

Psalms 96-101 – Thursday, February 28th, 2019

Psalm 96 - 1 Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth. 2 Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. 3 Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. 4 For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. 5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens. 6 Honor and majesty are before Him; Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. 7 Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples, Give to the LORD glory and strength. 8 Give to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come into His courts. 9 Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth. 10 Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns; The world also is firmly established, It shall not be moved; He shall judge the peoples righteously." 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; Let the sea roar, and all its fullness; 12 Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice before the LORD. 13 For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness, And the peoples with His truth.

- Psalm 96 is a magnificent Psalm declaring and proclaiming Who God is and how God is such that He is worthy to be praised.
- So much so, that one almost gets the sense that the Psalmist finds it virtually impossible to adequately express all his worship.
- To me, this speaks to those times in our lives when our praise and worship of God is seemingly only scratching the surface.

Psalm 97 - 1 The LORD reigns; Let the earth rejoice; Let the multitude of isles be glad! 2 Clouds and darkness surround Him; Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne. 3 A fire goes before Him, And burns up His enemies round about. 4 His lightnings light the world; The earth sees and trembles. 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, At the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. 6 The heavens declare His righteousness, And all the peoples see His glory. 7 Let all be put to shame who serve carved images, Who boast of 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, LORD, are most high above all the earth; You are exalted far above all gods. 10 You who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked. 11 Light is sown for the righteous, And gladness for the upright in heart. 12 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.

- Psalm 97 is an interesting and even fascinating Psalm in the sense that it paints a powerful picture of God's righteous reign.
- Here again, like the Psalm before it, there seems to be this struggle of sorts to capture the vastness of the greatness of God.
- I would suggest that in some ways, this might be by design, as it were, in order to remind us that this world is not our home.

Psalm 98 - A Psalm. 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. 2 The LORD has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations. 3 He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. 4 Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth; Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises. 5 Sing to the LORD with the harp, With the harp and the sound of a psalm, 6 With trumpets and the sound of a horn; Shout joyfully before the LORD, the King. 7 Let the sea roar, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell in it; 8 Let the rivers clap their hands; Let the hills be joyful together before the LORD, 9 For He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world, And the peoples with equity.

- Psalm 98 is a Psalm that celebrates the day that's coming when God will set up His righteousness and shall judge the world.
- While I realize that a celebration and rejoicing of 'God's coming judgment may seem paradoxical, it is believers blessed hope.
- The take away from this Psalm is that of a much-needed reminder and change of perspective concerning the Lord's return.

Psalm 99 - 1 The LORD reigns; Let the peoples tremble! He dwells between the cherubim; Let the earth be moved! 2 The LORD is great in Zion, And He is high above all the peoples. 3 Let them praise Your great and awesome name— He is holy. 4 The King's strength also loves justice; You have established equity; You have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. 5 Exalt the LORD our God, And worship at His footstool— He is holy. 6 Moses and Aaron were among His priests, And Samuel was among those who called upon His name; They called upon the LORD, and He answered them. 7 He spoke to them in the cloudy pillar; They kept His testimonies and the ordinance He gave them. 8 You answered them, O LORD our God; You were to them God-Who-Forgives, Though You took vengeance on their deeds. 9 Exalt the LORD our God, And worship at His holy hill; For the LORD our God is holy.

- Psalm 99 is a celebration of the Lord's holiness, which sadly, has become the lost jewel within the church today in America.
- Please know it is not my intention to bash on the church, nor is it my desire to beat up the sheep, but this is just catastrophic.
- By that I mean, the lack of regard for the holiness of God has taken a heavy toll on many a church and many a Christian today.

Psalm 100 - A Psalm of Thanksgiving. 1 Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! 2 Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. 3 Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. 4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. 5 For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.

- Psalm 100 as a song of thanksgiving is one of the grandest and most glorious songs of praise written in the pages of scripture.
- While only five verses in length, one cannot help but notice its strength, which results in one serving the Lord with gladness.
- I think of Nehemiah encouraging God's people to worship instead of weep, do not sorry, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

Psalm 101 - A Psalm of David. 1 I will sing of mercy and justice; To You, O LORD, I will sing praises. 2 I will behave wisely in a perfect way. Oh, when will You come to me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. 3 I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not cling to me. 4 A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will not know wickedness. 5 Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, Him I will destroy; The one who has a haughty look and a proud heart, Him I will not endure. 6 My eyes shall be on the faithful of the land, That they may dwell with me; He who walks in a perfect way, He shall serve me. 7 He who works deceit shall not dwell within my house; He who tells lies shall not continue in my presence. 8 Early I will destroy all the wicked of the land, That I may cut off all the evildoers from the city of the LORD.

- Psalm 101 is an amazing Psalm for a number of reasons not the least of which is that David offers practical ways to be holy.
- In other words, it is possible to live a righteous and holy life in an unrighteous and unholy world waxing more evil by the day.
- What I find to be most interesting about this Psalm of David is the truth of how our holiness must first start in our home life.

G. Campbell Morgan – “No man is able to make the city in which he dwells anything like the city of God who does not know how to behave himself in his own house. ...It is a life cautious and watchful, refusing to countenance anything contrary to the holiness of God.”

1 Timothy 3:2-5 - 2 Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. 5 (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)