

Psalm 97

A Song for Those for Whom the Great Day Is a Day of Gladness

Tuesday, August 8, 2023 • Read Psalm 97

Questions from the Scripture text: With what declaration does the psalm begin (v1a)? Which subjects rejoice over this reign (v1-c)? Where do most of the images in v3-5 come from (cf. Ex 19:16-18, 24:17; Deut 4:11; Jud 5:5; Heb 12:18-21)? What attributes were gloriously declared from there (v2b)? What else declare His righteousness and display His glory (v6, cf. 8:3-4; 19:1-6)? What does this do to those who deny or exchange this glory for idols (v7, cf. Ex 20:4-6; Rom 1:18-25)? Who have an opposite response to the idolaters (v8)? Over what do they especially rejoice (v8c)? What do they rejoice that these judgments display about Yahweh (v9)? What must those who love Him and His judgments hate (v10a)? What is YHWH specifically doing for them (v10b-c)? What does He call them? What does He produce for whom (v11)? How are they to respond (v12)?

How do people respond at YHWH's judgment? Psalm 97 looks forward to the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these twelve verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **at YHWH's judgment, the whole creation is undone and re-done, the wicked are put to shame, and the righteous are filled with gladness.**

Let the earth rejoice! v1-6. This Psalm launches with the Rom 8:18-25 hope. One day, the creation will have been "delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Rom 8:21). For now, however, "the whole creation groans and labors" (Rom 8:22). Why, then, is it rejoicing in v1? Because, together with the "new song" Psalms on either side of it, this Psalm looks to "the revealing of the sons of God" (Rom 8:19), the day when the bodies of those adopted sons will have been redeemed (cf. Rom 8:23).

The Lord often makes display of His power and wrath and righteousness by way of the creation. No such display was greater than the flood in Gen 6-9, and the display at Sinai in Ex 19 communicates the same. vv2-6 pick this up with the clouds and darkness and fire and earthquake. The mountain itself seemed to melt (v5), just as Sinai flowed ("gushed," Jdg 5:5). All peoples can see the heavens which declare His righteousness (v6a) and glory (v6b, cf. Ps 19:1-6).

Let all be put to shame who serve carved images, v7. How foolish all idolaters will be exposed to have been, the moment their life in this world is done, or the moment that Christ appears in the sky! Right now they "boast" in their idols (v7b), but those idol-gods will be humiliated before Yahweh (v7c). The wicked may seem to have the godly in their grasp, but even out of their hand, YHWH will deliver His saints (v10c). Dear reader, it is profoundly shortsighted to live for anything other than the Lord as your purpose. It is profoundly short-sighted to desire anything apart from the Lord as your pleasure. It is profoundly short-sided to depend upon anything apart from the Lord as your power. Have Him as all of these, or you will be put to shame at the very worst time—and forever.

Zion hears and is glad, v8-12. For their part, the Lord's people join in the gladness of the creation. Or rather, it is the Lord's people's gladness that the creation enjoyed. For Romans tells us that the glorious freedom belongs to the children of God, and the creation joins us in it. The emphasis is clearly gladness. Zion is glad (v8a). The daughters of Judah rejoice (v8b). Gladness is sown for the upright in heart (v11b). The righteous rejoice in YHWH (v12a).

YHWH Himself is the object of this gladness. He comes with benefits like judgments, preservation, and deliverance. But it is His exaltation (v9) in these things that is the point. God's people go by many names here: Zion, daughters of Judah, His saints, the righteous, the upright in heart. But perhaps the most striking is "You who love YHWH" in v10a. He Who set them apart to Himself as saints has given them love for Himself so that they would indeed be righteous.

Doesn't your love for YHWH just make you hate evil? It's a wonderful chain reaction. His calling gives us love for Him. Our love for Him makes us hate evil. All things are moving toward His redeeming the called and destroying all wickedness. "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" (Rom 8:28).

Weekly, we may visit not burning, black, dark, storming Sinai (cf. Heb 12:18-21) but glorious Zion with the rejoicing company there (cf. Heb 12:22-24), from which the Mediator speaks, Who will shake all things as a consuming fire, but bring us into an unshakable kingdom (cf. Heb 12:25-29). What an excellent song for this Christian worship is Psalm 97!

What evidence is there that you love God? What evidence that you hate evil? How glad are you? From this Psalm, upon what might you meditate to increase in gladness? When especially do you get to do this?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You that You have given to us to belong to You and to know already, by faith, things that are not seen and not yet. Give to us to love You, to hate evil, and to rejoice over You, who will surely put an end to all evil. Hasten the day when the earth is glad with us, as we rejoice over Your ultimate exaltation! But even as we wait, give us to partake of the joy of that day in the glorious assembly each week, when we join the congregation of the firstborn in Zion above, we ask through Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP97B "Since You Love the LORD" or TPH97B "The LORD Reigns, Let the Earth Be Glad"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Psalm 97. These are God's words. Y'all play rains with the earth rejoice, let the multitude of isles be glad Clouds and darkness around him righteousness and justice. By the foundation of his thrown a fire goes before him and burns up his enemies around about his lightnings light the world, the earth sees and trembles the mountains melt like wax at the presence of Yahweh.

That the presence of the lord of the whole earth. The heavens, declare his righteousness, and all the peoples. See his glory. Let all be put to shame who serve carved images who boast of idols. Worship him, all you gods. Zion hears, and is glad And the daughters of judah rejoice.

Because of your judgment. So y'all play for you, yahweh? Our most high above all the earth. You are exalt.

You are exalted far above all gods, you who love yahweh? Hey, evil. You preserves the souls of his saints. He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked light is sown for the righteous. And gladness for the upright and heart. Rejoice in yahuh you righteous. And give thanks at the remembrance.

Of his holy name. Men, that sends us reading of gods inspired. And an errant word.

One of the things that we find about this psalm is that there's a great event towards which the Lord's display of himself at sign i looked forward, Remember in Exodus 19 when lord Um, presented. Israel to himself and himself to israel. And he came down upon the mountain, there were clouds and thick darkness.

And fire and the mountain burned like smoke. In fact. Um,

In fact, in judges chapter 5, it says the mountain melted or flowed or gushed. And hebrews 12, 18 to 21. From reminds us that when we come and christian worship, we're coming on in the sinai way. Of that frightful display of the lord, but in the zion way, Of rejoicing over.

Our god, who That has taken us as his children. And so we know him as father. And who has come to be our mediator and the lord jesus. And so we know him as Redeemer. But the lord's appearance act. Sinai. Then an exodus 19. And the following chapters. Is anticipation of the lord jesus's own appearance at the second coming.

When he appears in the sky. And, The same sort of thing happens with both experiences. Then For the wicked. On the one hand, the dread of sinai multiplied by infinity. And for the righteous, The joy of zion. Again. Multiplied by infinity. So you have in versus Two through five this description.

With. Especially the mountains melting like wax. Etc, the fire going before him to burn up his enemies. Roundabout. Now, there are those three responses then in the last day, the The first is actually the response of the creation. Yahweh rains. So, Lord, jesus your way, the king. Appears in the sky, the earth, rejoices, the multitude of the islands are glad The idea of the multitude of the islands is the remotest parts of the earth.

They're still pretty remote for us. It's one of the reasons why people like to get away to and Island vacation, which could an island vacation in the ancient world. Uh, they were very inaccessible. But all of the remotest parts, every partide, then of the creations, the idea here. Is rejoicing.

And every partide of the creation is rejoicing, because It's about to enjoy the glorious, freedom of the children of god. Romans 8 and section to, which we're soon coming now and The midweek sermons. Reminds us that the creation was bound to corruption and decay, but it was bound in hope.

And so the lord who bound it to that corruption and decay, Bound it in a way that is temporary. Until the sons of god are revealed. All of them have been brought to faith. And ultimately, That day of, The finalizing of the adoption of all of the children of god, who have been brought to faith that will come in the glorifying, even the redemption, even of our bodies.

That in that day, the creation also. Will be made new in a way that is similar to our resurrection. In other words, we are not able to make the creation new any more than we are able to. Improve upon our bodies in a way that will contribute to their resurrection form.

Um, but this will be a great transformation that comes to both. At once, in the last day, And so there's this picture of the creation. Uh, rejoicing. And how marvelous it will be. When the creation is made new and it is Uh, completely liberated from its bondage to corruption and decay.

It's hard to even to imagine. What that will be like. So let the earth originally, let the multitude of the aisles be glad in that day when jesus appears. Um, in the heavens and the heavens themselves are remade for six, the heavens. Declare his righteousness. Well, the earth is rejoicing but Those who found their purpose.

In anything other than glorifying and enjoying god, those who Found their pleasure. Apart from Having their ultimate pleasure in the creator rather than the creature and those who lived according to their own principles. Or they depended upon and they were Devoted to and directed by something other. Then the living god as he has revealed himself in christ.

Those are the ones who have served, then the inventions of men's minds carved images. Idols God's lowercase g. And such will be put to shame. Because there's no such thing as your truth. As we hear, The phrase dreadfully. Sadly. Wickedly. There's only the truth. And when the lord jesus appears, it will.

It will become painfully obvious and real. To all those who wanted to have a life by your truth. Um, you can't change reality. By having a different opinion or coming up with a different Uh, way to live all you can do. Is. Make yourself more and more in enemy of god.

And the one of whom. Everyone will have every idolater will have made themselves. Um, An enemy. Will appear in the sky. Yahweh the creator. Who had become a man. To. To redeem. And you proclamed that light and redemption. And many like, Agrippa at least at the end of the lord's day morning, sermon this week.

Will have been almost persuaded, many will not have even come that far. But any, who do not have christ as their purpose and christ is their pleasure. And christ and his word. As the principal. That governs. The prescriptions the commandments. Presents. The govern their lives. They will all be put to shame and it's not like, oh, i feel so ashamed.

No, they're being put to shame on the last day is crying out. Uh, for The mountains to fall upon them wishing that they could. Be wished out of existence. Because of what they have done. And living. Uh, trying to live independently of him. Who has existence inherited to himself?

And to And who is the point of all of our existence? Don't let that be. You in the last day and don't don't live like that. Don't live like someone who Has a purpose. Other than the knowing and glorifying and serving of god, don't live like someone who has pleasures that are apart.

From the god who made all good things that we might. Delight, our souls in him, don't live. According to principles. That are not drawn from and in obedience to embracing the commandments, Of our god. That is a shameful way. And if we live that way. Than even hoping that the lord is merciful to us and brings us to repentance.

How we will hate that, we had done that. And the moment that we see again, The greatness of our sin, the greatness of his mercy. That we have sinned against such a god as he is. In. His steadfast love, and his faithfulness to us. So, the creation rejoices The.

Idolaters are put to shame. But zion. Is glad. Zion hears in just glad the daughters of Judah were choice. Uh, we were choice not only as his redemption of us but it is judgments of others. Why? Well, two reasons. One is Because he will avenge every wrong done. And that is necessary.

That is Um, That is just judgment. Uh, but in that day, our love for him will be finally fully primary in the way that it should have been our whole life. And In the way that we pray that we are growing in. And so, we will rejoice over his judgments especially Because he've indicates his name and that's the relation of verse 8, to verse 9.

For you. Yahweh are most high above all the earth you are exalted far above all gods. Um, the moment that our love for him is Is perfected when we die. We get to see his exaltation. The greatest. And his display, then the greatest display of his Exaltation in the last day.

And this is the great reason to hate evil you who love yahweh, eight evil. And, Not only is that the great reason, To hate evil, but everyone who loves him must hate evil. And of course we should love him. We love him because he first loved us, you see that?

In the second part of verse 10, he preserves the souls of a saints. It delivers them out of the hand and wicked. We should have loved god. But we haven't and we are weak and he knows it. And so he stoops down, he shows us his love for us.

And he provokes us to more love for him. He helps us. To love him. And so, Light and gladness and joy and thanksgiving. All. Having been perfected in love for him and seeing The great display of his glory, these are the things towards which history is going. In verse 11 and 12.

These are the things that we will have in the last day if we belong to him. And when his work has been completed in us, Not just in soul, but also. And body. And there is the resurrection. And the judgment. The glory of god. And the delight. Forever. Of those who love his glory.

It gives us a song to sing of it to even now. To train our hearts and minds to desire. That that day would come and to delight. In the certainty to enjoy already. The aspects of that day. In anticipation of it. This is. What we enjoy when? Uh we come to god as his glorious, zion especially lord's day by lord's day.

This is what we will enjoy for every glory. And this should be. The the basic every day. Joy of our hearts. As we live.

Father, we thank you for your word. We thank you for giving us this prayer and this song To train our hearts and minds. In certainty of your truth and seeing your love and responding to you with love for you. With certainty of what will come in the last day and your glory.

That will be displayed. And our delight in it. He had a lord, we are aware. That keenly aware of. How our hearts do not think and delighten this way. And we pray that your spirit will continue. To help us even by this word. Read that. It would be fruitful in our hearts.

A grant that.

That it would dwell in us virtually even as we sing. The praise you for your word, o christ and your own name.