

November 22, 2020

Committed to His Worship

The Point: God deserves our worship and praise.

How often do we focus on the good things God has given us?

Psalm 99:1 – 3 The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake. ² Great is the LORD in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations. ³ Let them praise your great and awesome name— he is holy.

We praise God for His holiness and great power. When we read God’s Word, attend worship services or music services we feel joyful praise in our hearts for the Lord. When we reflect on what the Lord has done to create the universe, we know that He alone reigns with absolute authority.

We tremble when our love gives way to reverence in the awareness of His presence. His creation responds by quaking. We affirm His majesty. We worship Him with complete submission. God alone reigns. God alone sits on His throne surrounded by His angelic attendants, the cherubim. No one else sits on that throne. God alone is exalted and lifted high.

Jerusalem was the political, economic, and spiritual center of the nation of Israel. God’s people often referred to Jerusalem as Zion. In the New Testament, Zion refers to heaven. Originally Zion was a fortified hill in Jerusalem. It was God’s intention for Israel to flourish as a nation under His sovereign reign.

God did not intend for His reign to be limited to Israel. The Psalmist uses the word “them” in verse 3 to mean all people in the world. The people of every nation need to bow before Him in worship. When we surrender our lives to Him, we are able to experience His blessings. When we understand God’s name and know that He is holy, we feel joy and peace and we praise Him!

How has God revealed His power in your life in ways that caused you to worship Him?

- healing
- given guidance and encouragement through His Word
- provided a job at just the right time
- worked in the lives of our children, grandchildren
- protection in a dangerous situation
- given blessings we did not deserve – grace

Next, we will discover that God is a God of justice.

Psalm 99:4-5 (NIV) The King is mighty, he loves justice—you have established equity; in Jacob you have done what is just and right. ⁵ Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy.

We are prompted to praise God for His justice, fairness and righteousness. God loves justice and loves doing what is right. God set fairness in motion in our world. God expects us to treat others the same way He would treat them. Being righteous is being right with Him. We have received His gift of salvation. Once we were separated from Him, but He provided a way of salvation for us through faith in Christ. When we give our lives to Christ, He makes us right with Him. He graces us with the blessing of new birth, the honor of being His child, the hope of eternal life, and the constant presence of His Spirit to help us grow in Him. As a result of these blessings, we are to see people through His eyes and strive to treat them with justice.

God is worthy of our adoration and praise. God's people should exalt (promote, elevate, praise, laud, acclaim, applaud, revere) the Lord. We should bow before the Lord showing our submission, our devotion, our sincere love and humble reverence. We should bow in worship at His footstool.

In ancient Israel, kings would place their feet on stools where they had carved images of the faces of their adversaries whom they had conquered. When they placed their feet on the stool, it signified their dominance over the conquered nations. For that reason, the footstool is a symbol of complete authority that came to be identified with God's sovereignty over the earth. It signifies the eternal reign of Christ.

These verses end with "He is Holy." To be holy refers to a **state of being set apart from defilement**. The Hebrew word translated "holy" comes from a term meaning "separate." Thus, what is holy is separated from common use, or held sacred, especially by virtue of its being clean and pure. God is holy to the supreme degree. Our society has chosen to mistreat God's name by using it in vulgar language and disrespect. They have lost sight of His holiness. We need to respect God's name and give Him praise by the words we use and the life we live.

Listen for men who prayed on behalf of God's people.

Psalm 99:6-9 (NIV) Moses and Aaron were among his priests; Samuel was among those who called on his name; they called on the LORD and he answered them. 7 He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud; they kept his statutes and the decrees he gave them. 8 O LORD our God, you answered them; you were to Israel a forgiving God, though you punished their misdeeds. 9 Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his holy mountain, for the LORD our God is holy.

The psalmist makes reference to Moses, Aaron, and Samuel. They were great leaders in Israel's past. They were men who demonstrated attitudes of worship, trust and obedience. He provided them with the decrees and statutes that he expected them to honor. They called on the Lord and He answered. When we pray, He answers us too. He doesn't leave us alone. He communicates to us. He works with us through our circumstances.

God spoke to His people through His actions and through His Word. These verses teach us that we should worship Him daily. His Word and prayer should be a part of our daily lives. God speaks to us to bring our sins to our attention so we will surrender to Him in repentance.

Verse 9 says we should exalt God, bow in worship at His holy mountain, for the Lord our God is holy. We should have an intimate relationship with God and tremble at His holiness. For the third time, the Psalmist speaks of God's holiness. When we think about His greatness, His justice and righteousness, and His intimacy with us, our hearts overflow with joy. We rejoice because we belong to Him by faith in Christ. Our joy prompts us to worship Him with sincere praise and heartfelt adoration.

Remember to worship and praise God in this season of Thanksgiving. God is so good to us.

- read daily to learn what He wants to say to you
- scripture will reveal much of God's purposes
- claim His promises
- talk to God often
- be quick to confess your failures and receive His forgiveness
- worship Him for who He is
- praise and thank Him for what He has done
- declare your trust in His power and authority and love