

Joy to the World
December 14, 2008
Psalm 98
Dr. Jeff H. McCrory Jr.

Question:

How did a psalm and hymn not specifically about Christmas become a Christmas classic?

I.

Where Did The Carol Come From?

Psalm 98, Isaiah 52, Genesis 3 and 12, Deut 27-28

A. Psalm 98: Yahweh King Songs (96-99) = rehearse kingship

B. READ Isaiah 52:7-10: Isaiah 40-55 (Same themes)

- Exile setting
- New exodus (end of exile)
- LORD returns to rule
- Nations see

SUM = Israel, Return, Nations under reign of LORD

Story (history) = Isaiah 52

Liturgy (rehearsal) = Psalm 98

MESSAGE = Yahweh comes to establish justice for Israel and the nations, thus all creation rejoices (98:4 is key)

C. Gen 3 (curse); Gen 12 (bless/curse); Deut 27-28 (bless/curse)

II.

Who Wrote The Carol?

Psalm 98:4 Make a joyful noise to the LORD

Isaac Watts

-1674-1748

-born Southampton, Dad in jail

-Non-conformist = Protestant = non-demoninational

-20 years school (Dissenting Academy in Stoke Newington)

-writing verses:

“O Father, do some pity take

And I will no more verses make”

-Pastor at Mark Lane Independent Chapel in London, age 26

-Father of English paraphrase

-hated monotony in music, e.g., Free Church Scotland

-1719 book

The Psalms of David Imitated in the Language of the New Testament and Applied to the Christian State and Worship

-scandal = dared to change Scripture (contemp worship)

-750 hymns:

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

O God Our Help in Ages Past

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Lowell Mason

-1714 Orange, NJ

-Choir master, moved to Georgia as banker

-worked at Pres Church, also contemp worship

-loved Handel

-1827 book of hymns sent to Boston

-1836 wrote tune inspired by *Messiah* "Lift Up Your Heads" "Comfort Ye"

Called it *Antioch* (Syria) = Pauline Mission

-1839 joined to Watts hymn

Elise Stevenson

-Popular singer

-Big hit with "Shine on Harvest Moon"

-1911 Christmas release of Trinity Choir version of *Joy to World* on Victor Records (#5 On Hit Parade)

-From then on "Joy to the World" associated with Christmas

-Three Dog Night "Joy to the World" Jeremiah was a bullfrog!

III.

Why Is The Carol Important?

Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace

A. Story of Bible = our story

1. Creation

2. Humanity (blessing to curse, affects creation)

3. Israel (blessed to be a blessing, but fails)

LORD redeems Israel in Jesus

3. Israel blessed to be a blessing
2. Humanity now blessed
1. Creation healed

B. Story of Bible: Reflected in Birth stories in Luke's Gospel

Luke 1-2: Songs

Mary = rejoice over God's strong arm

Zechariah = rejoice over mighty savior

Angels = glory to God, peace on earth

Simeon = eyes see salvation in presence of all peoples

LORD/Jesus as solution to bless Israel, humanity, creation.

C. READ: Joy to World, link to Psalm 98, Genesis, Deut, Isaiah

Verse 1	Joy	98:4
	King	98:6
	Heaven/Nature	98:7-8
Verse 2	Savior	98:1,2,3 done/victory
	Reigns	98:6
	Songs	98:1,5
	Fields/Floods	98:7-8
	Joy	98:4
Verse 3	<u>OT Story (Gen 3, 12, Deut 27-28 Isaiah 52)</u>	
	Thorns, curse	Gen 3
	Curse	Gen 3, 12; Deut 27
	Bless	Gen 12; Deut 28
Verse 4	Rules world	98:9
	Nations, righteous	98:2 vindication
	Wonders of love	98:1 marvelous

PRAY and LET'S SING!