

Discussion Guide for *Psalm 98*: Questions for Meditation and Listening to the Psalm

Psalm 98 is a call to celebrate the righteous reign of God with great joy.

Verses 1-3 One Group is called to celebrate.

1. Who is being called to celebrate in this stanza?
2. List the marvelous things that the Psalmist saw that God had done? (Using other translations and paraphrases helps with this question.)
3. What do you think the marvelous things are? How would you describe them in your own words?
4. Who (does the Psalmist say) saw these marvelous things?
5. What marvelous thing(s) has God done for you? Who saw it/them?
6. What marvelous things has God done for your family, church, city, or nation? Who saw them?

Verses 4-6 Another Group is called to celebrate.

1. Who is being called to celebrate in this stanza?
2. What are they supposed to use in the celebration?
3. How would you characterize this celebration?
4. What would you say to those who feel that only organ music and the human singing voice are proper instruments to celebrate with?
5. How do you celebrate God's goodness to you?
6. How would your celebration change if you followed the example of this Psalm?

Verses 7-9 Still another Group is called to celebrate.

1. What is being called to celebrate in this stanza?
2. What various parts are called on to praise God?
3. How can inanimate objects like seas and mountains praise God?
4. Why are the parallels—*sea & world* and *rivers & mountains*—apt for the Psalmist's purpose here? (Why not *rocks & trees?* or *creeks & hills?*)
5. What does it mean that God “will judge with righteousness and equity”? (Remember the Psalmist is asking for singing and celebration in anticipation of God's judgment.)
6. Does God's future judgment scare you or comfort you?