

Series: Psalms
Title: The LORD Reigns in Holiness
Text: Ps 97: 1-5
Date: Jan 16, 2022
Place: SGBC, NJ

Psalm 97 ends with these words.

Psalm 97: 12: Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of HIS HOLINESS.

The Spirit of God commands his people—“*Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous.*” Sinners regenerated by the Spirit worship God in spirit, *rejoicing in the LORD* Jesus Christ alone and have no confidence in our flesh. It is in and by Christ our LORD that we are made righteous. We are perfected by HIS HOLINESS.

Notice the next word, “*give thanks at the remembrance of HIS HOLINESS.*” This Psalm declares the LORD’s holiness. How by HIS HOLINESS he established his people in righteousness when he settled judgment for us on the cross. This is how the LORD reigneth!

The Psalm divides into 3 sections: verses 1-5 declare God’s holiness, verses 6-7 declares the sin of all who reject Christ, verses 8-12 declare the rejoicing of the Lord’s people. In this message, we will look only at verses 1-5. May God give us grace to behold Christ reigning in HIS HOLINESS!

Psalm 97: 1: The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof.

Proposition: The Lord Jesus reigneth in holiness because he established his people in righteousness and judgment by his blood on the cross.

Psalm 97: 1: The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof.

SETTLED JUDGMENT

Psalm 97: 2: Clouds and darkness are round about him...

The Lord Jesus reigns in holiness. He has settled judgment for his people in righteousness on the cross. God is described as dwelling in a cloud and in darkness because his ways are a mystery to sinners. He said, “My ways are not your ways.” It is certain the LORD reigns over providence in clouds and darkness. He works things that we will never understand in this life. But our comfort is knowing the King who redeemed us reigns.

Psalm 77: 19: Thy way *is* in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known.

But the LORD’s reigneth in his holiness by his righteous judgment on the cross.

Psalm 97: 2: Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne. 3: A fire goeth before him, and burneth up his enemies round about. 4: His lightnings enlightened the world: the earth saw, and trembled. 5: The hills melted like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

At Sinai, the Lord sent word to the children of Israel through Moses—“And all the people answered together, and said, “All that the LORD hath spoken we will do.” They actually thought they could. The LORD told the children of Israel to sanctify themselves and be ready to meet God on the third day. So they washed themselves and thought they had made themselves fit to meet God. But then God’s presence made mount Sinai quake with fire.

Psalm 97: 4: His lightnings enlightened the world: the earth saw, and trembled. 5: The hills melted like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

They saw and trembled at the presence of the LORD. They saw they could not meet God by washing and sanctifying themselves. The holiness of God represented in the fiery mountain made them cry out for a mediator.

Exodus 20: 18: And all the people saw the thunders, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw *it*, they removed, and stood afar off. 19: And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die. 20: And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear [his holiness] may be before your faces, that ye sin not.

“All have sinned and come short of the GLORY OF GOD!” No sinner can sanctify and cleanse ourselves so as to make ourselves acceptable to God. They cried for Moses to intercede for them with God. He typifies the Lord Jesus. We must have Christ our Intercessor to be the Mediator between us and God.

Exodus 20:21: And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God *was*.

Exodus 24: 16: And the glory of the LORD abode upon mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days: and the seventh day he called unto Moses out of the midst of the cloud. 17: And the sight of the glory of the LORD *was* like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel. 18: And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights.

Look to the cross! The Lord Jesus is the Intercessor between God and his people as Moses was that day. On the cross “clouds and darkness were round about him: righteousness and judgment went forth. A fire goeth before him, and burneth up his enemies round about. His lightnings enlightened the world: the earth saw, and trembled. The hills melted like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.” The fire of God’s righteous judgment devoured his enemies round about when God’s holy judgment fell upon Christ in place of his people. But Christ reigneth! By his holiness, he established his people in his righteousness and judgment on the cross! He is risen triumphant over sin, death and hell. He has made his people more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Solomon was a type of Christ. Christ is the son of David who built the house of God. After Solomon built the temple, they brought the ark into the holiest of holies.

1 Kings 8: 9: *There was* nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made *a covenant* with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. 10: And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy *place*, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, 11: So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.

The ark of the covenant typified the Lord Jesus. Christ is the Covenant in whom all God's promises are sure. As the law was in the ark of the covenant so Christ our Ark said, “Thy law oh God is within my heart.” Christ is the Ark in whom the law is fulfilled. Christ is the Mercy Seat whose blood covers the law for his people. Our Savior propitiated God for the sins of his people. He is now ascended into the holiest of holies and sat down in his throne. The LORD reigneth! Christ’s glory is the cloud that fills the holiest of holies in heaven right now! The LORD reigneth! What is the result! The priests could not minister because of the cloud because of the glory of the LORD.

Romans 10: 3: Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.

There are sinners who are priests in this earth still trying to offer sacrifices to God which can never take away sin. But Christ established the law and put an end to the old covenant law and its priesthood. Christ established righteousness and judgment for his people. That is how the LORD reigneth! So hear Christ speak when you hear Solomon’s word:

1 King 8: 12: Then spake Solomon, The LORD said that he would dwell in the thick darkness. 13: I have surely built thee an house to dwell in, a settled place for thee to abide in for ever. 14 And the king [Christ our King] turned his face about, and blessed all the congregation of Israel: (and all the congregation of Israel stood.)

Christ has built his people a house. His people dwell in Christ. He is our settled place for thee to abide in forever. When Christ our King turns his face and blesses us, he makes us behold his HOLINESS. He puts the live coal on our tongue making us hear the gospel of how he established his people in his holiness by his righteous judgement on the cross. Hear Christ speaking.

1 Kings 8: 18: And the LORD said unto David my father, Whereas it was in thine heart to build an house unto my name, thou didst well that it was in thine heart. 19: Nevertheless thou shalt not build the house; but thy SON [Christ the Son of David] that shall come forth out of thy loins, he shall build the house unto my name. [Christ has done it! The LORD reigneth! Hear Christ speaking right now from heaven] 20: And the LORD hath performed his word that he spake, and I am risen up in the room of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel. 21: And I have set there a place for the ark, wherein *is* the covenant of the LORD, which he made with our fathers, when he brought them out of the land of Egypt.

Christ makes his new everlasting covenant of grace in our hearts when he brings us out of our Egyptian bondage of sin by making us behold him. The Lord sends his messenger declaring “All flesh is grass.”; “Behold, Thy God reigneth!” It by the Spirit making us behold Christ seated on his throne in his holiness who purged our sin that we behold our flesh is grass. It happened to Isaiah.

Isaiah 6: 1: In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. 2: Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. 3: And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, *is* the LORD of hosts: the whole earth *is* full of his glory. 4: And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. [a thick cloud] 5: Then said I, Woe *is* me! for I am undone; because I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. 6: Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, *which* he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: 7: And he laid *it* upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

When we are made to behold Christ the LORD reigning in holiness, reigning in his righteous judgment over sin, we are made to bow in our hearts. When the Spirit makes his child behold our Holy King has successfully purged away the sin of his

people that is when we fall at his feet the sinner! That is when he makes us know he purged our sin, personally. The four and twenty elders fell at his feet when John heard the angel declare,

Revelation 11: 15: The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. 16: And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, 17: Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

That is how he keeps us partaking of HIS HOLINESS, separated unto him, believing and bowing and worshipping him. "*The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof.*" How glad we are who know Christ is our Holiness! There is no more fire to devour the believer. God says to you believer,

Hebrews 12: 18: For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest,... 20: (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned,...21: And so terrible was the sight, *that* Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)... 22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, 23: To the...church of the firstborn,...to God the Judge of all,...24:...to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of* Abel.

So we rejoice that the LORD reigneth. We rejoice in HIS HOLINESS. He creates a new man in us in his righteousness, not ours. He creates a new man within in HIS HOLINESS, not ours. It is his holiness that we partake of. He robed us in his righteousness. Therefore, we rejoice in Christ alone!

Psalm 97: 12: Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of HIS HOLINESS.

Amen!