

Psalms for the Soul

Majesty

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Majesty

***What are some things in the bible
that make you pause and say
“hmmm?”***

***What would we do with a God whose
every move we could predict?***

Our approach.

1. *Psalms that tell us of MERCY. (Psalm 123)*
2. *Psalms that tell of God's PROTECTION. (Psalm 121)*
3. *Psalms that tell us of PRAYER. (Psalm 3)*
4. *Psalms that tell of God's BLESSING. (Psalm 1)*
5. *Psalms that tell us about LOVE. (Psalm 36)*
6. *Psalms that tell us God's MAJESTY. (Psalm 97)*
7. *Psalms that tell us of PEACE. (Psalm 120)*
8. *Psalms that tell of God's WORD. (Psalm 119)*
9. *Psalms that tell of the MESSIAH. (Psalm 110)*
10. *Psalms that tell of WORSHIP. (Psalm 89)*
11. *Psalms that tell of PRAISE. (Psalm 145)*

Ps 93:1

***The LORD reigns, He is clothed with
majesty; NKJV***

- ***The presence of the Lord is itself an overwhelming declaration.***
-  ***Who else has ever had to hide himself because his image is awesome enough to stop the hearts of men?***
- ***This is the God who, when he wanted to visit his creation, had to disguise himself as a baby.***

Ps 93:1

The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty; NKJV

- ***Queen Elizabeth is addressed as 'her majesty'.***
- ***She is the reigning queen of England and a lot of pomp and circumstance surround her movements.***
- ***I have never understood the English 'monarchy thing' because they all appear to be just spruced up folks like the rest of us.***

Ps 93:1

***The LORD reigns, He is clothed with
majesty; NKJV***

- ***I want a monarch who is not just a little better dressed than me, I want a King who can clothe me with his righteousness.***
- ***I don't want to just watch the king pass by, I want him to walk with me.***
- ***And I don't want a monarch who needs me to pay his bills, I want a king who gives me enough to give to others.***

Ps 97:1

***The LORD reigns; Let the earth rejoice;
Let the multitude of isles be glad! NKJV***

- ***The writer begins with an assertion that God reigns. (not necessarily in control)***
- ***He created all that exists, he allows his creation to move, think, and act under his permissive will.***
- ***He will one day right every wrong and bring every motion and motive of his creation into judgment.***

Ps 97:1

***The LORD reigns; Let the earth rejoice;
Let the multitude of isles be glad! NKJV***

- ***Because God reigns, all the peoples of earth are to rejoice. (if we choose not to praise Him nature itself will fill the void)***
- ***All reasonable people conclude there is a god somewhere who designed all that we see and plays some role in life's events.***
- ***Hence, God has sought to make himself known so that men can worship, not just some god, but the true God.***

Ps 97:2-9

2 Clouds and darkness surround Him; Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne. 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. 6 The heavens declare His righteousness, And all the peoples see His glory. 7 Let all be put to shame who serve carved images, Who boast of idols. Worship Him, all you gods. 8 Zion hears and is glad, And the daughters of Judah rejoice Because of Your judgments, O LORD. 9 For You, LORD, are most high above all the earth; You are exalted far above all gods.

NKJV

Clouds and Darkness Surround Him

- ***For all that he has revealed to us, there is yet a certain mystery about God to us.***

 ***We cannot see him out. I think that's the way he wants it.***

- ***What would we do with a God whose every move we could predict?***

We would try to manipulate Him

Clouds and Darkness Surround Him

- ***The 21st century western Christian has come to expect a certain amount predictability in his world.***
- ***We have mastered many things and computerized even more. We are accustomed to inputting X and Y and receiving the outcome of Z.***



And we sometimes wish that God was as predictable, but I must ask again, what kind of a god is that?

Clouds and Darkness Surround Him

Why did God harden Pharoah's Heart?

Rahab shows up in Hebrews 11?

David is a man after God's own heart?

Samuel's sons became like Eli's sons?

Hosea was told to marry a prostitute?

John the Baptist filled in the womb?

Paul had a healing gift that didn't work for him?

Clouds and Darkness Surround Him

- ***The mystery that surrounds and describes our relationship with him is one of the things that adds to his majesty.***
- ***In fact, if you don't like mystery maybe you should not look too deeply into his word.***
- ***If we approach the Christian life honestly you soon conclude that for every rock solid promise that we have there is at least one other truth that makes you pause and say hmmm?***



Ps 97:2

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne. NKJV

- ***If God were ever to be anything but righteous and just he would cease to be God.***
- ***Under girding all else in his kingdom is the righteous and just treatment of all things.***
- ***He has built his kingdom upon these two pillars. Without them, does his love have any significant meaning?***



Ps 97:3

3 A fire goes before Him, And burns up His enemies round about.

- ***Along with the mystery of God is also the reality of his judgment.***
- ***This fire goes out to burn up his enemies. (Phil 3:18, Rom 5:10)***
- ***This kingdom that is founded upon righteousness and justice would soon crumble without his judgment.***

Ps 97:3

3 A fire goes before Him, And burns up His enemies round about.

- ***Somewhere between preaching fire and brimstone and the love of God is the balancing truth of both.***
- ***He will judge his enemies (all unbelievers) if he must, but he would prefer to make them his righteous friends.***
- ***That is when this verse fleshes out Rom 3:26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.***
NKJV

Ps 97:4-5

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. NKJV

- ***2 Peter 3:10 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. NKJV***
- ***There is a day of judgment coming that will be so overwhelming even the earth will melt before Him.***

Ps 97:4-5

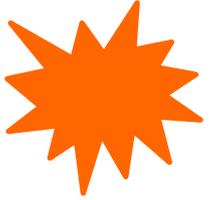
4 His lightnings light the world; The earth sees and trembles. 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, At the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. NKJV

- ***The psalmist is telling us straight up that the God of heaven is not to be trivialized or marginalized.***
- ***He insists on being preeminent, he deserves to be, and he will be.***
- ***His judgments light the world like lightning and they are even more powerful. His light makes all creation tremble and stand in awe; he is the Lord Almighty!***



Ps 97:6-7

6 The heavens declare His righteousness, And all the peoples see His glory. 7 Let all be put to shame who serve carved images, Who boast of idols. Worship Him, all you gods. NKJV

- ***All of nature affirms that he is God and the witness of nature is enough to make all men accountable.*** 
- ***Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. NKJV***

Ps 97:6-7

6 The heavens declare His righteousness, And all the peoples see His glory. 7 Let all be put to shame who serve carved images, Who boast of idols. Worship Him, all you gods. NKJV

- ***The psalmist now reasons with any adversary of God. His argument is that when compared to God all other gods pale.***
- ***How could you ever mount an argument that a god you carved yourself out of wood, could in any way measure up to the creator of the wood?***
- ***It is even a shameful position to hold.***

Ps 97:9

9 For You, LORD, are most high above all the earth; You are exalted far above all gods.

- ***Here we see it again; the Lord is not 'just' better than other gods, he is exalted above them.***
- ***Our God is not just some alternative to other gods, he is not just one of many, and he is not their peer.***
- ***God is not just a little better, or somewhat superior, there are no other gods that even merit a comparison.***

Ps 97:9

9 For You, LORD, are most high above all the earth; You are exalted far above all gods.

- ***The first two commandments make it quite clear how God feels about 'other' gods.***
- ***Ex 20:3 You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image — any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. NKJV***

Ps 29:4

***4 The voice of the LORD is powerful;
The voice of the LORD is full of majesty. NKJV***

- ***When he speaks his voice is majestic.***
- ***His voice is to be heard and is in fact a voice that cannot be ignored or silenced.***
- ***Those who try to ignore him and shut him out will never succeed for more than brief moments.***

His Word Cannot Be Ignored

- ***Isa 55:10-11 "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower, And bread to the eater, 11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. NKJV***

Ps 29:4

***4 The voice of the LORD is powerful;
The voice of the LORD is full of majesty. NKJV***

- ***Often what we see rebellious men doing is the out workings of the fact that they cannot escape his convicting voice.***
- ***They concoct elaborate, but dumb positions to try to disprove even his existence.***

 ***They have tried to prove that he does not exist, they have tried to prove that he is dead, and they continue to try to make him irrelevant, but his voice will not be silent.***

I love the fact that our God is mysterious and often unpredictable. I think that if we could figure him out, then he would probably no longer be God.

I like that his ways are not our ways because I have noticed that my ways frequently cause me pain, but His ways never bring regret to my door.

What do you think?