

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown

Bible Study Notes Book of Psalms

9-21-11

Psalm 97

(New International Version)

¹ *The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad;
let the distant shores rejoice.*

² *Clouds and thick darkness surround him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.*

³ *Fire goes before him
and consumes his foes on every side.*

⁴ *His lightning lights 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 peoples see his glory.*

⁷ *All who worship images are put to shame,
those who boast in idols—
worship him, all you gods!*

⁸ *Zion hears and rejoices
and the villages of Judah are glad
because of your judgments, LORD.*

⁹ *For you, LORD, are the Most High over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.*

¹⁰ *Let those who love the LORD hate evil,
for he guards the lives of his faithful ones
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.*

¹¹ *Light shines on the righteous
and joy on the upright in heart.*

¹² *Rejoice in the LORD, you who are righteous,
and praise his holy name.*

Study Notes

The Story Behind the Psalms: Psalms 93-99

These are Psalms that deal with the second coming of Jesus Christ. Notice that Psalms 93, 97 and 99 begin with the words, "The Lord reigneth," or better still, "The Lord is become King." David was a king, and he looked forward to the day when Jesus would be the King. The millennial throne is called David's throne. The Bible teaches that Jesus will someday rule and reign on the throne of David. Jesus is called the root and offspring of David. These Psalms dealing with the Lord's reign on earth were sung as a series of psalms in the temple. In some cases they are placed together as one Psalm. The 95th Psalm is still used in the synagogues on Friday in the order of prayer.

When the Christian gets a little hungry for Jesus to come and his mouth begins to water for the millennium, he can find it a very wise choice to turn to these Psalms.

The Way They Were Used by God's People

The dedicated Jew would use these Psalms when discouraged. These words would give him hope for a better day to come.

Theme: God, our awesome conqueror, is righteous and just. **Author:** Believed To Be David

PSALM 97:2

The clouds and darkness that surround God symbolize his unapproachable holiness and the inability of people to find him on their own. If he were uncovered, no one could stand before his blazing holiness and glory.

PSALM 97:7

People worship all kinds of images and idols. Although God reveals himself and his love through nature and the Bible, there are many who decide to ignore or reject him and pursue goals they believe are more important. The Bible makes it clear that these people are idol worshipers because they give their highest loyalty to something other than God. One day we will stand before God in all his glory and power. Then we will see all our goals and accomplishments for what they really are. How foolish our earthly pursuits will seem then!

PSALM 97:10

A sincere desire to please God will result in an alignment of your desires with God's desires. You will love what God loves and hate what God hates. If you love the Lord, you will hate evil. If you do not despise the actions of people who take advantage of others, if you admire people who only look out for themselves, or if you envy those who get ahead using any means to accomplish their ends, then your primary desire in life is not to please God. Learn to love God's ways and hate evil in every form—not only the obvious sins but also the socially acceptable ones.

Psalm 98

(New International Version)

- ¹ *Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things;
his right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.*
- ² *The LORD has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.*
- ³ *He has remembered his love
and his faithfulness to Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.*
- ⁴ *Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;*
- ⁵ *make music to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,*
- ⁶ *with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—
shout for joy before the LORD, the King.*
- ⁷ *Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.*
- ⁸ *Let the rivers clap their hands,
let the mountains sing together for joy;*
- ⁹ *let them sing before the LORD,
for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity.*

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Theme: A song of joy and victory. Because God is victorious over evil, all those who follow him will be victorious with him when he judges the earth.

Author: David

A prayer of David

PSALM 98:1

This is a psalm of praise anticipating the coming of God to rule his people. Jesus fulfilled this anticipation when he came to save all people from their sins (98:2, 3), and he will come again to judge the world (98:8, 9). God is both perfectly loving and perfectly just. He is merciful when he punishes, and he overlooks no sin when he loves. Praise him for his promise to save you and to return again.

Psalm 99

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The Way They Were Used by God's People

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Theme: Praise for God's fairness and holiness. Because God is perfectly just and fair, we can trust him completely.

Author: Believed To Be David

PSALM 99:1

Cherubim are mighty angels that comprise one of several ranks of angels.

PSALM 99:3

Everyone should praise God's great and awesome name because his name symbolizes his nature, his personage, and his reputation. But the name of God is often used so carelessly in conversation that we have lost sight of its holiness. How easy it is to treat God lightly in everyday life. If you claim him as your Father, live worthy of the family name. Respect God's name and give him praise by both your *words* and your *life*.

PSALM 99:5

God's holiness is terribly frightening for sinners, but a wonderful comfort for believers. God is morally perfect and is set apart from people and sin. He has no weaknesses or shortcomings. For sinners, this is frightening because all their inadequacies and evil are exposed by the light of God's holiness. God cannot tolerate, ignore, or excuse sin. For believers, God's holiness gives comfort because, as we worship him, we are lifted from the mire of sin. As we believe in him, we are made holy.

PSALM 99:6

The Bible records several instances where Moses, Aaron, and Samuel cried out to God for help (Exodus 15:25; 17:4; Numbers 11:11-15; 12:13; 14:13ff; 16:44-48; 1 Samuel 7:5, 9; 15:11).

Psalm 100

The Story Behind the Psalm

David was simply excited about going to God's house, and one day perhaps as he went or as he entered, he penned these beautiful words. Most Sunday school children are required to memorize sometime in their early years Psalm 100.

The Way It Was Used by God's People

This Psalm was chanted on the way into the temple. Notice verse 4, "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name."

This is a processional Psalm. Often the Jews would march in a procession and chant this Psalm as they did. Of course, this processional ended at the house of God, for this is a Psalm to be sung as one goes to and enters into the house of God. This would be a good Psalm for a family to chant or even sing as they drive to church on Sunday.

Theme: An invitation to enter joyfully into God's presence. His faithfulness extends to our generation and beyond.

Author: David

PSALM 100:3

God is our Creator; we did not create ourselves. Many people live as though they are the creator and center of their own little world. This mind-set leads to greed, and if everything should be taken away, a loss of hope itself. But when we realize that God created us and gives us all we have, we will want to give to others as God gave to us (2 Corinthians 9:8). Then, even if all is lost, we still have God and all he gives us.