

## PSALM 97 – A Song of Praise to the Sovereign LORD!

12/21/19 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) www.ptwente.com

### JOY TO THE WORLD – Isaac Watts – Handel

*1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare Him room  
And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven, and nature sing*  
*2 Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ. While fields and floods, rocks, hills and  
plains, Repeat the sounding joy; Repeat the sounding joy; Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy*  
*3 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders, of His  
love.*  
*4 Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare Him room  
And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing!*

Psalm 97 – Psalm 97 is similar to Psalm 96 because its message is, “Joy to the world, the Lord is come.” **The LORD reigns; Let the earth rejoice; Let the multitude of isles be glad!** [Psa\_97:1]. This is not a hymn of Christ's first coming to earth but of His second coming to earth.

### PSALM 97 – The Lord Reigns – A Song of Praise to the Sovereign LORD

**Psa 97:1 The LORD reigns; Let the earth rejoice; Let the multitude of isles be glad!**

- We can't be reminded too often of this fact: **The LORD reigns!** (Cf. 1 Chr. 16:31; Psa 93:1; 96:10; 97:1; 99:1; Rev. 19:6) Even though the world looks like it's crazy, like it's out of control, it isn't! It's under God's control! He reigns! Jesus is going to return one day soon, just as He promised. He is going to establish a Kingdom, based on **righteousness and justice** in this world. A reign, contrary to all we see around us!
- **Let the whole world rejoice! Let the multitude of Gentiles be glad!**

**Psa 97:2 Clouds and darkness surround Him; Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.**

- Because **righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne**, we are to make those the foundation of our life as well!

**Psa 97:3 A fire goes before Him, And burns up His enemies round about.**

- He is going to judge His enemies with fire at His Second Coming!

**Psa 97:4 His lightnings light the world; The earth sees and trembles.**

**Psa 97:5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, At the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.**

**Psa 97:6 The heavens declare His righteousness, And all the peoples see His glory.**

- His appearing at His Second Coming is going to have a great impact upon the entire earth! People will be profoundly affected. Evil and idolatry will be brought to an end!

**Psa 97:7 Let all be put to shame who serve carved images, Who boast of idols. Worship Him, all you gods.**

**Psa 97:8 Zion hears and is glad, And the daughters of Judah rejoice Because of Your judgments, O LORD.**

**Psa 97:9 For You, LORD, are most high above all the earth; You are exalted far above all gods.**

- In that reign, He will be!

**Psa 97:10a You who love the LORD, hate evil!**

- Very significantly He tells us what is required in our life, as God's people to remain holy, to remain righteous, to remain good, in the wickedness, in the evil, of these last days! What can keep a Christian safe, from being gobbled up by the power of the culture that is around us, the darkness, the wickedness on every level? It's so seductive, appealing to the ears, to the eyes, to the mind and to the emotion. How do you stand against it? He tells us here in one sentence - **You who love the LORD, hate evil!**
- We're to **love the LORD**, with a love that is worthy of Him. I am to love Him with all of my heart, all of my soul and all of my strength, and so are you. Do you love Him that way? Does the love for God, dominate your thinking? Your feeling? Your doing? Your life? Not saying it to condemn, but to search. We have so lowered the standard for the level of idolatry that the average Christian, including me, allows idolatry into our hearts to compete with God for the highest place in all the areas of our life!
- **What is needed is a love for God that is greater than a love for sin, in order to stand in a wicked world!** Do we have that kind of a love for God? It's the only thing that will keep us safe! No relationship with God, short of that, will ever keep us safe! It begins with a love for God!
- and to **hate evil!** We need to not only love the LORD, first and foremost, but that love for the LORD will produce a hatred of evil in our lives. If there is no hatred of evil in our lives, something is wrong with our relationship with the LORD.
- I'm to hate evil for the harm that it does to my relationship with God, for what it turns a nation into and what it turns a world into! I'm to hate evil for what it does to people, destroying lives! I'm to hate evil, whether I see it in the world or whether I see it in my own heart!

- Hate is a strong word! Hate means hate! Hating evil is more than just noticing evil, disliking evil, shrugging our shoulders of being indifferent toward evil. It's certainly more than accommodating evil or renaming it, so that it can exist in my compromised life.
- **Our attitude toward evil in the world** will determine whether or not we will allow evil into our life! We are to stand against evil: *Rom. 12:9b* **"Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good."**
- What is evil? All unrighteousness, all injustice, all idolatry, all disobedience to God's commandments! That's the evil that He is speaking of.
- An attitude of hatred of evil, **is not to result in violence, but in prayer! In intercession!**
- Christ was the most loving person ever, and He hated evil. *Heb 1:8-9* **But to the Son He says: "YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER; A SCEPTER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS THE SCEPTER OF YOUR KINGDOM. [9] YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS (evil); THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED YOU WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS MORE THAN YOUR COMPANIONS."**
- Jesus called evil, evil, calling on people to repent of that and enter into a life of holiness. To hate evil for what it does to man, what it does to God. Hating evil is a holy thing. It's a loving thing, when it's expressed in a way that looks like Him!

*Psa 97:10b* **He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked.**

*Psa 97:11* **Light is sown for the righteous, And gladness for the upright in heart.**

*Psa 97:12* **Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.**

- He closes here **by giving us His promises** to those who hate evil! - *He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them...*
- **And gladness for the upright in heart.** – It results in a life of joy, a life of gladness! This is what a loving of God and hating of evil produces in our lives!
- He continues with **a final call to just praise the LORD - Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.**
- **His holy name** – represents the nature of God. He reminds us that we are to give thanks at the remembrance of God's nature, of His holiness and to rejoice and celebrate in that and to make that the desire of our hearts as well!

**SUMMARY: - Intercessory Prayer (My Utmost for His Highest – Oswald Chambers)**

*"Men always ought to pray and not lose heart."* *Luke 18:1* You cannot truly intercede through prayer if you do not believe in the reality of redemption. Instead, you will simply be turning intercession into useless sympathy for others, which will serve only to increase the contentment they have for remaining out of touch with God.

- True intercession involves bringing the person, or the circumstance that seems to be crashing in on you, before God, until you are changed by His attitude toward that person or circumstance. Intercession means to *"fill up . . . [with] what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ"* (*Colossians 1:24*), and this is precisely why there are so few intercessors. People describe intercession by saying, "It is putting yourself in someone else's place." That is not true!
- **Intercession is putting yourself in God's place; it is having His mind and His perspective.**
- As an intercessor, **be careful not to seek too much information from God regarding the situation** you are praying about, because you may be overwhelmed. If you know too much, more than God has ordained for you to know, **you can't pray; the circumstances of the people become so overpowering that you are no longer able to get to the underlying truth.**
- **Our work is to be in such close contact with God that we may have His mind about everything, but we shirk that responsibility by substituting doing for interceding.**
- **Intercession is the only thing that has no drawbacks, because it keeps our relationship completely open with God.**
- **What we must avoid in intercession is praying for someone to be simply "patched up."** We must pray **that person completely through into contact with the very life of God.**
- Think of the number of people God has brought across our path, only to see us drop them! **When we pray on the basis of redemption, God creates something He can create in no other way than through intercessory prayer.**
- **Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name!**

**OUR GOD REIGNS – Leonard Smith - Gaither**

*How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him Who brings good news, good news, Announcing peace proclaiming News of happiness. Our God reigns our God reigns!*

*Chorus: Our God reigns! Our God reigns! Our God reigns! Our God reigns!*

*Out of the tomb He came With grace and majesty; He is alive, He is alive. God loves us so, see here His hands, His feet, His side. Yes, we know He is alive. [Chorus]*

**PRAY FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD LEADERS: - Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation, including: Xi Jinping – China; Narendra Modi- India; Donald Trump – USA; Joko Widodo - Indonesia; Jair Bolsonaro - Brazil; Arif Alvi - Pakistan; Muhammadu Buhari - Nigeria; Hasina Wazed - Bangladesh; Vladimir Putin- Russia; Lopez Obrador – Mexico; Benjamin Netanyahu – Israel; Angela Merkel – Germany; Theresa May – U.K.; Kim Jong-un – North Korea; Moon Jae-in – South Korea.**

**PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE OFFICERS/MILITARY; ISRAEL:**

**PRAY FOR OUR PASTORS:**

**Brian Brodersen, John Chubik, Craig Coffin, John Henry Corcoran, Kellen Criswell, Scott Cunningham, Julian Duigud, Lance Emma, Cameron Franklin, Jason Huffman, John Hwang, Jim Kuehnert, Sergio Lopez, Will Lynn, Dave Manne, John Moran, Mike Mugavero, George Scanlan, Dave Shirley, Aaron Szloboda, Jordan Taylor, Phil Twente, Carl Westerlund.**