

Study Guide for *Psalm 98*: Questions for Exegesis and Digging into the Psalm

The Structure of *Psalm 98*

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

- 1-3 The worshipping congregation at the temple must celebrate.
What did God do for them? (Use various translations here)
Who saw what God did?
- 4-6 All the peoples of the earth must celebrate.
Whom must they celebrate?
How must they celebrate?
- 7-9 The creation itself must celebrate.
What parts of creation must celebrate?
Why must they celebrate?

Some Questions for Understanding

- 1. Do you notice any progressions in the structure of this Psalm? In time? In addressees?
- 2. Use the questions inserted into the “Structure of Psalm 98” above to complete the outline.

The Psalm is full of paired ideas and expressions.

- 3. In verses 1 and 9 what two aspects of God’s reign are celebrated? (Similar to *Isa* 65—66)
- 4. In verses 1 to 3, what two marvelous things has God done? And who were the two witnesses?
- 5. What paired phrase do you find in verses 4 and 6, the beginning and end of the second stanza?
- 6. In verses 5 and 6, what are two pairs of instruments are to be used in the celebration?
- 7. In verses 7 and 8, what are two pairs of created things that are called upon to celebrate?
- 8. Finding parallel structure is not unusual, it is part of the very structure of Hebrew poetry. But do you see any significance in the precise pairs that were selected? Why not rocks and trees, for example, in verse 8?
- 9. Compare the two kinds of trumpets (in verse 6) and what they were used for:
Numbers 10:1-10; *2 Samuel* 15:10; *1 Kings* 1:34
Joshua 6:4; *Psalm* 47:5; 81:3; 150:3; *Exodus* 19:16, 19; *Joel* 2:1
- 10. List all the different parts of creation that are called upon to praise God: *Job* 38:7;
Psalm 65:12-13; 89:12; 96:11-12; 103:22; 145:10; 148:3-10; *Isaiah* 44:23; 49:13; 55:12.

