

The book of Psalms is a book that is totally centered on one main theme— God. The book of Psalms is a book that totally and completely honors God and glorifies God. In fact, a great deal of the book pertains to worshipping and praising God for who He reveals Himself to be. God is a God that we should worship and honor and pray to, and trust and learn about. A great deal of our lives should be spent on carefully studying the Bible so we may ascertain truth about God.

One key theme that we have seen over and over again in Psalms is that one day and future God/King will come to this earth who will reign over the entire world. He will literally sit on a throne and He will control the world and He will be worshipped as God. This King is none other than Jesus Christ.

There are a series of Psalms that are classified as “enthronement” Psalms because the Psalm speaks of this theme. Have you ever wondered what a day will be like when Jesus Christ comes in all of His glory to reign as King? Ever wonder what things will be like and what things will look like? That is the main point of Psalm 97. The main point is this:

JESUS CHRIST WILL ONE DAY RETURN TO THIS EARTH AND REIGN OVER THIS EARTH AS THE GLORIOUS GOD/KING; AND IN VIEW OF THIS, GOD’S PEOPLE SHOULD INVEST THEIR TIME WORSHIPPING GOD, LEARNING ABOUT GOD AND LIVING FOR GOD.

Now in the Psalms God reveals some graphic information about the glorious coming of Jesus Christ. He does not do so just so we will have some interesting knowledge of facts. He gives us this data so that it will affect our minds, hearts and lives. We should have a proper, reverent attitude toward God and that should affect the way we live.

There are four main Kingly–Christological points brought out here:

KINGLY/CHRISTOLOGICAL POINT #1 – The announcement of Christ’s return. **97:1**

From the opening words of the Psalm, we are introduced to the major theme that is being discussed, which is the glorious appearance of the King, which refers to the second coming of Jesus Christ. This will be the time when Jesus Christ will return to this earth to take charge of it and reign over it. When Christ came the first time, He came to suffer and die. When He comes the second time, He is coming back to reign as King.

When Christ comes the second time, all on earth will say, “The LORD reigns,” end of discussion. It will be at that time the earth and all in it will be called to rejoice. The coastal places like the islands that were moved out of their place in the Great Tribulation will also be called to rejoice.

Now during the Great Tribulation the earth and the islands and the seas will have been under severe judgments of God and Christ’s second coming will mean an end to all of those judgments. It will be a time when the earth may literally rejoice.

Now when you look around at the present world, you must admit if Jesus Christ does not eventually come back and reign, we are in real trouble. But we may find great comfort in the fact that Jesus Christ will come and one day the whole world, which is miserable, will be joyful.

When we are totally distraught because of what we see in this world, there are four good things to remember:

- 1) God sovereignly governed the world before we were in it.
- 2) God sovereignly will govern the world after we have gone out of it.
- 3) God can be trusted to sovereignly govern the world while we are in it.
- 4) God can be trusted to sovereignly take over the world when we all are with Him.

KINGLY/CHRISTOLOGICAL POINT #2 – The description of Christ’s return. **97:2-6**

Every now and then some religious person surfaces, who claims to be the Messiah and the Christ. If people would just read the description of the signs that will accompany the coming of Jesus Christ into the world, they would not be so gullible. During the Tribulation many will surface claiming they are the Messiah. These men will be satanically empowered and deceptive. Again, if Israel would think in terms of the signs that will actually accompany the Messiah, the nations would not be gullible. There are six descriptions that are given:

Description #1 - Christ will come to reign surrounded by dark, thick clouds. **97:2a**

The dark clouds are used in reference to the glory of God and to a ferocious, awesome judgment (Amos 5:19-20; Zeph. 1:4-14; Ps. 18:9, 11). What this means is that Jesus Christ will return in an awesome physical display of power. He will come as God pouring out dark judgment.

Description #2 - Christ will come to reign in righteousness and justice. **97:2b**

When Jesus Christ returns to reign, He will reign in total righteousness and He will reign with total and complete justice. Righteousness and justice will be the way His reign will be. The two key words will not be “grace” and “mercy,” but “righteousness” and “justice.”

Description #3 - Christ will come to reign with judgmental fire. **97:3**

When Jesus Christ returns, He is coming with judgmental consuming fire. He is coming to judge and those judged will be burned. He will literally send His adversaries to hell. Every now and then some famous person dies whose lifestyle was certainly not one dedicated to the Word or will of God. Often when someone like this dies, people will emotionally say, “Well we know he is looking down on us now.” Although that is the sentimental mindset of many people, the fact is the person is probably looking for one drop of water on the tip of someone’s finger because he is burning in hell. God is a God who will judge and He will put people into eternal fire.

Description #4 - Christ will come to reign with spectacular lightning. **97:4**

Jesus Christ made it clear that when He returns, He will return via major cosmological signs in the sky (Matt. 24:23-27). God will put on a lightning show announcing the second coming of Jesus Christ. It will be so spectacular and so intimidating that when the people of the earth see this they will tremble (v. 4).

Description #5 - Christ will come to reign and melt the mountains. **97:5**

There is a remarkable description of the coming of Jesus Christ given in Micah 1:3-5 that literally speaks of the mountains melting under Him. Christ's second coming will be such a fiery judgment that it will melt mountains.

Description #6 - Christ will come to reign by declaration of heaven. **97:6**

When Christ comes the heavens will announce it. The heavens will declare it. Notice what is said in **verse 6**, "all the peoples" will have seen His glory on display when He comes.

When Christ returns a second time, there will be no mistaking it. The entire world will know He has returned.

KINGLY/CHRISTOLOGICAL POINT #3 – The effects of Christ's return. **97:7-9**

There are four effects of the return of Jesus Christ:

Effect #1 - Idol worshippers will be totally and completely ashamed. **97:7a**

When Christ comes in all of His glory, people will no longer be proud of themselves and their religion and their beliefs; they will be totally and completely ashamed. They will be ashamed of the way they lived and ashamed of what they worshipped. Someone has said, "He who boasts of an idol, is making an idle boast." One day that one will pay.

Effect #2 - Angels will worship Jesus Christ as God. **97:7b**

This part of the verse coincides with Hebrews 1:6. The word "gods" is a reference to heavenly beings, even those considered to be highly exalted. When Jesus Christ reigns, "all" heavenly beings will worship Him. They will literally worship Him, all of them. I take this to mean all angelic forces, even high-ranking demonic angels.

Effect #3 - Israel will rejoice when Christ reigns as King. **97:8**

Notice the reference to "Zion" and "Judah." When Jesus Christ comes back to reign, Israel will receive everything God has promised to her. She will have her righteous King. She will have the totality of her land. She will be esteemed as the nation of God.

Effect #4 - The whole world will honor Jesus Christ as the Most High God. **97:9**

When Jesus Christ returns, He will be seen and known as the Most High God. He will be exalted above all. He will be seen and known as the Sovereign who is over everything in the earth.

KINGLY/CHRISTOLOGICAL POINT #4 – The application in view of Christ’s return.
97:10-12

There are six applications that we may make:

Application #1 - God wants those who love the Lord to hate evil. **97:10a**

In view of the future coming of the Lord, we have the responsibility to “hate” evil. No one can properly love God if they do not hate evil. Evil people, places, programs, promotions, periodicals, pursuits and philosophies are all things we should hate.

Application #2 - God wants us to realize that He will preserve the soul of the godly. **97:10b**

In times of judgment and wrath, God preserves the souls of those godly. God’s people have nothing to fear when it comes to the condemnatory wrath of God.

Application #3 - God wants us to realize that He delivers the godly from the wicked. **97:10c**

There are two parts to the work of God—preservation and deliverance.

Application #4 - God wants us to realize that light is sown for the righteous. **97:11a**

The point here is that God permits His righteous people to grow more and more in the light of His Word. He sheds more and more light on those who respond to Him.

Application #5 - God wants us to realize that gladness is given to the upright in heart.
97:11b-12a

It is possible to live in an evil world and still have gladness in the heart. It happens by being upright in one’s heart. Gladness comes to one who is upright in heart.

Application #6 - God wants us to give thanks to Him. **97:12b**

God wants us to be thankful people. The day Jesus Christ returns will be a day we will thank God.

The day is coming when Christ will return and He will reign. That is exactly what is predicted in Psalm 97.