

**Let All The Nations Give God Glory!**  
**A Passion on Display in the Life and Martyrdom of Missionary**  
**Jim Elliot**

**Psalm 96**

**Introduction:** 1) A true and genuine movement of our great God will cause the church to look 1) up to heaven catching a vision of His greatness, 2) in to view our own desperate sinfulness apart from His grace, and 3) out to see the lostness of the nations cut off from His goodness.

2) Such a movement of God engulfed and baptized the man and missionary Jim Elliot who would passionately seek to extend the glory of God among the nations only to see his earthly life, and those of his four faithful companions, end in martyrdom among the Auca Indians in Ecuador at the age of 29, the same life span God granted to another missionary by the name of David Brainerd (1718-1747).

3) I think James Boice captures the full impact of Psalm 96 when he says, “it is a joyful hymn to the God of Israel as king and an invitation to the nations of the world to join Israel in praising Him. It is also a prophecy of a future day when God will judge the entire world in righteousness” (p.782).

**Transition:** Our psalm has 4 major movements that focus on the desires of God in relation to the nations.

**I. God desires that the nations praise Him **96:1-3****

God is identified as the Lord (Yahweh) 11 times in this psalm. Here all the earth (v.11) is invited to praise Him. Three aspects of praise are specified.

**1) We should sing a new song **96:1****

- Three times we are called to “sing to the Lord” in vs. 1-2. Here it is said we should sing “a new song.” The new song is the good news of His salvation from day to day” (v.2). It looks back to His mighty acts of deliverance, especially the Exodus, but it also looks forward to the greatest act of salvation in Jesus Christ, witnessed climactically in Revelation (cf. Rev. 5:9-10; 14:3-5).

**2) We should proclaim His salvation **96:2****

- The three imperatives “sing” are paralleled by three additional imperatives in vs. 2-3: “bless, proclaim, declare.” The idea is that not a day goes by, not a moment passes, that our hearts and minds and mouths are not occupied with the wonder of His salvation (v.3).

**3) We should declare His glory **96:3****

- The new song (v.1) and good news (v.2) of the Lord’s salvation demands a universal, worldwide declaration.
- Eugene Peterson paraphrases it this way, “Shout the news of His victory from sea to sea, take the news of His glory to the lost, news of His wonders to one and all!”  
This was the passion of Philip James Elliot. Born in 1926 in Portland, Oregon, God blessed him with a father who was an itinerant evangelist.
- Jim’s home was often visited by missionaries, and at about the age of 8 he trusted Jesus as his Savior. As a teen the thought of being a missionary was already in his heart.
- He enrolled at Wheaton College in 1948, joined the wrestling team, began speaking to youth groups, began journaling in his junior year, and met Betty (Elizabeth Elliot).  
It was in June 1950 that Jim’s passion to see the nations praise the Lord Jesus saw his heart drawn to the remote and greatly feared Huaorani tribe in Ecuador, known in that day as the “Aucas.”

**Journal (July 26, 1952)**

“Oh for a faith that sings!...Lord God, give me a faith that will take sufficient quiver out of me so that I may sing! Over the Aucas, Father I want to sing.”

**II. God desires that the nations fear Him 96:4-6**

- A right theology of God will lead to a healthy reverence, even fear and awe of Him.
- The psalmist, therefore, says fear Him! Why? Two reasons are given.

**1) We should fear Him because He is a great God 96:4-5**

- Our God is a great God and greatly (*NIV*, “most worthy”) to be praised.  
He is to be feared above all the other gods. Why? Because the gods of the peoples (the nations) are idols, false gods, imposters, no gods at all.

**2) We should fear Him because He is a glorious God 96:6**

- Four marvelous affirmations are made of the great redeemer and Creator God in v. 6.  
These are truths the nations need to know.
  - Honor (*NASV*, “splendor”) is before Him, radiating from His person.
  - Majesty is before Him, flooding forth from Him.
  - Strength is found in His sanctuary, His royal residence.
  - Beauty is found in His sanctuary, His kingly court.

- Standing before the great God like “throne room attendants,” honor, majesty, strength and beauty bear witness to the God who is awesome and like no other.
- Elizabeth Elliot said of her husband, “Jim’s aim was to know God” (S.A., 9). Jim, himself would write, “Lord, make my way prosperous, not that I achieve high station, but that my life may be an exhibit to the value of knowing God” (S.A., 11).
- “God, I pray thee, light these idle sticks of my life and may I burn for Thee. Consume my life, my God, for it is Thine. I seek not a long life, but a full one, like you, Lord Jesus (1948; S.A., p. 247).
- “Father, take my life, yea, my blood if Thou wilt, and consume it with Thine enveloping fire. I would not save it, for it is not mine to save. Have it Lord, have it all. Pour out my life as an oblation for the World. Blood is only of value as it flows before Thine altar.” (1948; S.A., p. 247).

### **III. God desires that the nations worship Him                      96:7-9**

- Warren Wiersbe says, “Praise means looking up, but worship means bowing down” (p. 264).
- Three times in this 3<sup>rd</sup> stanza we are commanded to “give” or “ascribe” glory to God, a glory that rightly belongs only to Him and a glory that should come from “the families of the nations” (*NIV*). These words are almost identical to the beginning of Psalm 29. There it is the angels who are called to worship the Lord. Here it is the nations.

#### **1) Give Him honor    96:7-8**

- All the nations are summoned to give the Lord acknowledgement of His glory and strength, glory due to the name of Yahweh, the name above all names that Philippians 2:9-11 informs us is the name of Jesus.

#### **2) Acknowledge His holiness    96:9**

We honor Him because of the beauty or splendor of His holiness, His moral perfection, His utter transcendence and greatness.

- Again, I believe there is much to learn from the life and martyrdom of Jim Elliot.

**August 16, 1954**

Because O God, from Thee comes all, because from Thine own mouth has entered us the power to breathe, from Thee the sea of air in which we swim and the unknown nothingness that stays it over us with unseen bonds; because Thou gavest us from heart of love so tender, mind so wise and hand so strong, Salvation; because Thou are Beginning, God, I worship Thee.

Because Thou are the end of every way, the goal of man; because to Thee shall come of every people respect and praise; their emissaries find Thy throne their destiny; because Ethiopia shall stretch out her hands to Thee, babes sing Thy praise; because Thine altar gives to sparrows shelter, sinners peace, and devils fury; because “to Thee shall all flesh come”; because Thou art Omega. Praise.

Because Thou sure art set to justify that Son of Thine and wilt in time make known just who He is and soon will send Him back to show Himself; because the Name of Jesus has been laughingly nailed upon a cross and is just now on earth held very lightly and Thou wilt bring that Name to light; because, O God of righteousness, Thou wilt do right by my Lord, Jesus Christ, I worship Thee.

#### **IV. God desires that the nations enjoy Him**

**96:10-13**

John Piper loves to say, “God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.” In other words God wants us, He wants the nations, to enjoy Him.

##### **1. Enjoy Him because He is a sovereign King**

**96:10-12**

- The nations must hear: this God reigns, He rules sovereignly over the whole earth. He made it (“the world is firmly established”) and He maintains it (“it shall not be moved”).
- He shall judge the peoples righteously. No one will ever point a finger at our God and say, “You were not fair. You did me wrong.” You cannot bribe this God. He plays no favorites in judging the nations.
- In light of all this enjoy Him!
  - Let the heavens rejoice.
  - Let the earth be glad.
  - Let the sea roar and all that is in it.
  - Let the field be joyful and all that is in it.
  - In antiphonal response “all the trees of the forest will rejoice before Yahweh, before the Lord.

##### **2) Enjoy Him because He is a righteous King**

**96:13**

- This psalm ends on an eschatological note, a note of hope for those who love and enjoy Him, a note of warning for those who reject His rightful lordship over their lives.
- What does this look like? Revelation 19:11-16 has the answer!

### Conclusion

Jim Elliot wrote in a letter to his family, “Remember you are immortal until your work is done. But don’t let the sands of time get into the eyes of your vision to reach those who still sit in darkness. They simply must hear.” (S.A.,81).

- On January 8, 1956, Jim Elliot, along with Ed McCully, Roger Youderian, Pete Fleming and Nate Saint, waited hopefully for another meeting with the Auca or Huaorani Indians, having made contact with several friendly encounters in previous days. However, a group of 10 Huaorani men attacked the 5 missionaries and brutally murdered them. Jim Elliot’s mutilated body was found downstream in the river. There was no funeral, no tombstone for a memorial.
- On January 30, 1956, *Life Magazine* published a ten page article on the martyrdom of these men entitled, “Go ye and preach the Gospel” – five devout Americans in remote Ecuador follow this precept and are killed.”
- Our nation was shocked and Christians all over the world wept. Jim would have been embarrassed by all of this. After all in a letter to his parents dated June 23, 1947, he wrote, “Missionaries are very human folks, just doing what they are asked. Simply a bunch of nobodies trying to exalt Somebody” (S.A., p. 46).

#### **October 28**

One of the great blessings of heaven is the appreciation of heaven on earth-Ephesian truth.

**He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose...**

- Jim Elliot said, “Our orders are: the gospel to every creature” (*Time*, p.10).
- Jim did give up that which he could not keep to gain that which he could not lose. Now the question is before us: Will I? Will you? Oh God, give us more Jim Elliot’s that all the nations may give You glory!