

A Song of Victory

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The victory of heaven; Judgment / Psalm 149:1–9

That the hearers would be comforted by the resurrection victory!

- › Grace, mercy, and peace be yours from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Dancing in the Streets! Music blaring. Chants of victory are in the air. It all happened this past Wednesday in downtown Boston, where the Red Sox returned with yet another World Series Championship. Celebration, pomp and circumstance were in the air. This was a victory parade.

Oh to have your team coming home a champion and being celebrated! Oh what a better thing it is to be part of the victory parade. It was my eight grade year. Now I have never been an athlete but I was on the basketball team in elementary school...a bench warmer. Yet in that year we won the conference tournament. We got back to school the following Monday and the school had us walk through the halls and classes to the assembly where we celebrated our victory.

Now, our text for this morning, Psalm 149 is a song of victory. It's a song that resonates with the church!

This song is a victory song and it highlights a victory parade. "Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!"

Dancing and music are in the streets. And the thing is, this is a new song! This is a new song filled with joy! This is a new song in the assembly of the godly. This is a new song in the congregation of the saints!

This new song was most likely song around the time of Ezra and Nehemiah and the return to Jerusalem. Or even perhaps at the time of Esther when God's people were able to defeat their enemies. No matter when this song appeared it was a song for celebration, and it happened by the faithful saints! They were thankful for the care that God had given them.

And on this All Saints Sunday we remember another victory. Another victory Song! A song with the voice of heaven: "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb!" This song of victory is the saints in heaven singing! This is the Church Triumphant singing a song

of victory to the Lamb who was slain and now lives. It's a song of the faithful who have gone to heaven after being called out of the great tribulation with robes made white by the blood of the lamb. This is the new song that is being sung!

Dear Saints of God, This Song that we have before us does indeed give praise to God for his care for the Congregation of the Saints, the Holy Christian here in time and into eternity. This Song also gives praise for the judgement that is to come.

This end of Psalm 149 points forward. It points forward in our context to a point that is still to come. A point that we get a glimpse in our first Reading from Revelation. Yet, judgment needs to come. And it's going to come with a two-edged sword. It's going to come with the Word of God! This Word is full of law and gospel. This Word of law will and does execute vengeance on nations, punishments on peoples, binding kings with chains and nobles with fetters of iron. He, the Lord God Almighty will execute on them the judgement written. And the Congregation of the Saints will sing songs of victory.

Yet, you and I aren't immune from judgment! You and I are still sinners. You and I will still face judgment. You and I will still stand before an Almighty God...as you think about standing before the Almighty God, what thoughts, emotions come out in your mind? Is there fear knowing that you are a poor miserable sinner who deserves nothing but God's wrath and punishment? And knowing that no one sees God face-to-face and lives, since sin cannot stand before God! Is there guilt as you look inside of your self and you know all the mistakes that you have made. You know that you have hurt others and yourself. You know that you have messed up. You stand ashamed knowing that God knows what you have done. He knows your inner thoughts. He knows your secret sins. So as you see yourself standing before the throne of God, really the judgment seat of God, you probably have a wealth of concern on your face...

...but the thing is, when He looks at you. He won't see a poor miserable sinner! He will see His Son! He will see His Son who loves you and paid the ransom price to wash you clean. He will see you see you clothed in white robes washed clean by the blood of the lamb. He will see you as one chosen and redeemed. He will see you as one chosen by His Son, baptized into his family and loved beyond anything. He will look at you and he won't see a sinner...he will see a saint!

And Dear Saints! The Saints of the Old Testament were used to enact judgement on the Canaanites and host of other people including those Saints in the book of Esther who enacted judgement on the Persians who were going to destroy God's people. And now Dear Church! There is a judgement that is written, and you will play a part in judging the earth.

English Standard Version Chapter 6

2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? 3 Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life!

You and I will participate in the judgement of the World and our tool is the Word of God, it's the double-edged sword! Hear again these words of Psalm 149

English Standard Version Psalm 149

6 Let the high praises of God be in their throats
and two-edged swords in their hands,
7 to execute vengeance on the nations
and punishments on the peoples,
8 to bind their kings with chains
and their nobles with fetters of iron,
9 to execute on them the judgment written!

English Standard Version Psalm 149

This is honor for all his godly ones.

What an honor this is! This honor only comes from God! And it's not us who actually do the judgement. That responsibility still falls on God himself, but "Today, God's Word takes captive even the mighty of this World. And All Christians have the glory of being Soldiers of the Cross."

You and I are soldiers of the Cross. Soldiers who sing praise for victory. We Sing praise for the victory that was won for us by the Lamb on the throne of the cross and the empty tomb. We Sing Praise for Victory for life! Not just our present lift, but for the life that is to come. The life that all of God's Saints will one day live in the new heavens and the new earth. This life will also be lived out by Scott, Kenny, Donna, and Lloyd! They will live again, even as we will live again in glory and victory!

And yes, these faithful four were Soldiers of the Cross by their baptisms as they lived on this earth! They fought the good the fight and they finished the race and now they rest from their labors until the Lord returns! Even as their bodies rest, their souls are ever singing the new song...the new song of praise!

Now dear Saints! Dear Soldiers, even as you are Saints that are still alive. You even today have a new song. You today sing praise in the congregation of the Saints. You rejoice in your King. As you are Soldiers and Saints singing this new song or praise! You also have the soldiers job of yielding the sword..the very Word of God. You have the job and the duty to fight. You have the job and the duty to spread God's Word...in your various vocations of life! That's what you have been called to do as one clothed in white by virtue of your baptism!

Dear Saints as you fight, remember that the victory has already been won and as you fight, fight with the song of victory on your lips! And as you fight, you also march in victory, you are involved in a victory parade. And this victory parade outdoes any victory parade today, whether it be a World Series title, a Lombardi trophy, or even a 7th and 8th grade Central

Wisconsin Lutheran School basketball championship. This victory parade has been ongoing for millennia, and it keeps getting bigger, as souls are won for Christ. You aren't just standing on the sidelines watching the victors march in this parade. You are the victor. You are the one that is singing and dancing and making music. You as a Saint are marching in this great parade that expands generations...And there is coming a day...yes a day that you and I look forward to, and it's the day...when our victory shouts will be the only cries heard when our Lord returns brings us the final victory that Revelation points too a day when:

English Standard Version Chapter 7

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;
the sun shall not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.

17 For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of living water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The Lamb is forever in the mist of you! He is your shepherd and He will be with you to the end!
And as he is with you you have the new song on your lips! "ALLELUIA!"

In Jesus Name. Amen!