

Psalm 96:1-2

Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name; proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

The Hebrew word used for sing is shiyr or shuwr. It basically means to sing. However, it does carry with it the idea of strolling minstrelsy. The word shuwr means to turn or to travel about. The American Heritage Dictionary defines minstrelsy as the art or profession of a minstrel.

A minstrel was a medieval musician who traveled from place to place singing and reciting poetry. According to the World Book Encyclopedia some minstrels belonged to the household of kings and nobles. Some traveled about and gave entertainments at the castles along the way. Sometimes they entertained the village folk. The minstrels often made up their own songs and stories as they entertained, but they also repeated ballads and folk tales of the time thus preserving them.

Maybe this is what the psalmist had in mind when he penned "*Oh sing to the Lord a new song!*" In other words go from place to place blessing God with made up (new) songs because you adore his name. In addition to singing songs you make up sing the old songs as well. Just as the minstrels sang the ballads to preserve them we should be singing messengers announcing the good news of God's deliverance, victory and prosperity.

The word proclaim (NKJ), shew forth (KJ) also means to be fresh or full. That means two things to me. One: Even though the good news of God's salvation has been around for a while, it is still relevant for today and is a message worth repeating. Two: We are free to find fresh ways of proclaiming the timeless message.

I believe Jesus touched on this when he said, *Every teacher of religious law who has become a disciple in the Kingdom of Heaven is like a person who brings out of the storehouse the new teachings as well as the old.* (Matthew 13:52 NLT)

Scripture references:

Psalm 9:1

I will praise you, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all your marvelous works.

Psalm 9:14

That I may tell of all your praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion. I will rejoice in your salvation.

Psalm 33:3

Sing to him a new song; play skillfully with a shout of joy.

Psalm 40:3

He has put a new song in my mouth -- Praise to our God; many will see it and fear, and will trust in the Lord.

Psalm 71:15

My mouth shall tell of your righteousness and your salvation all the day, for I do not know their limits.

Psalm 92:2

To declare your lovingkindness in the morning, and your faithfulness every night...

Psalm 98:1

Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! For he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have gained him the victory.

Psalm 144:9

I will sing a new song to you, O God; On a harp of ten strings I will sing praises to you...

Psalm 149:1

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, and his praise in the assembly of saints.

Isaiah 42:10

Praise to the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, and his praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you coastlands and you inhabitants of them!

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, his own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...

Revelation 5:9

And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; For you were slain, and have redeemed us to God by your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation..."

Revelation 14:3

They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.