

Ryan Clarke 23 May 2021

(Sermon Summary)

Psalm 97 – The Righteous King and Judge

The Psalms bring so much to our souls. They help us in prayer, giving us the words to express what we are feeling. This sermon looks at each verse of Psalm 97.

The righteous King and Judge

v1. **The Lord reigns.** Nothing takes Him by surprise, and we must submit ourselves to His sovereignty. He reigns in righteousness.

v2. **He will judge in righteousness.** All He does is good, and we see this demonstrated in Christ.

vv3,7. **He will destroy His enemies on the last day.** Those who despise Christ will be crushed along with Satan. Our human judgement is flawed, but God judges in perfect righteousness. God in Christ will put an end to all wickedness when Christ returns. Heaven will be pure - there will be no sin, wickedness, deceit, backstabbing or division amongst His people.

v8. **Zion is glad.** The people of God will rejoice to see the end of wickedness.

v9. **High above the earth.** All of planet earth is under God's rule and care, as well as the people. Political rulers have been ordained by God, but Christ is Lord over all. You belong to the King who reigns!

We must hate evil as God does

v10. **You who love the Lord, hate evil!** 'Hate' is a strong word, but God hates evil and will consume it. We cannot love God without hating what He hates. "Abhor that which is evil" (Romans 12:9). "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil" (Prov. 8:13).

Our greatest problem is the evil in our own hearts. How do we live from day to day, in the home or workplace? What do we read and watch, and how do we behave with our families? How do we speak (Ps 34:13-14)? Do we have a good testimony in our community, "telling the old, old story" with our lives? Jesus is our example, and there is no place for compromise. Those who love the Lord Jesus will hate sin and battle against it. If we have been saved by grace and have experienced the new birth, our hearts have been changed so that we hate all evil and long to do good.

We should be busy doing the Lord's work, not like David who was relaxing on his balcony while his army was at war.

If we have this desire to please God and become more like Jesus, it shows that we are born from above. If you are continuing to sin without being troubled, it suggests that you do not yet have a new heart and must cry out for mercy.

The saints are preserved and delivered from evil

v.10. **He preserves the souls of His saints.** Saints are 'set apart' and God will continue to deliver us from the hand of the wicked. Even if your body is taken, He will preserve your soul.

We receive these blessings because of Christ's death; His blood shed for the remission of sins. "Salvation is of works - but not yours!" Christ lived a perfect life, fulfilling all the demands of God's Law. He hates evil and bore evil and sin for us.

"The Lord shall preserve me from every evil way and deliver me to His heavenly kingdom."