

Psalms 100:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.

Analysis

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. This opening command initiates one of Scripture's most exuberant calls to worship. The psalm's superscription identifies it as "A Psalm of praise" (mizmor l'todah, מִזְמוֹר לְתוֹדָה), literally "a psalm for thanksgiving." It was likely sung during thank offerings at the Temple.

"Make a joyful noise" (hariu, הָרִיעוּ) is a vigorous imperative meaning to shout, raise a cry, or sound a trumpet blast. This isn't sedate, whispered reverence but explosive, celebratory worship. The verb appears in contexts of military victory shouts, coronation acclamations, and festal celebrations. Worship of Yahweh should be marked by unrestrained joy, not funeral solemnity.

"All ye lands" (kol-ha'arets, כָּל-הָאָרֶץ) extends the call beyond Israel to all nations and peoples. While Israel has unique covenant relationship with Yahweh, His worthiness to receive praise transcends ethnic and geographic boundaries. This universalist vision anticipates the Great Commission and the multi-ethnic worship described in Revelation 7:9-10.

Theologically, this verse establishes worship's proper tone and scope. Joy is not optional but commanded—a response appropriate to God's character and works. Universal praise will ultimately be rendered to Christ, before whom every knee will bow (Philippians 2:10-11).

Historical Context

Psalms 93-100, known as the 'Enthronement Psalms', celebrate Yahweh's kingship over all creation. These psalms likely accompanied festival processions entering Jerusalem's Temple, particularly during the Feast of Tabernacles when Israel recalled God's faithfulness during wilderness wanderings.

The call for 'all lands' to worship Yahweh was revolutionary in the ancient Near East, where deities were typically territorial—limited to specific nations or regions. Israel's neighbors worshiped Chemosh (Moab), Baal (Canaan), Marduk (Babylon), each god supposedly governing limited domains. Against this polytheistic backdrop, Israel's claim that Yahweh deserves universal worship was radical.

Archaeological evidence from ancient Israel reveals worship practices included musical instruments (trumpets, lyres, harps, cymbals), processional entry through Temple gates, and corporate declarations of God's attributes. The 'joyful noise' wasn't individual pietism but communal celebration.

Early Christians applied this psalm to gospel proclamation—the good news of Christ's salvation should be declared to all nations. The universal scope anticipates the church's multi-ethnic composition and the final gathering of believers from every tribe, tongue, and nation.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the command to 'make a joyful noise' challenge contemporary worship that may emphasize quietness or solemnity over exuberant celebration?

2. What does it mean practically for 'all lands' to worship the LORD, and how should this global vision shape missionary priorities?
3. In what ways might personal or corporate worship lack the joy this verse commands, and what obstacles prevent wholehearted celebration?

Interlinear Text

הָרַ יְעוֹ	לַ יְהוָה	כָּל	הָאָרֶץ:
Make a joyful noise	unto the LORD	H3605	all ye lands
H7321	H3068		H776

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 98:4 (References Lord): Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

Luke 19:37 (Parallel theme): And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen;

Zephaniah 3:14 (Parallel theme): Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Psalms 32:11 (References Lord): Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

Romans 15:10 (Parallel theme): And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people.

Psalms 66:1 (Parallel theme): Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands:

Psalms 67:4 (Parallel theme): O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Selah.

Zechariah 14:9 (References Lord): And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

Deuteronomy 32:43 (Parallel theme): Rejoice, O ye nations, with his people: for he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will render vengeance to his adversaries, and will be merciful unto his land, and to his people.

Psalms 145:1 (Parallel theme): I will extol thee, my God, O king; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever.

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