e. we participate in His victory over Satan, partly in our daily revenging the disobedience in our own lives:

- **Romans 16:20** - "And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen."