

Part 1 – The Lord Reigneth with Righteousness and Judgment

Now, we’ve come to the *third* chapter in the part of the ‘Numbers Book’ of the Psalms (chapters 95-100), which are related to ***Rest for the Earth Anticipated***. And, let’s remember that **Psalm 95**, had the subject/title of “***Worship in View of the Rest, Anticipated***” *because* it specifically spoke of *true* worship of the Lord (Yehovah). We therefore learned that, while our Heavenly Father does enjoy our praise, songs and thankfulness to Him, all outward worship truly means *nothing* if it’s *not* accompanied by ***true inward*** worship. And the essence of *truly* worshipping our Heavenly Father (YHVH) is *not* hardening our heart to His ‘Voice’. Thus, *true* worship is softening (opening) our heart *to the truth*, which is His Word and Holy Spirit. And then, the last chapter (**Psalm 96**), had the subject/title of a “***Summons to Sing the New Song***”. So, it was a *call* to sing a ‘new song’ *in anticipation for* the coming ‘rest for the earth’ (when Jesus Christ returns to rule the earth in righteousness), to which even the creation looks forward to (Rom 8:18-23). And, while Psalm 96 put forth ‘the call’ to sing the ‘New Song’, this next chapter (**Psalm 97**) will be *the ‘answer’ to it*, because it is the *actual* ‘New Song’. So, it will speak a bit more about the *how* the ‘Lord reigneth’ (i.e. when Jesus returns) than the last chapter did.

Additionally, this chapter again has neither any subtitle nor subscription, as many of the Psalms do. So, we don’t know who wrote it, nor even at what point in time it was written. However, it is possible that, since the last chapter was likely written by David (as shown by a Psalm he wrote as recorded in 1 Chron 16), it’s also possible (although not documentable) that he also wrote this Psalm 97. But regardless, *no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost* (2 Peter 1:20-21). And this Psalm is incredibly prophetic. Further, we know that *all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is **profitable** for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for **instruction in righteousness**: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works* (2 Tim 3:16-4:1). So, this Psalm (as with the others) is still an incredibly enlightening and *prophetic* Psalm, which makes it well worth our studying it...

Psalm 97

1 The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof.

First off, it should be noted that there’s something unique about the first few words of this verse “*The Lord reigneth*”. As we learned a few chapters back, Psalm 93 and 99 also begin with these words *and* all three Psalms (93, 97, 99) also end with the ‘thought of holiness’. This teaches us that, when Jesus Christ reigns, “all will be holy” (Isa 23:18, Zech 14:20-21) and it explains the ‘cry’ of the ‘Zoa’ (Rev 4:8) because ***His judgments*** (when Jesus returns and pours out ‘*the cup*’ of God’s wrath at the ‘day of vengeance’) ***prepare ‘the way’ for His reign***, which is *what* this Psalm is speaking of. After all, people sing a ‘new song’ when *things have changed*, usually for the better, and that makes them *want* to (i.e. gives them *reason* to) sing ‘a new song’. For

example, we often hear songs about someone having the ‘blues’, which means they are sad (or depressed) about their circumstances in life; usually it’s a country song about being ‘dumped’. But, when they find a ‘new love’ in life, they then sing a ‘new song’ - which is a *happy* song in which they *rejoice* for their new found ‘love’. Therefore, this Psalmist is really *prophesying* of the ‘new song’ that *will be sung* when our Heavenly Father returns to the earth via Jesus Christ.

And this isn’t (by far) the only Scripture that speaks of a ‘new song’. We’ll see ‘a new song’ spoken of further on in the Psalms (Ps 98:1, 144:9, 149:1). And we’ve seen it back in Ps 33:3 when David was calling the righteous to ‘sing a new song’ to praise God for all of His wonderful attributes. That was *in response to* the atonement he (and we) received when he repented sincerely (as Ps 32 spoke of), thanks to the blood shed by Jesus Christ (Rom 5:11). And, in Psalm 40:3, David said that God had put a ‘new song’ in his mouth *because*, when he patiently waited for the Lord (YHVH), He heard his prayers *and helped him*. And, it’s not just the Psalms that speak of singing a ‘new song’ to the Lord (YHVH). Isa 42:10 also calls the people of the earth (even the gentiles) to *sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth*. And, of course, Revelations speaks of how the twenty-four elders sang a ‘new song’ to God to praise Him for Jesus’ victory over death *and* the redemption He offers all who come to Him (Rev 5:8-10). And further on, in Rev 14:1-4, we see that the 144,000 (who were sealed in Rev 7) will also sing a ‘new song’ to the Lord (YHVH) because they too were redeemed by Jesus *and* are the ‘first fruits’ of the earth. So again, this ‘new song’ speaks of what happens *at the return of Jesus Christ*, which is the *only* time that *true* ‘peace on earth’ (i.e. rest for the earth) will *ever* come.

Now, the word “**Lord**” here is again God’s Sacred (and covenantal) Name, **Yehovah** (#3068) which means *self-existent* and *eternal* – and that’s because He’s the *only* one who has *always* existed and *always* will, which is *why* He’s eternal (Rev 1:8, 11:17, 16:5, 22:13). And the word ‘**reigneth**’ means not only *to reign* but also *to ascend the throne, to induct into royalty* and (by implication) *to take* [or give] **counsel** (#4427) ... which are *all* things Jesus Christ *will be doing* when He returns (Rev 20:4-6). And the word ‘**earth**’ means *the earth at large, or partitively a land* (#776). And remember, “the Earth and the Nations” are the subject of this “Numbers Book” of the Psalms (pg. 809 in the Companion Bible). And the word ‘**rejoice**’ means *to spin round* (under the influence of any violent *emotion*), i.e. usually *rejoice*, or (as cringing) *fear* (#1523). And this is interesting because, while those who have remained faithful to the true Jesus Christ will indeed be greatly rejoicing (with great emotion, even dancing and singing), those who have *not* been loyal (who worshiped Satan and took the ‘mark of the beast’) will indeed be trembling with fear (Rev 1:7, Isa 51:17; Zech 12:2) insomuch they’ll try and hid in *the dens and in the rocks of the mountains* and pray that the mountains and rocks will fall on them to hide them from *the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb...* for they know that God’s great wrath is going to be poured out on them (Isa 2:17-21; Rev 6:15-17) – and, **it will** (2 Thes 1:8-10; Jer 51; Zech 12-14; Rev 18-19, etc.). And the word ‘**multitude**’ means *abundant in quantity, size, age, number, rank, quality* (#7227) while the word ‘**isles**’ means *a habitable spot*

(as desirable), *dry land, a coast* or *an island* (#339). However, the *Companion Bible* has a note saying that the word ‘**isles**’ is put for (substituted for) the Gentile world, which is a common figure of speech (apx 6). And then the word ‘**glad**’ here means *to be* (or *make*) *blithe* or *gleesome* (#8055).

So, this ‘new song’ begins by fixing a ‘set time’ for us, *which is* the day that Jesus Christ returns to the earth *to rule forevermore*. While the earth truly belongs to our Heavenly Father (because He created it, Gen 1:1; Ex 19:5, Rev 4:11, etc.), He allows the rebels to govern on earth (even the fallen angels, such as Satan, Rev 12; 2 Thess 2) *until* His plan of salvation *is fulfilled*. As Jesus said, *the gospel must first be published among all nations* (preached in all the world) *for a witness unto all nations before* ‘the end’ comes (Matt 24:14; Mark 13:10). So, while our Heavenly Father truly has full control of all His creation (in heaven and on earth) He allows the rebels to continue to rebel *until* the time that Jesus Christ will, *literally*, return to the earth and *fully* take over. As Rev 11:15 says: *And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, **The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*** And that’s also when *everyone* in heaven, and on the earth (and under it too, including anyone who tried to hide in underground bunkers), *will bow a knee to Jesus Christ and* be *forced* to confess that He (alone) is the King of kings and Lord of lords, *to the glory of God the Father* (Isa 45:23-25; Phil 2:10-11). So, Jesus Christ (who is God incarnate, <https://t.me/BibleStudyGodsWord/460>) will indeed reign (over all the earth *and* heaven), and those who have been faithful to Him (Israelites and gentiles alike) *will* rejoice, and be glad, *because* He’s coming to put a *final* end to the wicked *and* establish a worldwide government that will be totally righteous, *forever*. As Ps 37:11 says, *the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace...*

Psalms 97

2 Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne.

Now, this is an interesting verse. Remember, it’s speaking of the return of Jesus Christ... so why will there be ‘clouds and darkness’ round about Him? Let’s look at the Hebrew. So, the word ‘**clouds**’ here does mean *a cloud* (as covering the sky), i.e. *the nimbus or thunder-cloud* (#6051). But, it comes from a word that means to cloud over; figuratively, to act covertly or even to *practice magic* (which is *not* applicable in this verse) (#6049). And the word ‘**darkness**’ means *gloom* (as of a lowering sky) (#6205) and comes from a prim root that means to droop; hence, to drip (#6201). And then the words ‘**round about**’ mean *a circle, neighbour, or environs*; but chiefly (as adverb, with or without preposition) *around* (#5439). It’s also been rendered as *compass, circuit and and ‘on every side’*. And it comes from a prim root that means to revolve, surround, or border (#5437). So, the Hebrew helps us to understand that ‘clouds and darkness’ surround our Heavenly Father... but *why*? Well, as we’ve learned in past studies (such

as Psalms 18 and 68) our Heavenly Father visits this dimension via a flying vehicle He rides in. As such, He's even got a throne in that flying vehicle (call it a 'mobile throne' if you'd like), which we know from the accounts in Ezekiel, chapters 1 and 10. And, as He flies 'upon the wings of the wind' (Ps 18:10) in that magnificent flying vehicle, *clouds surround His vehicle*, usually for the purpose of concealment, but also protection. For as Scriptures such as Ps 18:12-14 and Ex 14:24-26 teach us, He uses those clouds *to fight with* by using His nature via storms, i.e. wind, rain, hail, and lightning. You can learn more about (and get more Biblical documentation for) how our Heavenly Father (and His mighty angelic army that accompanies Him in other flying vehicles) in the following studies...

You Will See Clouds and Wheels, Part 1 <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/392>

You Will See Clouds and Wheels, Part 2 <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/393>

Clouds and the Gathering <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/2514>

Was Christ Here On Earth Before His Birth <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/485>

Spiritual and Material Dimensions <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/263>

So, when this verse 2 (in Ps 97) says that 'clouds and darkness' surround the Lord (YHVH), it's simply telling us *how* He (via Jesus Christ) will return to the earth (which is what this 'new song' in Ps 97 is speaking about). In other words, the Lord (YHVH) will return to the earth via Jesus Christ (who is God incarnate, <https://t.me/BibleStudyGodsWord/460>) and He *will* return with 'clouds and darkness' because *that's what surrounds His flying vehicle*. And the *reason* there's 'darkness' included here is simply because, the clouds surrounding His throne *can be dark*, especially when *they are stormy* – and God uses those 'dark clouds' *to fight with*, via the lightning, wind, hail and rain. Remember, Jesus Christ is returning to this earth to fight the wicked ones on earth, i.e. He's coming back 'with a vengeance' to pour out God's 'cup of wrath' upon the wicked (Deut 32:35, 40-43; Ps 94; Isa 34; Isa 66:13-18; Jer 46:10, 51, Lk 21:20-22; 2 Thess 1:7-10; Rev 18-19, etc.), which is *what* will save (and comfort) all those who have remained faithful to Him [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/489>]. Again, the above studies well document this fact, as do Psalms 18 and 68 that we've already studied. And this is why Jesus said, when describing His return to the earth (i.e. His Second Advent) that all people *will see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory* (Luke 21:27; Mth 24:30; Rev 1:7). So, our Heavenly Father is returning to earth (via Jesus Christ) with 'clouds and darkness' *to take vengeance upon His enemies*. And this is included in the 'new song' (that the faithful will sing when He returns) because, once Jesus Christ returns, He's not leaving. He's *staying here* to rule *forevermore*, which is why all those who remained faithful to Him will have *reason* to sing this precious 'new song'. As Ps 145:20 so beautifully says, *the LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy*.

Now, the latter part of Ps 97:2 then says that: *righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne*. And that's simply explaining how Jesus Christ will rule when He returns to the earth.

The word ‘**righteousness**’ means *the right* (natural, moral or legal), *equity* and (figuratively) *prosperity* (#6664) and comes from a prim root that means *to be* (causatively, *make*) *right* (in a moral or forensic sense) (#6663). And then the word ‘**judgement**’ means *a verdict* (favorable or unfavorable) *pronounced judicially*, especially *a sentence or formal decree* (human or [participant's] *divine law, individual or collective*), *including the act, the place, the suit, the crime, and the penalty*; and it can also mean *justice, including a participant's right or privilege* (statutory or customary), or even *a style* (#4941). Then the word ‘**habitation**’ means *a fixture*, i.e. *a basis and a place*, especially as *an abode* (#4349). And, interestingly, it comes from a prim root that is often rendered as *faithfulness, fixed, perfect or (e)stablished*, which is #3559 and means *to be erect* (i.e. stand perpendicular); hence (causatively) *to set up*, in a great variety of applications, whether literal (*establish, fix, prepare, apply*), or figurative (*appoint, render sure, proper or prosperous*). And then the word ‘**throne**’ is also interesting, for it not only means a *throne (as canopied)* but also *covered* (#3678) and comes from a prim root that means *to plump*, i.e. *fill up hollows* and, by implication, also means *to cover (for clothing or secrecy)* (#3680).

So, when Jesus Christ returns (at His Second Advent) to rule the world *forevermore*, He **will** rule *in righteousness*, which means that He’ll rule *according to God’s Laws*, which are the *only truly* righteous Laws in the universe [<https://t.me/BestStudyBible/155>]. That’s why Jesus said that He wasn’t going to judge people (not even His enemies) by His own personal *feelings*, but by the Word of God (John 12:48). And, as Ps 119:142 so beautifully explains, God’s *righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and His law is the truth*. John 17:17 tells us that **God’s Word is the truth**, so God’s Law and His Word are synonymous. And, that’s also why Deut 32:4 declares that the Lord (YHVH) our God (and Jesus Christ) *is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he*. The Lord (YHVH) and Jesus Christ (who is God incarnate, Col 1:5, John 1:1,14, etc.) is a God of truth and that’s *why* He is *the* Rock (Deut 43:4; 1 Cor 10:4) of all those who will have eternal life (John 17:3). When we truly believe in Jesus Christ then we’ll study God’s Word and sincerely strive to *obey* it, which includes making a good repentance for the sins we see (and continue to do so throughout our whole life, for we all fall short at times, Rom 3:23).

And so, God’s Word is our moral ‘Rock’, which today we’d call our ‘moral compass’ (Isa 54:17). God’s Word gives us the understanding, and strength, we need to do what’s right (obey God) so we *can* obtain eternal life when Jesus Christ returns (or when we die, whichever comes first) and not have to die spiritually (Rev 20:10-15). As our Heavenly Father said in Isa 45:19, He has not spoken in secret. He has made His word (which explains what is right) known to Israel – and then the apostles – and to us today. And that’s why we are commissioned to take the truth (God’s Word) to all people of the world (Mth 28:18-20) so they too have the opportunity to learn of God, repent for their sins and have a obtain eternal life, through faith in (and obedience to) Jesus Christ. That’s also why God is not going to ‘fly’ anyone out of the earth before the ‘great tribulation’ (Mth 24:21) of the antichrist (who is Satan, <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/345>) –

or even afterwards [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/457>]. And that's because God wants His faithful servants to ***remain on earth*** (John 17:15) ***and witness for Him***. That's why Jesus said that the Gospel (of Jesus Christ) must first be preached (published) in in all the world, for a witness unto all nations, before 'the end' (i.e. Jesus' return) comes (Matt 24:14; Mark 13:10).

So, indeed, righteousness and (righteous) judgment (i.e. true justice) are the 'habitation' of the Lord's (YHWH's) throne (via Jesus Christ) because righteousness and (righteous) judgment (i.e. true justice) dwell with Him, i.e. they are an integral part of His holy characteristics. As Psalms 145:17 says, *the LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works*. And the only people who don't like this are those who refuse to believe the truth (God's Word) because they take pleasure in unrighteousness (2 Thess 2:12; John 3:19-21). Thus, they won't be singing this 'new song' when Jesus Christ but rather, they'll be crying their eyes out (Rev 1:7) and praying for the rocks and mountains to fall on them (Isa 2:17-22; Rev 6:15-17) in hopes they'll escape the 'the great day of his wrath (Rev 6:16-17) ... which won't work! *For we must **all** appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that **every one** may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad (2 Cor 5:10). And therefore, *there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was anything kept secret, but that it should come abroad* (Mark 4:22; Eccl 12:14) ...*

*7 Be not deceived; **God is not mocked**: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.
8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit **reap life everlasting**.
9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we **shall** reap, if we faint not.
Gal 6:7-9*

We'll pick this up in part 2...

AMEN.