

Psalm 96:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day.

Analysis

This verse specifies the content and purpose of worship, moving from the imperative to sing to the theological foundation for singing. 'Sing unto the LORD, bless his name' creates parallelism: singing and blessing are complementary acts. 'Bless his name' (Hebrew 'barechu et shemo') means to praise, honor, and magnify God's name - His revealed character and reputation. The name represents the totality of God's being as He has made Himself known. 'Shew forth his salvation from day to day' indicates that worship should declare and proclaim God's deliverance. 'Salvation' (Hebrew 'yeshuah') encompasses deliverance from enemies, distress, and ultimately spiritual rescue. The phrase 'from day to day' suggests continuous proclamation - not a one-time announcement but ongoing testimony. This verse establishes that worship is not merely emotional expression but declaration of theological truth: it tells the story of God's saving work. The movement from 'sing' to 'bless' to 'shew forth' creates an intensifying revelation: worship expresses itself through multiple forms of communication, all aimed at acknowledging and proclaiming God's character and works.

Historical Context

The phrase 'bless the LORD' is characteristic of Hebrew worship language, appearing in opening and closing benedictions throughout the Psalms and the wider Hebrew Bible. In Israel's worship practice, blessing God meant speaking well of God, rehearsing His acts, and affirming His character. The command to 'shew forth' (proclaim, declare) His salvation reflects the prophetic office of

bearing witness to God's saving acts throughout Israel's history. In the post-exilic context, the declaration of God's salvation would have required faith - the people had experienced exile despite God's promises, yet they continued to affirm His saving character. The phrase 'from day to day' echoes regular Temple worship practices where specific psalms were designated for specific days, ensuring continuous proclamation. This verse reflects the theology that worship is not personal sentiment but corporate testimony - through worship, the community declares truth about God to itself, to surrounding peoples, and ultimately to all creation. The connection between singing, blessing, and proclaiming suggests that authentic worship naturally leads to witness.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does blessing God's name differ from merely expressing personal feelings in worship?
2. What does it mean to 'shew forth' God's salvation, and how should worship communicate this truth?
3. Why is the continuous proclamation of God's salvation 'from day to day' important for both believers and witness to outsiders?
4. How does testimony about God's saving works form the foundation for authentic worship and praise?
5. In what ways does worship that focuses on declaring God's salvation differ from worship that focuses primarily on personal blessing or comfort?

Interlinear Text

שׁירוּ לְיְהוָה בָּרוּךְ אֶת שְׁמֵךְ וְבָשַׂר וְלִם לְיְהוָה בָּרוּךְ אֶת שְׁמֵךְ וְבָשַׂר וְלִם
Sing unto the LORD bless his name shew forth from day from day
H7891 H3068 H1288 H8034 H1319 H3117 H3117
his salvation
H3444

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 71:15 (Salvation): My mouth shall shew forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day; for I know not the numbers thereof.

Mark 16:15 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Psalms 40:10 (Salvation): I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation.

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