

**Tuesday, June 27, 2023 • Read Psalm 93**

*Questions from the Scripture text: What does Yahweh do (v1a)? With what is He clothed? With what else is He clothed/girded (v1b–c)? What is established (v1d)? So that what cannot be done with it? What has been established longer (v2a)? Why (v2b)? What challenger is there to stability and power (v3a)? What have they done? And what have they raised up (v3b)? And what else have they raised up (v3c)? But Who is mightier than many of them and the strongest of them (v4)? What has this God given to us (v5a)? How reliable are they? What has He formed, and what adorns it (v5b)? For how long (v5c)?*

**Upon what may we find proper confidence in God's Word and about God's church?** Psalm 93 looks forward to the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these five verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **for confidence in God's Word and about His church, we should consider God Himself.**

This Psalm takes four verses to consider the LORD himself before considering His Word and His church in the end. Often, people struggle at (or against) believing the Bible as the Word of God. When we look at the church we may have our doubts about whether it is a good idea, or whether it can even last. But when we look at the God Whose Word it is, and the God Whose church it is, we are helped by Him Himself out of our difficulty.

The majestic, strong, reliable, ruling, overruling LORD, v1–4. The LORD is invisible, so what does it mean that He is clothed (2x) and girded? The idea is that His creation and His actions are like clothing hanging upon an invisible body. When we consider all that He has made, and all that He has done, we get an idea of the greatness of His majesty (v1a) and His strength (v1c). Considering the heavens causes us to say from the earth, "How majestic is Your Name!" (cf. Ps 8). Those heavens declare His glory (cf. Ps 19:1). Also the solidity and reliability of the created world show His faithfulness (v1d).

Even the most powerful events in nature display that God's ruling (v2) is far superior in power. Tsunamis can wipe away cities and forests. During a great storm, the waves of the ocean can be like literal mountains of water. And yet even the worldwide flood could not wipe away the mountains. Most importantly, it came as fulfillment of His own testimony, and it could not wipe away His household. His fledgling church, down to eight people, was lifted up by God above all the devastation, and protected. Though the flood lifted itself up, and its noise up, and its waves up, it also lifted up God's servant and his household. The LORD on high was mightier!

The LORD's sure words, v5a. When we come to God's Word, God's own testimonies, we should consider Whose testimonies they are. There is nothing more reliable or important to believe than whatever He teaches. There is nothing more reliable or important to do than whatever He commands. By His Word He created, by His Word He upholds the worlds. By His Word He told of the flood. By His Word He instructed Noah in the means of being preserved from/in/above the flood. And He has given us His testimonies even in writing as an indication that He wants us to be sure of them. We do not trust them because we can trace the transmission of them. We trust them because we can see the evidence of Him in His world, we know the evidence of Him within us by the work of His Spirit and the knowledge of Christ in saving us, and we can see plainly that it is His Word that tells us about these things. His Word even tells us more things about itself, so that we have good confidence even about the pen-strokes that continue unto us to this day.

The LORD's forever-holy church, v5b–c. God's house is sometimes found a state of great disrepair. Just as with the physical temple before the days of Hezekiah or Josiah, so also His church as a people has seen some very low ebbs during Scripture and throughout history. In the time and place in which this devotional is being written, it is heading in that direction again, albeit papered over and white washed by so much manmade, man-centered religion that one might foolishly think that the church is quite large and vigorous. But, the most important thing about God's church is that it is HIS church. And this is the reason that even if it hangs by a thread, that thread is of infinite tensile strength. The church is separated from the world like the ark that is lifted above the flood. The providence that comes to it comes in the providence of a God whose chastenings, even, are for her good; when she sees calamity, the calamity is not her reward but the reward of the wicked (cf. Ps 91:7)—even those wicked who may be merely superficial/external members of the visible church. For all that, she is holy because she is HIS. He will build her, and the gates of Hell will not prevail against her. She is forever, because she is HIS. We ought always to have affection for His church and never run out of hope for her. She belongs to the LORD of vv1–4.

Why are you sure of God's Word? How does that sureness come out in your life? How do you feel about the church? Why? How should you? Why? Where do you get your hope for the future of the church?

*Sample prayer: Lord, You reign! You are clothed with majesty and girded with strength. You show Your faithfulness in the reliable world which You have ruled throughout its ages. Even the most powerful and terrifying forces of nature are Your servants to carry out all Your holy will. Grant us to worship You with confidence in Your Holy Word, as those who have gathered unto You as Your Holy house, with a hope that will last forever in Jesus Christ, through whom we ask it, Amen!*

**Suggested songs: ARP93 "The LORD Is Crowned as King" or TPH93 "The LORD Reigns Over All"**

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Psalm 93. These are the words of god. The offlay rains, he is clothed with majesty. Yahweh is clothed. He has girded himself with strength. Surely the world is established so that it cannot be moved. Your throne is established From of old, you Or from everlasting. The floods have lifted up.

Oh yeah. The floods have lifted up their voice. The floods lift up their waves. Y'all way on high is mightier. Than the noise of many waters. Then the mighty waves of the sea. Your testimonies. Are very sure. Holiness. Adorns, your house. You know, your way. Forever. So far the reading of gods inspired and there aren't word.

We're in this psalm, the lord teaches us a Four verse lesson about himself. So that we can learn a lesson about his word. Because it is his And about his church. Because it is his First. What does a man mean? Inherent in the errant. Been married is inspired and inherent word.

Okay, inspired actually means expired. Um, in terms of not like the due date is gone. But breathed out. So i'm going to say his inspired word, we mean that god himself has breed that out. And that it is. Every bit as much god talking to us as if jesus was here speaking.

These words to us. And the word inherent means not making any errors. The bible is never wrong. About what it says.

So, in the first lesson, which is about the lord himself and these four verses It is about. The greatness of his strength. And his holiness in that god in himself is Uh, creator and nothing else is like him. He has a devotion to himself a glory in himself strength in himself.

Uh, that are all inherent. And so he's different than all of the creatures. Uh, because he is independent of the creature. But the creatures are all dependent upon him. And we see the things that are dependent upon him and he teaches us about himself. Uh, using those things you can't see god.

And so, the word picture in. Uh, verse 90 verse one. I was gonna say verse 93, because there's the verse number there. So, the word picture in verse 1. Is that god is using the creation, almost like clothing. So that we can make something out about him by the shape that he communicates through the creation.

One of the things that he is communicated in the creation is, it's vastness, it's greatness, it's stability. We look for instance, at the heavens. And how huge they are by comparison to. To us. And man, of course, knew this at first, just by looking at the sky and then as a man, learned more about, Math and so forth.

And Started to be able to make calculations and discovered Uh how how great the second even is? And then god communicating to us, kind of baby talking to us because we used to see two heavens and he speaks Of the place where he makes his glory, most known as the third heaven and you think exponentially or logarithmically from our atmosphere to the observable universe which man and all of his pump and pride tries to observe so much more of and realizes how much more enormous it is and rather than being further humiliated by how small we are.

We think we're so awesome because we have seen Supposedly a little further. Although we can't even calculate the one. Uh, the one-way speed of light, but that's another thing. And yet, god has his clothed himself with this majesty that heavens declare. The glory of god. Oh lord. Our lord, homogestic is your name and all the earth.

When i view the skies that you have made and so he got a baby talks to us to try and communicate and language, that poor foolish creatures. We are going to could understand How great is the majesty of the god who made these things? And then by the stability and the continuity.

Of how he upholds things by what we call laws of physics and laws of chemistry, all those are are Observations that things keep happening the same way over and over again. That the world that we live in is not. Like the totally chaos unpredictable world. That all of the, all of the cosmologies views of the of Of the cosmos that come from man-made religion have.

Where, where you have? Yeah. Gods that are. Our completely. Um, Uh, unstable. They act like mental patients and all of the different pantheons of all of the different. Of all of the different cultures. Now the world is established cannot be moved and it's it's not established so that we can sit on a throne and congratulate ourselves for how we have observed the consistency.

No. It's so that we can recognize that he is the one sitting on the throne, giving it that consistency. Verse 2, your throne is established from of old. You are from everlasting. And then in his providence, not just Uh, not just in the creation and the ordinary providence. But even in extraordinary providence, when there are, when there are some of the most Uncontrollable humiliating to us because of how small we are by comparison.

Um, acts of god's providence in. In what we call nature in the creation and floods. Really are the the great Among the, the great. Acts of. That shows of power. In, in the providence of god. You think of tsunamis? And other times, when Uh, when land is flooded, By one way or another.

And yet. Uh, these are nothing compared to which flood what flood do. You think of when you read the bible, you read about the flood of Noah. Which was not just on one coast, or in one land. But went high above the peaks of the tallest mountains. And wasn't like localized by a force field there.

Uh but but just as you know, every natural science museum or natural history museum, you go to everywhere in the world they tell you about, you know, the local natural science and they're like This place was once covered by an ocean. And of course, there is a worldwide flood but the greatness of the worldwide flood wasn't in the destruction underneath the water.

It was the world full of wicked men who got immersed. The greatness of the worldwide. Flood was the preservation. Of the ones that god held above the water. And so god knows how to To preserve the righteous while devoting the wicked. Unto the day of judgment justice. The holy spirit through peter also makes application.

Of the flood there. And so all of the floods remind us a they come in the providence of god, but they remind us especially of the greatest flood ever. That as god displays this power, he's reminding us That the great display of his power is not in the destruction that a flood cut brings.

But that in the flood of floods, It is not difficult to god. To preserve. Those who need saving from the destruction. That a flood brings. And so, Uh, when we see floods. Lifting up, and when we Imagined the unbelievable. Thunderousness of the water as it is destroying everything sounding like.

Um, and In calculable number of bombs all at once. Um, and perhaps Yeah, we can. Someday. Look at psalm 93, and some of the other Psalms that mention floods and Uh, At niagara Falls or something like that. Huh. I guess we would have to be a family that actually traveled for that but it is so loud.

And that's just the rush of water in one time, it will look like this place. But all of that noise and all of that power. As dwarfed. Yahweh on high as might here. Than the noise of many waters. Than the mighty waves of the sea. And so, this is the first thing he tells us about, Himself.

So that when we come to his word, Well, now this word comes from that god, that being That is described. In the first four verses, your testimonies are very short. And when we think about his church, That belongs to him. And the picture. That we have and those flood of his little church.

And god used the flood to do, what to separate it from the destruction. He brought Noah to himself as it were in that no and his family, the little church fledgling church. To himself. On top of the waters. And we can and we can be encouraged by psalm 93.

For instance, with all of the raging that it's going on under God's sovereign providence in the world now, He keeps his church, holy to himself. To separates it. From all of the harm that is coming to those that are under his judgment. Whatever comes near to us. Comes near to us, for our good.

Remember Psalm 91 just Uh, just two weeks ago and Not thousand falling at your. Side and 10 thousand at your right hand, but it not, i mean near you only with your eyes, you shall look and see the reward of the wicked. Why? Because holiness. Adorns yahweh's house. Psalm 93 verse 5.

It's his. And he is the god of this majesty. In the first four verses. And so, Then so however bad things get with this. With his church. And wow. There are times in scripture where things are bad with his church, Our times in history. And an art history. When things are going badly with his church, Yet the church is holy.

And maintained by him. And so we may have hope in him. For his church. Holiness. Adorns your house. Oh, go away. Forever. Oh, praise god. For a small psalm. With such great encouragement to cling to his word. And hope in him. For what is coming of his people. Of his church corporately.

And then of course, of each of us. Who open him? And are joined to his church by the work of his spirit. Giving us the faith by which we are united to Christ. Small psalm with big encouragement for us as well.

Father, we thank you for. This song. Oh lord, and it's encouragements to us. About you. But we are most thankful, oh god, for you yourself? For the greatness of your majesty and your strength. And your wisdom and your throne. And your reigning. For the soreness of your testimonies. For the confidence and assured that we can have.

That you have set your church apart. Onto yourself. And separated the way your providence comes upon all other things. From the way it comes upon us as those who belong to you. And so we asked the true spirit would stir up our faith towards you. That our worship and wonder of you.

Would strengthen our commitment to your word. And our hope. In your salvation. We ask these things in jesus name. Amen.