

*Finding Yourself in the Psalms*  
*Psalm 97*  
*A Psalm to Choose Who You Will Worship*

Psalm 95-100 “Coronation Psalms”

Dedication of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple

Jews delivered from Babylonian captivity

Their minds were focused on **God’s Deliverance (salvation)**

The MESSAGE for US: *The Lord will REIGN. Do not give up serving Him!*

NEVER Give up!!!

**I. The Coming Glory of God. 97:1-6**

- A. 97:1 “The LORD reigns!”
- B. HISTORICAL - The Lord delivered them from Babylon
- C. PROPHETIC - The Lord would establish His kingdom over all the earth
  
- D. 97:2-6 metaphors to speak of God’s power
  - 1. Fire, lightening
  - 2. Mountains - the most SECURE thing - always there!
    - a. Not many mountains in NJ!
    - b. The sight of a mountain is inspiring - NOTHING can move it!
    - c. V. 5 Even the mountains melt like wax before the Lord!
  
- E. Zech 14:9, 13, 20

**II. The Coming Humility of Man. 97:7**

- A. Don’t be discouraged with the presence of evil. God will judge.
  - 1. Philippians 2:9-11
  
  - 2. Isaiah 45:23 *"By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear."* (Also quoted in Rom 14:10-12)
  
  - 3. (Matthew 12:36) *"But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken."*
  
  - 4. (1 Corinthians 4:5) *"Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men’s hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God."*

**III. The Current Choice of God’s People. 97:8-12**

*How should the Christian respond to God in light of the coming judgment, and the*

*continuing wickedness of man?*

- A. Note “rejoice,” “worship,” “praise” in Psalm 97!
- B. We should worship Him because He is God. 97:8-9
- C. We cannot worship God when we entertain evil
  - 1. (Proverbs 8:13) *"To fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech."*
  - 2. (Psalm 101:3) *"I will set before my eyes no vile thing. The deeds of faithless men I hate; they will not cling to me."*
- D. We must choose who we are going to worship  
(Joshua 24:14-15) *Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."*
  - 1. Because the day is pivotal
  - 2. Because the Lord's return is near
  - 3. Because many are falling away
  - 4. Because compromise will not bear fruit for Christ