

Study Guide for Dec. 19th, '04. Songs to honor the King: Ps. 96 The Lord is Righteous.

Introduction: When you are moved you to praise God, what songs come to your mind?

Background note: This Psalm is found (with minor differences) in I Chronicles 16. What is the occasion for that expression of praise? How is it appropriate during Advent?

I. Praise the Lord with a **NEW SONG**. (vs. 1-3)

- A. What does the Psalmist tell the reader to do?
- B. Who is the reader to address with these expressions?
- C. Reflect. “A **new song** does not necessarily mean a new poetic or musical composition, but a new outburst of song because of a new event that evokes it.”
- D. Where have you recently seen God at work so as to offer Him a **new song**?

II. Praise the Lord for his **INCOMPARABLE GREATNESS**. (vs. 4-6)

- A. What reasons does the Psalmist give for asserting that the Lord is the greatest?
- B. Compare how are the idols are described (Ps.115:2-7) as opposed to the Lord?
- C. What comes to mind with the words **splendor** and **majesty, strength** and **glory**?
- D. What helps you to remember God’s **GREATNESS**? When is it difficult?

III. Praise the Lord – **EVERYONE!** (vs. 7-10)

- A. What is the scope (vs. 7, 10) of those being called to join in praise of the Lord?
- B. Complete this sentence, “The Lord is . . . and therefore worthy of our worship.”
- C. How would our Sunday morning worship be affected if we fulfilled these words?

IV. Praise the Lord -- **ALL CREATION**. (vs. 11-13)

- A. Who (what) is addressed in these verses and called to join in praising the Lord?
- B. Reflect on Rom. 8:18-21. What will God’s coming mean for creation?
- C. God’s judgment is described as being in **righteousness** and based on **truth**. Try to describe what that will be like?
- D. What emotions arise at the thought of the Lord’s coming to judge the world?