



## *Repentance Tabernacle Church*

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### **A Fresh Admiration!**

**Scripture:** Psalm 96:1-13

This psalm teaches us how to praise God. We can sing about Him, tell others about Him, worship Him, give Him glory, bring offerings to Him, and live holy lives. The author of this psalm is probably David, since this psalm closely resembles David's hymn of praise in 1 Chronicles 16:23-36. So, we ought to have our hearts filled with great and high thoughts of the glory of God and the grace of the gospel, and with an entire satisfaction in Christ's sovereign dominion and in the expectation of the judgment to come.

These verses will be best expounded by pious and devout affections working in our souls towards God, with a high veneration for his majesty and transcendent excellency. The call here given us to praise God is very lively, the expressions are raised and repeated, to all the echo of a thankful heart. We are here required to honor God, with a new song for new favors, for those compassions which are new every morning, a song of praise for the new covenant and the precious privileges of that covenant, a song that shall be ever new, and shall never wax old nor vanish away; it is an everlasting song, that shall never be antiquated or out of date.

Let all the earth sing this song, not the Jews only, all that are redeemed from the earth. Revelation 14:3 tells us, *"And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth."*

What was then discovered was declared only among the Jews, but it is now declared among the heathen, and all people; the nations which long sat in darkness now see this great light. The apostles' commission to preach the gospel to every creature. If we believe God is great, we cannot help telling others about Him. The best witnessing happens when our hearts are full of appreciation for what He has done. God has chosen to use us to *"declare . . . his wonders among all people."* Praise for our great God overflows from His creation and should overflow from our lips.

He is great in His sovereignty over all that pretend to be deities; none dare compete with Him: He is to be feared above all gods—all princes, and the gods of the nations were all made-gods, the creatures of men's fancies; but our God is the Creator of the sun, moon, and stars (Psalm 8:3). *"We know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one"* (1 Corinthians 8:4).

In God there is everything that is awful and yet everything that is amiable. If we go in His sanctuary, we shall behold His beauty, His love, and experience His strength, for He is our rock. Let us therefore go forth in His strength, enamored with his beauty. Give the glory to God; do not take it to yourselves, nor give it to any creature. We must offer up the sacrifices of praise continually (Hebrews 13:15), must often appear before God in public worship and never appear before Him empty.

We must give unto the Lord; not as if God needed anything, which was not his own before, much less be benefited by it; but we must in our best affections, adorations, and services, return to Him that we have received from Him, and do it freely, for God loves a cheerful giver. We need to prepare our hearts and minds. Take time to clear away troubling thoughts and preoccupations to be ready to praise God.

We must worship Him with holy hearts, sanctified by the grace of God, devoted to the glory of God, and purified from the pollutions of sin. All the acts of worship must be performed from a principle of fear of God and with a holy awe and reverence. John says, *"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters"* (Revelation 14:6-7). It was because he became obedient to death, even the death of the cross, that God exalted him, and gave him a name above every name, a throne above every throne.

**People of God, let us come before the LORD with a grateful heart!**