

Evening Sermon Outline – March 21, 2021
“The King is Coming” Psalm 97

I. Our God reigns, His kingdom is coming, a reason for rejoicing –

¹ The LORD reigns; Let the earth rejoice; Let the multitude of isles be glad! Psalm 97:1 (NKJV)

1. What is pictured here is the rule of our Lord and God, He is sovereign. He is in control, even when it might seem He is not. It is reason for rejoicing because His rule is righteous –

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne. Psalm 97: 2 B (NKJV)

2. God Himself is described here as hidden -

² Clouds and darkness surround Him;... Psalm 97: 2 A (NKJV)

- A. In one sense He is hidden for our protection –

²⁰ But He said, “You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.” ²¹ And the LORD said, “Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. ²² So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. ²³ Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.” Exodus 33:20–23 (NKJV)

- B. In another sense His hiding is to entice seeking –

¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13 (NKJV)

3. Are the isles churches?

Verse 1.—“The isles.” Figuratively the isles may be taken for all the churches. Why isles? Because the waves of all temptations roar around them. But as an isle may be beaten by the waves which on every side dash around it, yet cannot be broken, and rather itself doth break the advancing waves, than by them is broken: so also the churches of God, springing up throughout the world, have suffered the persecutions of the ungodly, who roar around them on every side; and behold the isles stand fixed, and at last the sea is calmed.—*Augustine*.

II. He is a fire, and has a fire, both for His friends and especially His enemies -

³ A fire goes before Him, and burns up His enemies round about. ⁴ His lightnings light the world; The earth sees and trembles. ⁵ The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, At the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. Psalm 97:3-5 (NKJV)

1. Our God is a consuming fire –

²⁴ For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God. Deuteronomy 4:24 (NKJV)

It is important to remember, just as much as God is described as Love – 1 John 4:8, so also is He described as a consuming fire! He is our Heavenly Father, but also a righteous Judge –

¹⁶ Now the glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. ¹⁷ The sight of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. ¹⁸ So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights. Exodus 24:16–18 (NKJV)

2. The giving of God’s law was like this -

²⁴ And you said: ‘Surely the LORD our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire. We have seen this day that God speaks with man; yet he *still* lives. ²⁵ Now therefore, why should we die? For this great fire will consume us; if we hear the voice of the LORD our God anymore, then we shall die. ²⁶ For who is *there* of all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we *have*, and lived? Deuteronomy 5:24-26

3. Christ’s Baptism of us is with the Holy Spirit and fire –

¹¹ I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Matthew 3:11

- A. Christ’s baptizing us in fire refers to His providential control of our trials -

- B. In God’s people fire (trials) melt away dross –

¹⁰ But He knows the way that I take; **When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.** Job 23:10 (NKJV)

⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than

gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 1 Peter 1:7

4. Yet, for the wicked it is unquenchable wrath –

¹² His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” Matthew 3:12 (NKJV)

³ A fire goes before Him, and burns up His enemies round about. Psalm 97:3

Verse 3.—“A fire goeth before him.” There is no less, but rather more wrath attending the despisers of the Gospel, than did attend the giving out of the law. Heb. 12:29.—David Dickson.

5. When the Psalmist speaks of mountains trembling and melting, like wax, this is just the beginning of God’s judgment of an ungodly world –

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 2 Peter 3:10 (NKJV)

⁴ His lightnings light the world... and ⁶ The heavens declare His righteousness, Psalm 97:4 & 6

6. These verses are likely speaking to the power of a great storm, sometimes used to judge the ungodly –

²³ And Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven; and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire darted to the ground. And the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt. ²⁴ So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, so very heavy that there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. ²⁵ And the hail struck throughout the whole land of Egypt, all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail struck every herb of the field and broke every tree of the field. Exodus 9:23–25 (NKJV)

7. Yet, everyone can see God’s glory in the sky -
And all the peoples see His glory. Psalm 97:2-6 (NKJV)

Psalm 19:1 A “The heavens declare the glory of God;...”

III. Those who worship false “gods” should be ashamed, they need to repent, “gods” are to worship God! -

⁷ Let all be put to shame who serve carved images, Who boast of idols. Worship Him, all you gods. Psalm 97:7

All you “gods” in the last part of this verse is a reference to angels!

1. Zion here represents the true people of God, they rejoice in God’s judgments -

⁸ Zion hears and is glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoice because of Your judgments, O LORD. Psalm 97:8 (NKJV)

2. God’s people know He is the Most High and worship Him accordingly -

⁹ For You, LORD, are most high above all the earth; You are exalted far above all gods. Psalm 97:9 (NKJV)

IV. God’s people are instructed and encouraged –

1. They are instructed to hate evil!

¹⁰ You who love the LORD, hate evil! (NKJV)

They are free to hate evil, even in a wicked world, because:

A. God preserves and delivers the souls of His saints -
He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked. Psalm 97:10 B

B. Light is sown for the righteous –

¹¹ Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart. Psalm 97:11 (NKJV)

Light and gladness in this world, are sown for God’s people, and so the sinful enjoyment of good things in this world by the ungodly is like stealing!

2. Therefore, we should rejoice in the LORD and thank Him -

¹² Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name. Psalm 97:12 (NKJV)

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