

LESSONS FROM PSALMS NINETY-SEVEN

Scripture: Psalm 97:1-12

Ray O. Brooks

Introduction:

- A. This Psalm seems to be a sequel to 96 which ended with the promise of the Lord's coming to rule over the earth.
- B. This Psalm begins with the declaration — "The Lord reigneth."
- C. The key word of the psalm is "rejoice" along with its synonyms "glad" and "gladness."
- D. Let us note some practical lessons concerning the reign of our Lord and the rejoicing that attends it.

I. LEARN THAT THE LORD IS KING OVER THE WHOLE EARTH.

- A. At this time in history, He is in self-imposed exile awaiting the "fullness of time" when He will come in power and great glory.
 - 1. Before He ascended He promised, "I will come again..."
 - 2. The angels of God said, "This same Jesus shall come in like manner as you have seen Him go."
- B. His coming shall be attended with great signs in the air and on the earth.
 - 1. vs. 3-6
 - 2. Ex. 19:16-19
 - 3. Matt. 24:29,30
- C. The King is coming...and every eye shall see Him.

II. LEARN THAT RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUDGMENT ARE THE FOUNDATION OF HIS RULE. v.2

- A. Righteousness and judgment are the habitation of His throne. (other translations are "basis" "foundation". v.2)
- B. He taught His disciples to pray to the Father that the Father's will might be done on earth as it is in heaven,
- C. Rev. 19:15 tells us that when He comes, He will rule with a rod of iron...not a cruel reign, but a firm one.
- D. Rev. 20:1-3 gives us great insight on the earthly reign of Christ Jesus. (The devil shall be bound and placed in the bottomless pit where he cannot tempt and influence the people.)
- E. Isa. 65:25 sets forth the peace that will reign in the animal kingdom.

III. LEARN THAT THE REIGN OF THE LORD SHALL AFFECT ALL PEOPLE IN ONE OF TWO WAYS. vs. 7, 10

- A. Sorrow and destruction for those who reject Him. v.7
- B. Rejoicing and deliverance for all those who accept Him. v.10

IV. LEARN THAT LOVE FOR THE LORD IS EXPRESSED IN HATRED FOR EVIL. v. 10

- A. Verse 10 issues a command to those who love the Lord..."you hate evil."
- B. Solomon wrote "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil..."
- C. Jesus said, "No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."
- D. The more we love the Lord God, the less we love the world. The more we love the world, the less we love the Lord God.

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- E. God's people need to fall head over heels in love with God.
- V. LEARN THAT A THANKFUL HEART REJOICES IN THE LORD. v.12
 - A. We are not to rejoice in what we have done.
 - B. We are to rejoice in what He has done for us and through us.
 - C. Let us thank God:
 - 1. For His holiness. He cannot lie. All promises kept.
 - 2. For having delivered us from sin.
 - 3. For preserving us until the day.