

December 15, 2019
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
Psalm 96-97

“The King is Coming,” Part 2

- I. Worship & Witness – Cycle 1 (96:1-6)**
 - A. Worship (1-2a)**
 - B. Witness (2b-3)**
 - C. Why (4-6)**

- II. Worship & Witness – Cycle 2 (96:7-10)**
 - A. Worship**
 - B. Witness (10) – ¹⁰ Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns; indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity.”**

- III. Wait (96:11 – 97:12)**
 - A. With Joy (11-13a) – ¹¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all it contains; ¹² let the field exult, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy ¹³ before the LORD, for He is coming,**
 - B. For the Judge (13) – ¹³ Before the LORD, for He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in His faithfulness.**

 - C. For His Sovereign Rule (97:1-12)**
 - 1. He will Judge the Faithless (97:1-6)**
 - a. The LORD reigns: Rejoice and be glad (1)**

 - b. The LORD reigns: Fear Him (2-6)**

 - 2. He will Judge the False gods (97:7-9)**
 - a. The LORD reigns: Idolaters be ashamed (7)**

 - b. The LORD reigns: True worshipers rejoice (8-9)**

 - 3. He will Give Joy to the Faithful (97:10-12)**
 - a. The LORD reigns: Love Him and Hate Evil (10)**

 - b. The LORD reigns: Give Thanks for His Blessings (10-12)**
 - 1) Preservation / Deliverance (10)**

 - 2) Light (11)**

 - 3) Gladness (11-12)**

So what?

Discussion & Application:

1. The most popular verse in the Bible last year was **Philippians 4:6**. Why do you think it was so popular? Why do people struggle so much today with worry, fear, and anxiety? How does a deep understanding of the sovereignty of God (“The LORD reigns”) impact worry, fear, and anxiety?
2. Does the fact that God is **sovereign** make you rejoice or make you feel uneasy? Why do so many people have a hard time reconciling God’s sovereignty with all the evil they see in the world (or experience in their own lives)? What passages would you use to explain how God can be sovereign and evil can be in the world at the same time?
3. The problem of **idolatry** comes up repeatedly throughout the Bible. Why is idolatry such a huge problem? Why does God hate it so much? What are some specific forms of idolatry in the American culture? One person said, “*Today’s idols are more in the self than on the shelf.*” What do you think they meant by that? What form(s) of idolatry do you struggle with? What does 1 John 5:21 say to do about it? How specifically / practically can we do that on a daily basis?
4. These Psalms speak of a day when the whole universe will worship Jesus Christ and acknowledge His lordship (see also Phil. 2:9-11). For some it will be too late to enjoy the benefits of it as they will endure eternal judgment. What specifically are you doing to get the gospel out to all creation (Mark 16:15)? What else could you do?
5. If we truly rejoice in the LORD’s reign, we will love Him and hate evil. What is the evidence in your life that you truly love the LORD? How does genuine love for the LORD motivate me to hate evil? What specific evil is the psalmist talking about in Psalm 97:10? How does hating it help me overcome it?
6. What are some ways that Christmas has become idolatrous in America? [Even with true believers] How does this idolatrous approach to Christmas increase anxiety? What can you do this year to bring the focus back on the LORD Jesus Christ and rejoicing in His sovereign rule?
7. What does it mean that something is “**sown**” (v. 11)? How does this relate to the concept of *waiting*? What does it mean that light and gladness are sown for the righteous and upright in heart? If they are already sown, why does the psalmist command us to *be glad* in v. 12? What does it mean to be glad *in the LORD*? One man said, “*The godly will be glad; the holy will be happy.*” Is that true of you?
8. How are you doing as a **worshiper**? Are you singing to the LORD and ascribing to Him the glory He deserves? How could you grow as a worshiper? How could you encourage others in our church to do the same?
9. How are you doing as a **witness**? Are you proclaiming the glad tidings of His salvation with clarity and authority? If not, why not? How could you encourage others to be bolder witnesses? How does worship help?
10. How are you doing at **waiting** for Jesus to return? Are you joyful? Are you glad that He will judge sin? Are you seeking first His kingdom and His righteousness while you wait? Is it obvious to others? Are you free of anxiety because you know that He rules right now even though there is evil in the world?
11. List 5 people who are not ready right now for the King to return. Find an appropriate gift you can give them for Christmas that will tell them how they can be ready.