

## Ps. 92 (LD 4, Q/A 10-11) “Merciful and Just”

**For the Children:** Occasionally I have sat in on a court=room hearing. Each judge is different. Some are softer, some are tougher. Most are tough in some situations, more merciful in others. Just because a judge insists on justice in some situations, we do not automatically accuse him of lacking mercy; just because he is merciful in some situations, we do not automatically accuse him of injustice. We understand that he is allowed to be just in some situations, merciful in others. Even more so, we must accept that God can show mercy to whom He wishes, and carry out His justice on whom He wishes. Unlike human judges, we know that His justice and mercy never contradict one another. **Questions:** How does God show mercy to sinners? How does He show His justice? When He forgives sinners, how does He make sure His justice is still carried out?

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### **Introduction:**

#### **First Point: The Lord’s Majesty Implies Worship**

- **Attributes and Works:** Believers see the majesty of God in all His attributes and works. Ps. 92 singles out God’s “loving kindness,” “faithfulness,” and “uprightness.” It singles out His works Creation, Redemption and Providence. Behind these things, lies the depth of His thoughts and plans (v. 5)
- **Good to Respond:** God deserves to be praised for these things. It is “good” to do so (v. 1). We do so in our worship, when we praise God, thank Him, declare His person and works, sing, etc. The fact that these truths cause us to respond to the majesty of God should also lead to obedience and service during the week. Since God has done great works for our benefit, our worship should be characterized by joy (v. 4). Singing is particularly suited to expressing joy in worship – “I will sing for joy” (vss. 4, 1).
- **Sabbath Worship:** The Psalm was written for worship on the Sabbath – hence the reference to “morning and night,” The 2 services at the start and finish of the day implied that the whole day was for joyful worship. The Sabbath has been given as a celebration of God’s work of Creation and Redemption

#### **Second Point: The Lord’s Majesty Is Seen in His Mercy**

- **Moved by Undeserved Mercy:** God’s people are even more moved to worship His majesty when we realize how undeserving we are, and how great His mercy. “Lovingkindness” implies mercy to those with no claim on God
- **Abundant Mercy:** We are also moved to worship when we see how super-abundant His mercy is toward us. He fills us with strength – “exalts our horn”; equips us for service – “anoints us with fresh oil”; overcomes our foes, especially though the work of His Son; makes us grow and become useful – like a palm tree or cedar; even in old-age, we are enabled to yield fruit. These blessings are found in Christ, and in connection with His church – the “House of the Lord” is like good soil that nourishes these “plants”
- **Justice Does Not Detract from Mercy:** These blessings are in no way lessened by the justice of God, nor do they interfere with His justice. The justice we deserved for our sins has been carried out on Christ, in Whom alone we receive these blessings. Those who reject Him will justly receive what they deserve.. God demonstrates both attributes perfectly.

#### **Third Point: The Lord’s Majesty Is Seen in His Justice**

- **An Attack on Supreme Majesty:** It is bad enough to rebel against any lawful authority. To rebel against the supreme authority and majesty of God deserves the supreme penalty – eternal punishment of body and soul in hell.
- **Senseless and Stupid:** Man is like an unreasoning animal – a brute – when he opposes the Majestic God. It is stupid to rush headlong to hell. It is stupid to put the pleasures of this life above eternal joy in God’s presence! For the wicked are not like the palm-tree or cedar – they are like grass, which flourishes for only a brief time, before it is destroyed. No one should envy the “prosperity” of the wicked! For when the Lord returns, all His enemies will be placed under His feet. We should make sure we are submitting to His majesty from the heart!

### **Conclusion:**