

THE LORD'S REIGN BRINGS GLORY & GLADNESS

Sunday, March 16, 2025 -- Psalm series — Pastor Andrew Coleman

PSALM 97

English Standard Version (ESV)

- 1 *The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad!*
- 2 *Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.*
- 3 *Fire goes before him
and burns up his adversaries all around.*
- 4 *His lightnings light up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.*
- 5 *The mountains melt like wax before the Lord,
before the Lord of all the earth.*
- 6 *The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all the peoples see his glory.*
- 7 *All worshipers of images are put to shame,
who make their boast in worthless idols;
worship him, all you gods!*
- 8 *Zion hears and is glad,
and the daughters of Judah rejoice,
because of your judgments, O Lord.*
- 9 *For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.*
- 10 *O you who love the Lord, hate evil!
He preserves the lives of his saints;
he delivers them from the hand of the wicked.*
- 11 *Light is sown for the righteous,
and joy for the upright in heart.*
- 12 *Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name!*

PSALM 97 in CONTEXT:

- 1) **The 150 Psalms** are divided into 5 books/groups. Book 4 contains Psalms 90-106.
- 2) **Book 3** deals with the difficulties of life and the temptation we feel to despair in God's justice.
- 3) **Psalm 88** is the low point. It expresses the felt agony of living in a sinful, fallen world.
- 4) **Book 4** (including Psalm 97) is the response to Book 3... 'After darkness, light!'.
God is at work in the hardships, pressures, and struggles because HE REIGNS victoriously over all things on behalf of the righteous.
- 5) **Psalm 97** celebrates that God is KING over all creation-- and this brings GLADNESS.
 - He is victorious over evil and idolatry (the root of sin).
 - He is victorious in delivering His people from the wicked.
 - He is victorious in securing His holy place of Zion.
 - He is victorious in securing JOY for all who trust in Him despite their circumstances.
(Faith amidst trials brings the joy of knowing His coming triumph over evil.)

NOTICE THE FOLLOWING...

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I. THE LORD AS THE REIGNING ONE. vs 1-9A. The Ruler of All NATURE vs 1-5

vs 1 -- Righteous rule brings gladness!

Proverbs 29:2

*When the righteous increase, the people rejoice,
but when the wicked rule, the people groan.*

vs 2 -- Mystery and majesty hide Him.

His goodness is key to His greatness.

vs 3-5 -- Heb 12:29; Deut 4:24; Ex 24:7; 1Cor 3:13-15

B. The Ruler of All NATIONS vs 6-91. He rules over Heathen peoples. vs 6-7

Phil. 2:10 -- *...every knee shall bow and tongue confess*

1 John 3:2 -- *...we will see Him as He is.*

2. He rules over His own people. vs 8-9

John 10:27 -- *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them,
and they follow me.*

Psalms 95:6-8 -- *Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts...*

II. THE LORD AS THE RIGHTEOUS ONE. vs 10-12

1 PETER 1:16

since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

The Lord's people experience his rescue.

The Lord's people experience his direction.

The Lord's people experience his joy.

The Lord's people have reason to give thanks.

MEDITATION & APPLICATION:

HEBREWS 12:25-29

GOD'S UNSHAKABLE KINGDOM

25 See to it that you do not refuse Him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from Him who warns us from heaven? **26** At that time His voice shook the earth, but now He has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." **27** The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that **cannot be shaken**, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, **29** for our "**God is a consuming fire.**"

- 1) What is Psalm 97 and Hebrews 12 saying about this present world?
- 2) What will matter most when 'the music stops' and this present era ends?
- 3) How can a person survive God's all consuming fire?
- 4) Why is rejoicing mentioned? Why is giving thanks mentioned?
- 5) Ask yourself, WHERE IS MY HEART IN ALL OF THIS? DO I HEAR HIM? HOW AM I RESPONDING?