

H. The Fulfillment of Worship..Psalms 95-96

(While the Psalms teach us many practical things, they come to a pinnacle on the matter of worship. We learn in them a measure of fullness that comes from knowing the Lord deeply.)

1. Introductory notes to the Psalm. With the foregoing comment, it is true that worship is one of the great themes of the Psalms. It is the simple act of adoring God and a number of varied expressions are given for it. This writer is convinced that worship includes thanks and praise, but not all agree, so--charity is the rule.

a. Outline: Psalm 95

- A call for praise, vs 1-3
(The call is based on the character of God and our response to His Person.)
- A call for dedication, vs 4-7a.
(Kneeling before Him in love and the joy of consecration).
- A call for yieldedness or obedience, vs 7b-11
(This is based on the knowledge of His dealing with the Fathers.)

Outline: Psalm 96

- The uniqueness of the Lord, vs 1-6
(The comparison is with pretenders)
- The tribute that is His, vs 7-10
(We give to Him the glory and honor which He does not manufacture for Himself.)
- A plea for universal adoration (vs 11-13)
(the whole of the known world is urged to adore its Creator, Benefactor, and Judge).

b. Significant features:

- (1) These are happy psalms although Ps. 95 does give a specific warning of a dark sort..but they are happy nevertheless in the reality of the Lord's Person.
- (2) Neither Psalm has a title. Either or both could be from David's day but it makes relatively little difference. The writers are thrilled with what they see of the Lord and call for universal rejoicing.
- (3) The speech figures of Ps. 96:11-12 are among the most expressive of the Old Testament and have found their way into other literature and song.

2. Our Message: Our spiritual experience is made full, not in what we receive, but in what we give as:

a. We exalt Him