

Psalms 98:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD hath made known his salvation: his righteousness
hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.

Analysis

The LORD hath made known his salvation (יְשׁוּעָתוֹ הוֹדִיעַ, yeshu'ato hodia')—God actively reveals (hodia', made known) His yeshu'ah (salvation, deliverance). This is not hidden mystery but public declaration. The Hebrew emphasizes completed divine action: salvation accomplished and proclaimed.

His righteousness hath he openly shewed (צִדְקָתוֹ גִּלָּה, tzidkato gillah)—God's tzedaqah (righteousness, vindicating justice) is unveiled (gillah, openly revealed) **in the sight of the heathen** (לְעֵינֵי הַגּוֹיִם, le'einei hagoyim). This universal witness anticipates the gospel's global reach. Paul quotes this psalm's theme in Romans 1:16-17, connecting God's righteousness revealed in salvation to justification by faith.

The parallelism links salvation and righteousness as twin aspects of God's redemptive work—deliverance accomplished through divine justice satisfied. Christ's cross supremely fulfills this: salvation made known globally through God's righteous atonement.

Historical Context

This enthronement psalm celebrates Yahweh's kingly reign, likely used in temple worship during festivals. The universal scope ('in the sight of the heathen') reflects Israel's prophetic calling as light to the nations (Isaiah 49:6), fulfilled in Christ's commission (Matthew 28:19).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's 'making known' His salvation challenge us to proclamation rather than private faith?
2. In what ways is God's righteousness inseparable from His salvation in the gospel?
3. Where do you see God's salvation being 'openly shewed' to the nations today?

Interlinear Text

הָיָה יָדוֹ יָדוּעַ	יְהוָה ! הָיָה	יְשׁוּעָתוֹ	לְעֵינֵי י	הַ גּוֹיִם
hath made known	The LORD	his salvation	in the sight	of the heathen
H3045	H3068	H3444	H5869	H1471
גָּלַהּ	צְדָקָתוֹ			
hath he openly shewed	his righteousness			
H1540	H6666			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 52:10 (Salvation): The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Isaiah 62:2 (Righteousness): And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.

Isaiah 49:6 (Salvation): And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will

also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

Jeremiah 23:6 (Salvation): In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

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