

Part 4 – The Lord God Is our Holy

In part 3 we learned that, when Jesus Christ returns to the earth, He (alone) will be exalted, and worshiped, because He's the *Supreme* God (our Creator), which means He's the *only one* who can give us *eternal* life and thus, save us from *spiritual* death *and* from the wicked ones who have long persecuted those loyal to the Lord (YHVH). And we also learned we'll worship at His 'footstool', which simply means His throne on earth. And then we saw the Psalmist point out how Moses, Aaron and Samuel all 'called upon' the Lord (YHVH). And, because they were priests (or functioned as one, in the case of Samuel), they were essentially mediators between the Lord (YHVH) and the people. And so, when they 'called upon His Name', *He answered them because* they were faithfully devoted to serving Him, and *not* themselves. And, this is brought out, in this Psalm (99) - that's speaking of the 'New Song' that will be sung when Jesus Christ returns - because our Heavenly Father is *still* calling people to serve Him. As Paul wrote (*to the gentile*, Titus), Jesus Christ *gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works* (in Titus 2:14). And Peter also wrote to the 'scattered strangers' (1 Pt 1:1) that *ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light* (1 Peter 2:9). So, God is *still* calling people to serve Him (2 Cor 6:17; Rev 18:4). And that means we *must* know God's Word (study it consistently, diligently and sincerely) so we know *how* to serve Him *and* how to 'call upon' the *true* Lord, who is *Yehovah* (John 14:13-14, John 15:17, John 16:23-26). But, the Psalmist is not done with the examples of 'great men of faith' who truly knew how to worship the Lord and 'call upon' His holy name....

Psalm 99

7 He spake unto them in the cloudy pillar: they kept his testimonies, and the ordinance that he gave them.

Now the Psalmist is pointing out how the Lord our God (Yehovah = YHVH) communicated with these 'great men of faith' (Moses, Aaron and Samuel). But, he does so to point out *why* the Lord heard (*and answered*) them when they 'called upon His name', which is essential for our study of this 'New Song' that will be sung when Jesus Christ returns. And the reference to the 'cloudy pillar' is actually referring to the days of Moses and Aaron. For they lived when Israel was freed from Egypt, and then were in the wilderness, for forty years. And through that *entire* time, God indeed *went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: and, He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people* (Ex 13:21-22). And, not only did God *protect* Israel via His cloud (Ex 14) but it's also where He *communicated* with Moses and Aaron from. Yet, it's also where He *spoke to Israel* when giving them His Laws (Ex 25:22, 19:9, 19:16-19). And then, it's also where Moses *received God's Laws* from, as well (Ex 24:15-

18). And the Psalmist also points out *how faithfully* Moses and Aaron kept His testimonies, and ordinances, during this time. And while Aaron did waiver at one point in time (Ex 32) he clearly repented and did end up being a pretty darn good servant of the Lord (YHVH), which is why God forgave his unfaithfulness and made him the first High Priest of Israel (Ex 29). Now, an important word, in this 7th verse (here in Ps 99), to understand (and remember *always*) is the word rendered as ‘**kept**’ - for it’s the Hebrew word *shamar* (#8104), which is a prim root that means *to hedge about* (as with thorns), i.e. *guard*, protect and even to *attend to*. This word is used *a lot* throughout the Old Testament (in Exodus and Deuteronomy especially), especially when Moses warned Israel to guard their heart (desires, emotions, intentions, motivations) and mind (thoughts) so they *wouldn’t* be enticed to worship false gods and idols (of the heathen). Therefore, it’s been rendered many other ways, such as *be circumspect*, *take heed* (to self), *observe*, *preserve*, *regard*, *save* (self), *wait* and more.

And the word ‘**testimony**’ does indeed mean *a testimony* (#5713). and comes from a word that also means *a witness* (#5707). While God gave Israel His Commandments (which pertain to individual conduct), Statutes (which pertain to national administration) and His Judgements (which are judgments rendered in the courts pertaining to the Commandments and Statutes), He also ‘testified’ to Israel what would happen if they did – or did not – obey His ‘Laws’, which is a collective term for *all parts of His Laws*, i.e. the Commandments, Statutes, Judgments and even the ‘**ordinances**’, which means *an enactment* (#2706), i.e. the things He appointed Israel to do (blood sacrifices, and other rituals) until the Messiah (Jesus Christ) came and *fulfilled all* of the blood sacrifices, *once and for all* - which He has *now done* (Col 2:14; Eph 2:15; Heb 10:10). And, you can find God’s ‘testimonies’ (i.e. witnessing), of what would happen if Israel did (or did not) obey God’s Laws, laid out really well in Lev 26 and Deut 28.

So, to say Moses and Aaron ‘kept’ God’s testimonies simply means that they *taught* Israel God’s Laws (all parts of it) *and warned them* (over and over again) what would happen if Israel did, or did not, obey the Lord (YHVH). That’s why Moses so often warned Israel (in the book of Deuteronomy) they should be careful to obey the Lord (YHVH), when they went into the Promise Land. And that’s also *why* Moses so often used this precious word *shamar* (#8104) to warn Israel of God’s faithfulness to His testimonies. For if Israel did not ‘keep’ (guard, protect and hedge, #8104) their hearts (with faith in God’s Word) then they *would* fall away from their faith in God’s Word (Laws) *and* succumb to worshipping false gods and idols. And that, in turn, would cause all the ‘cursings’ (written of in Lev 26 and Deut 28) to come upon them, instead of the blessings they could have if they simply obeyed the Lord (YHVH). And, as history teaches us, this is *exactly* what happened (1 Kings 17, 18:9-10, 25).

And yet, Moses and Aaron were also faithful to ‘keep’ (#8104, guard, protect and hedge) God’s ‘ordinances’ *themselves*. And it was important that they do this *because* they were the *top* leaders (aside from God Himself) in Israel. So, they were *examples* to Israel and truly, still are great

examples for us today (1 Cor 10:11). And, the ‘ordinances’ (i.e. the blood sacrifices and other rituals) were ‘the way’ Israel was able to find forgiveness from God *at that time* (i.e. before Jesus Christ came to atone for sins). Further, the blood sacrifices were also ‘the way’ Israel could ‘give gifts’ to God, to thank Him for His blessings and protection, as well as a way to ‘obtain His favor’. To learn more about God’s Law, and the spiritual meaning of the blood sacrifices (what they symbolized and thus, also what they looked forward to in Jesus Christ), check out the studies below...

The Laws of YHVH <https://t.me/BestStudyBible/155>

The Different Blood Sacrifices <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1094>

Sacrifices God Really Wants <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1400>

Sacrifice <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1062>

Sacrifices <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1091>

Temple Mount Animal Sacrifice <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/296>

I will have mercy, and not sacrifice <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/460>

Should We Celebrate the Feast Days <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/329>

So again, the point for the Psalmist bringing up the fact that God communicated with Moses and Aaron (via the cloudy pillar) - and that they were faithful to keep (guard and protect) His testimonies and ordinances - is *to give us an example* of what *truly* worshiping, serving and ‘calling upon the name of the Lord’ is really all about. For, just as Moses and Aaron (and Samuel too) were faithful servants to the Lord (YHVH) – because they obeyed Him, from the heart – so too will those who are chosen to serve in Jesus Christ’s righteous (and eternal) government be. For, as Paul points out in 1 Cor 12 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Corinthians/27], we who believe in Jesus Christ (sincerely) *are* ‘called’ to serve Him in *different* capacities. That means Jesus Christ gives us (the Body of Christ, i.e. His government) *different* gifts we are to use to serve Him. So, just as Moses, Aaron and Samuel faithfully served the Lord (YHVH) - *in the way He called them to* (i.e. their delegated duties) - so too should we find the gift(s) God has given us *and use them* to the best of our ability. And this is *very* important. For, if you don’t know what your gift(s) are – let alone how to use them to serve Jesus Christ – NOW, then you won’t be allowed to serve Jesus Christ when He returns. As Jesus warned us in Mth 7:21-27, *not everyone* who *claims* to be a Christian (follower of Jesus) will be allowed to serve Him, when He returns and sets up the eternal ‘Kingdom of God’ from earth. *Only* those who actually *obey Him* will be allowed that privilege (Mth 5:29; 7:24-25). Jesus even gave us a parable (in Mth 25:15-30) warning us about this as well. To reiterate, if we don’t use the talents (gifts) God has given us *now*, then we won’t be allowed to serve Jesus Christ in the Millennium, *of which this Psalm is speaking of*. So, it’s important that we ‘follow after’ the examples of Aaron, Moses and Samuel and ‘keep’ (guard and protect, #8104) God’s Word – faithfully – so we’re not rejected by Jesus Christ when He returns (as many will be, Mth 7:21-23). The following studies do a great job in helping one to understand how to ‘keep’ God’s Word...

Keep God's Word Part 1 of 4 <https://t.me/BibleStudyGodsWord/465>

Keep God's Word Part 2 of 4 <https://t.me/BibleStudyGodsWord/466>

Keep God's Word Part 3 of 4 <https://t.me/BibleStudyGodsWord/467>

Keep God's Word Part 4 of 4 <https://t.me/BibleStudyGodsWord/468>

Take Heed and Keep It <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/943>

Why Blame God <https://t.me/BibleStudyGodsWord/441>

Psalm 99

8 Thou answeredst them, O LORD our God: thou wast a God that forgavest them, though thou tookest vengeance of their inventions.

Now, this verse is divided into two parts; and, therefore, it's speaking to two different groups of people. The first part (*Thou answeredst them, O LORD our God*) is speaking of Moses and Aaron and then (*after the colon*) it is speaking of the people, Israel. So, because Moses and Aaron faithfully 'kept' (#8104) God's testimonies and ordinances (vs 7) He '**answeredst** them', which is the same Hebrew word used back in verse 5. So, it *still* means **to heed**, i.e. **pay attention**; by implication, **to respond** (#6030). And then the word rendered as '**Lord**' is (yet again) God's sacred (and covenantal) name **Yehovah** [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/946>] which means (the) **self-Existent** or **Eternal** (#3068). So, His name *reveals* that our Heavenly Father (Yehovah) is the *only* one who has *always* existed and *always* will, which is why He is *eternal* (Rev 1:8, 4:9, 11:17, 16:5, 22:13). And then, the first time the word '**God**' is used, in this 8th verse, is the 'title' '**Elohiym**' (#430, also written as '**Elohim** at times), which means **the Supreme God**, who is our **Creator**. Thus, while '**Elohim** is God as the Creator of all things, Yehovah is the same God in covenant relation to those whom He has created. Therefore, while Yehovah is the God ('**Elohiym**) of Israel, He's *also* the God of those who are redeemed, and are thus now 'in Christ' (Rom 3:24; Eph 1:7; Col 1:14; Heb 9:12).

So, the Psalmist is simply saying that Yehovah (our Creator) answered Moses, and Aaron, when they 'called upon His name' and that's *because* they faithfully served Him, as they were commissioned to do by God (Yehovah *and* '**Elohiym**) Himself. But, then the Psalmist goes on (in the latter part of this verse 8, in Ps 99) to speak of Israel, and pointed out that (thanks to Moses, Aaron and Samuels intercessions for Israel, on many occasions) God forgave them. And, what is very interesting is that, this second word rendered as '**God**' (here in Ps 99:8) is not '**Elohiym**' (#430). It's actually another 'title' of our Heavenly Father '**El**' (#410), which means **strength** and **mighty**. And, while it can be used of *any* deity, it is also used to refer to **the Almighty God** who is **Omnipotent**. Thus, **this 'title' ('El, #410) shows the Lord's (YHVH's) strength, power and might**. And that's likely why this 'title' is being used here. '**El** is thus the God Who knows all (first occ. Gen 14:18-22) and sees all (Gen 16:13) and that performeth all things for His people (Ps 57:2) and in Whom all the Divine attributes are concentrated. So, the Almighty God (who is

omnipotent) ‘forgavest’ Israel (thanks to the intercession of Moses, Aaron and Samuel) even though they were disobedient many times. The word ‘**forgavest**’ actually means *to lift* (#5375), so it’s speaking of atonement (Lev 1; Rom 5:11). Again, He did so because Moses, Aaron and Samuel faithfully served as mediators, between God and Israel, just as God had commissioned them to do. [Of course, today, our **only** mediator between us and God (and the world too) is Jesus Christ, as Scriptures such as 1 Tim 2:5, Heb 8:6, 9:15 and 12:24 so candidly declare].

Now, the Psalmist ends this 8th verse by also stating that God *took vengeance of their inventions*, and the ‘their’ referred to is still Israel. The word ‘**inventions**’ means *an exploit* (of God), or *a performance* (of man, often in a bad sense); and, by implication, *an opportunity* (#5949). And it comes from a prim root that means *to effect thoroughly*; specifically, *to glean* (also figuratively); by implication (in a bad sense) *to overdo*, i.e. *maltreat, be saucy to, pain, impose* (also literal) (#5953). So really, this is speaking of the times that Israel was being rebellious to God. *Moffett Bible* renders this part as ‘has avenged their wrongs’. And there were many of them, unfortunately. For, from the time Israel began to go through the wilderness, they complained disrespectfully to God, even chiding (arguing and criticizing) with Moses and Aaron, who were specifically chosen, by God, to lead the nation. As the books of Exodus, Numbers and the Judges tell us, God chastised them through various ways (Heb 12). Sometimes He brought fire upon them (Num 3:4, 11:13, 16:35), caused serpents to bit them (Num 21:6) and many times cleaned out the rebels with plagues (Ex 32:1-35; Num 11:33, 14:37, 16:4, 25:3-9; 2 Sam 24; 2 Chron 21:14, etc.). And once they were in the Promise Land, He would also allow their enemies to invade and subdue them, making them pay tribute (high taxes) and often having their crops and even children stolen away as slaves. And sometimes they were *terribly* rebellious, like the time they made a golden calf (ex 32) or when Korah (and some other men) led a rebellion in Num 16. And, while God did forgive Israel, as a whole (He never killed them all off, as He had threatened to do at times, i.e. Ex 32:10) He *still* punished those who led the rebellions, as well as those who were doing the complaining (chiding), which is why the word ‘**vengeance**’ means to *avenge* or *punish* (#5358).

And this verse is added in the ‘new song’ - that speaks of Jesus Christ’s return - because God’s forgiveness *and* taking vengeance upon the unrepentant are both a *vital* part of Jesus Christ’s return! For truly, it’s *only* by the blood of Jesus Christ’s atoning for our sins that we, who love and obey the Lord, are spared from His wrath when He returns (Rom 5:9; 1 Thes 5:9). *But*, as we’ve learned so many times in our study throughout the Psalms (Ps 5:10, Ps 7:14-17, Ps 9:15, Ps 10:2, 18:25-26, Ps 34:21, Ps 35:4-8, Ps 37:14-15, Ps 57:6, Psalm 64:1-10, Ps 69:22, Ps 140:4-5, Prov 1:29-31, 11:5-6, Jer 23:11-12, Mth 21:28-44) there is a ‘common theme’ – call it a ‘timeless truth – in the Bible. And that is the fact that *the wicked will be ‘brought down’ by their own wicked words and works*. In our Heavenly Father’s Word, we’re *repeatedly* assured that, short of sincere repentance, the wicked of this earth will be convicted, and die, by their own sword - which is to say, by the weapons of their own devising, which includes the lies, deception and decrees *coming out of their mouths* which they’ve used to help tear down Christianity (and

the western Christian nations) and largely place themselves in charge of our heavenly Father's kingdom on this earth (Mt. 11:12). So, this verse testifies that – while our Heavenly Father truly is merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth (Ex 34:6) – He is also a 'terror' to the wicked ones. Why? Because it is a righteous thing to do! (2 Thess 1:6). As Isa 61:2 says, it is the *punishment* of the wicked that *saves* the righteous.

So, yet again, the fact that God forgave those who repented, but punished those rebels who refused to do so (in the days of Moses, Aaron, Samuel) is an example to us (1 Cor 10:11) of what the return of Jesus Christ will be like. For, as Paul pointed out (in 2 Cor 5:10), *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*. And while our Heavenly Father truly loves His children, and deeply desires that they turn back to Him, repent and change from their wicked ways (Ezek 18:32, 2 Pt) *if they refuse*, they **will** be subjected to His 'vengeance'. And *this is how it's going to be* when Jesus Christ returns (Deut 32:40-4; Ps 94, 149; Isa 24, 34, 35, 59:17-21, 63:1-6; Jer 50-51; Rev 18-19; 2 Thess 1:6-10; Heb 10:26-31, etc.). As Deut 32:43 so well explains: *he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will render vengeance to his adversaries, and will be merciful unto his land, and to his people*. And Ps 58:10-11 as well: *The righteous shall rejoice when he seeth the vengeance: he shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked. So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth*.

Psalms 99

9 Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.

Now, the Psalmist ends this precious Psalm ('the new song') with another call (as he did in verse 5) to 'exalt' and 'worship' the "Lord our God". In fact, it's nearly identical to verse 5, but instead of calling us to worship at God's 'footstool' he calls us to worship God at His 'holy hill', *which is the same thing*, i.e. God's Temple (throne) in Jerusalem (Zion). And also, the Hebrew words here are nearly all the same as in verse 5. So, the word '**exalt**' still means *to be high actively*, i.e. *to rise or raise* (#7311). And the word '**Lord**' is still God's sacred (and covenantal) name **Yehovah** [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/946>] which means (the) *self-Existent* or *Eternal* (#3068). And the word rendered as '**God**' here is again '**Elohiym**' (#430), which means *the Supreme God*, who is our *Creator*. And the word '**worship**' means (as in verse 5) *to depress*, i.e. *prostrate, especially in homage to royalty or God* (#7812). However, the first time the word 'holy' is used, it's not the same as in verse 5. However, it is close, for it means *a sacred place or thing* and sometimes even sanctity (#6944). But the second time the word '**holy**' is used *is the same* as in verse 5, which means *sacred* (ceremonially or morally) and (as noun) **God** (by eminence), *an angel, a saint or a sanctuary* (#6918). And they both (#6944 and #6918) come from a prim root that means *to be* (or to *make, pronounce or observe* as) *clean* (ceremonially or

morally) (#6942). And the word ‘hill’ here means *a mountain or range of hills* (#2022) and is *definitely* referring to Zion (#6726) as other Psalms do (Ps 2:6, 3:4, 15:1, 43:3).

So, the call to exalt (lift up via praise) the Lord (YHVH) and to worship Him at His ‘holy hill’ (the Temple in Zion/Jerusalem) is repeated here because *it reinforces the fact that*, when Jesus Christ returns, *everyone* (in heaven, earth and under it) will indeed bow a knee to Jesus Christ. And they’ll also have to confess that He *alone truly is* the King of kings and Lord of lords, which is why the Lord (YHVH) our God (‘Elohyim) will be glorified (Phil 2:10-11; Isa 45:23; Rom 14:11-12). And that is because, when Jesus Christ returns to the earth, He will take *full* control over *all* things. Now, we know Jesus Christ *already* has all power over all things, both in heaven and on earth (Mth 28:18-20). But, at His return to the earth, He will actually fully depose *all* the wicked ones, and install His righteous government (the Body of Christ), so that there will *never again* be wickedness controlling *anything* anymore. And the great thing is, there’s nothing anyone (or anything) can do to stop Him! (Deut 32:39; Jude 14-15, 2 Thes 1:6-10, etc.)

Now, as we learned when studying Psalms 93 and 97, this Psalm not only began with the same words they did (‘The Lord reigneth’) but also ends with the ‘thought of holiness’, just as those two Psalms did. Ps 93 ended with: *Thy testimonies are very sure: holiness becometh thine house, O LORD, for ever.* And Ps 97 ended with: *Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.* And this Ps 99 ends with: *Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.* So, put together, the end of these three Psalms (93, 97 and 99) leaves us with the beautiful thought of: *holiness becometh thine house, O LORD, for ever - give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness - for the LORD our God is holy.* So, 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’ (in 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. So, *now we know what* we (those who remain faithful to Jesus Christ) will be singing when our Lord and Savior (Jesus Christ) *finally* returns to put down (depose and punish) all the wicked ones on earth, and reward those who have been faithfully serving Him *despite* the persecutions from the wicked (John 15:20; 2 Tim 3:12). As Jesus promised us...

10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Matt 5:10-12

So, those who are persecuted for Jesus' sake (i.e. for *obeying Him by doing what's right*) will be given the 'Kingdom of heaven' because they will rule *with* Jesus Christ (Rom 8:17, Rev 20:4-6, etc.). And that's *why* our reward will be *so great* - for not only will we be given authority to rule with Jesus Christ, when He returns, but He will also reward us with *eternal* life (the first resurrection, Rev 20:4-6; Rom 8:11, etc.). And that's why it's so important to remember the 'thought of holiness' from these precious Psalms (93, 97, 99). For, as the Lord (YHVH) said...

23 Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:

24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.

Jer 9:23-24

So, our 'glory' is *in the Lord* (YHVH) and Jesus Christ (who is God in a form we can see, Col 1:15), because *knowing Him is eternal life* (John 17:3). And truly, our righteousness *comes from* Him alone (Isa 54:17), which is why it's so important to learn His written Word (John 6:63). And, as Isa 61:2 also tells us, the 'day of vengeance' *is what* comforts all those who mourn for the wickedness going on (seemingly unabated), because the wicked ones will finally be deposed, *and punished* (when Jesus returns), while we (who remain faithful to Jesus) are given *beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness*, which is *why* we'll be called *trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified* (Isa 61:2-3)...

11 Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you.

12 And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:

13 To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

1 Thess 3:11-13

22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rom 6:22-23

AMEN!