

Ps. 96:7-13 (LD 19, Q/A 52) “Rejoicing in Judgement”

For the Children: Have you ever been in trouble for smiling when you see a sibling or a classmate punished for some wrong-doing? It is not good to laugh at someone else’s suffering – even if it is deserved. How, then, can we rejoice in the judgement of sinners at the end of the world? We do not rejoice in the fact that the wicked will suffer great pain in hell. We rejoice in the fact that the Lord Jesus will show Himself as a great and glorious King and Judge; and that He will judge with perfect fairness. We also look forward to the fact that on that Day, we will be found “Not guilty!” – because the Lord Jesus has saved us from sin. **Questions;** How does the truth of the final judgement help us to worship God? What should we tell unbelievers about the final judgement? List the reasons we have to rejoice in the fact that Jesus is coming to judge the world.

Introduction:

First Point: A Reason to Worship

- 1) Ascribe Glory and Strength: The final judgement (vss. 10 and 13) calls us to worship – to praise, sing, confess His Name (vss. 7 and 8; also vss. 1 and 2). For this judgement displays the Lord’s glory and strength (vss. 7 and 8), splendour (v. 9) and greatness (v. 4). These are attributes of the God whom we love. We wish to see these attributes displayed for all to see.
- 2) Tremble before Him: The greatness and glory of God cause us to tremble with the fear of the Lord – with awe, amazement and love combined.
- 3) Consecrate Your Life to Him: The worship of God also involves repeated ratification of our covenant-commitment to Him. In OT terms, this is put in terms of a meal-offering in His courts (v. 8) – a symbol of dedication of all we have and are, to the Lord. The final judgement reminds us to renew this dedication.

Second Point: A Message to the World

- 1) The Lord Reigns: These truths that move us to worship the Lord are also part of the message we are privileged to carry to the world. Ps. 96 emphasizes this response of passing on the truth to others (vss. 10, 2 and 3). We not only pass on the good news of His salvation (v. 2), through Christ’s death and resurrection; but also the exalted state of Christ – as seen in His ascension, heavenly session and return as Judge of all the world. He is the One who reigns. We must call on all people to submit to the Great King!
- 2) A Sober Warning: Because Christ is King and will return as Judge, we must warn the world that rebels will be punished with eternal death. We must call on them to repent while there is still time.
- 3) He Will Judge Justly: We also point out that Christ’s judgement will be with equity, righteousness and faithfulness. This is good news for the elect. It also means that the wicked will have no cause for complaint – and no chance of a reprieve, if they have rejected the Lord Jesus in this life.

Third Point: A Cause for Joy

- 1) The Lord Is Coming: To sum up our reasons for rejoicing in the final judgement, we first note that this event is part of the Lord’s coming again (v. 13). We rejoice in the knowledge that we will see *Him* face-to-face.
- 2) He Comes to Restore: We also rejoice in the knowledge that Christ comes to declare our salvation, to vindicate His people; to restore and glorify our bodies; to restore all creation (vss. 11-12, with Rom. 8:21).
- 3) He Comes to Remove Enmity: The Lord also comes to remove finally Satan, sin, death, decay, and all earthly enemies of God’s people. In order to find the truth of the final judgement a matter of joy rather than anxiety, we need to focus on these aspects of what the Lord Jesus will do.

Conclusion: