

## ***Joy to the World: Jesus Was Born to Rule***

### **Psalm 98**

Some of the words with which we are the most familiar contain the greatest surprises. We have just not listened closely enough to hear what they really say. So it is with one of our most familiar Christmas carols, "Joy to the World." Since we sing that song at Christmas time, we associate with it the Incarnation - the picture of heaven's Child with Mary, set in an incongruous stable in a cave in Bethlehem.

But if we read the words of this carol with care, we find that there is little in it about baby and manger, and little implied of death and sin. What is proclaimed exultantly is the joy that comes to the world in the coming reign of King Jesus: "Let the earth receive her King!" "Joy to the World" is a prophetic carol which anticipates the rule of Christ in the church and in the ages to come more than merely a celebration of the birth of the Child in Bethlehem.

### **Song Will Be New Among God's People When Final Salvation Is Realized**

<i>Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.</i>	Psalm 33.3; 40.3; 96.1; Isaiah 42.10; Revelation 5.9 Exodus 15.6, 12,16; Isaiah 53.1
<i>The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.</i>	Hebrews 9.27-28 Deuteronomy 2.25 Acts 1.8; Zechariah.18-23; 2 Peter 3.9

### **Song Will Be New Over All The Earth When Jesus Reigns**

***Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,  
burst into jubilant song with music;  
make music to the LORD with the harp,  
with the harp and the sound of singing,  
with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn –  
shout for joy before the LORD, the King.*** Psalm 98.4-6

*How beautiful on the mountains  
are the feet of those who bring good news,  
who proclaim peace,  
who bring good tidings,  
who proclaim salvation,  
who say to Zion,  
'Your God reigns!'* Isaiah 52.7-10

### **Song Will Be New In All Of Creation When He Comes**

*Let the sea resound, and everything in it,  
the world, and all who live in it.  
Let the rivers clap their hands,  
let the mountains sing together for joy;  
let them sing before the LORD,  
for he comes to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world in righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.* Psalm 98.7-9