

Psalm 99 Yahweh Still Sits on His Throne

Introduction: Psalm 99 is found in the fourth book of Psalms. These psalms focus on Yahweh's covenant with David. Ps. 99 focuses on Yahweh's reign in His holiness. This is the finale in the collection of psalms (95-99) that focus on Yahweh's enthronement. Sometimes they are also referred to as the Theocratic (rule of God) or Royal Psalms.

It appears to be written especially for Gentiles to understand.

The true starting point for a study of biblical prophecy is a grand and exalted view of God. (Ronald Allen)

1) Yahweh's rule is done in sovereign, majestic splendor—99:1-3

a) Over the whole world—99:1a

i) ¹ **Yahweh** reigns [*malak*],

(1) *let the peoples* (Gentiles) *tremble*;

(a) We should tremble at His judgment. (Is. 64:2)

(b) We should tremble at His goodness. (Jer. 33:9)

b) Over Jerusalem, in the holy of holies—99:1b

i) *He sits enthroned* [*yasab*] *above the cherubim*,

(1) *let the earth* (Gentiles) *quake!*

c) Over Jerusalem and the whole world—99:2-3a

i) ² **Yahweh** is great [*gadol*] in Zion, and He is exalted [*yarum*] above all the peoples (Gentiles).

(1) ³ *Let them* (Gentiles) *praise Your great* [*gadol*] *and awesome* [*yare*] *name*;

(a) One's name reflects one's character.

d) **holy** [*qadosh*] **is He**.—99:3b

i) Set apart: Distinctive or unique.

ii) Perfect: Moral purity.

2) Yahweh's rule is done in fairness and equity—99:4-5

- The nature of the King's rule is no different from his character. (Willem VanGemeren)

a) **Facts**—99:4

i) ⁴ *The strength* [*oz*] *of the King loves justice* [*mishpat*];

(1) Yahweh possesses the ability to do what He has decided.

(2) Yahweh does what He does because He loves justice.

(3) Alec Motyer puts it this way: With all his strength the king backs the decisions ('judgment') he has made; he is devoted to his truth.

ii) *You have established equity* [*mishraim*];

(1) Yahweh alone determines straightness.
iii) *You have done justice [mishpat] and righteousness [tsedaqah] in Jacob.*

b) **Response**—99:5a

i) Honor: ⁵ *Exalt [yarum] Yahweh our God*
ii) Humility: *and worship [shahah] at the footstool of His feet* (probably the temple mount in Jerusalem);

c) *holy [qadosh] is He*—99:5b

i) Set apart: Distinctive or unique.
ii) Perfect: Moral purity.

3) Yahweh's rule is done in faithfulness and mercy—99:6-9

a) **Facts**—99:6-8

i) The mediators of Israel—99:6a

• The psalmist explains Israel's history for the Gentiles

(1) ⁶ *Moses and Aaron were among His priests,*
(2) *and Samuel was among those who called on His name;*

ii) Their intercession on behalf of Israel—99:6b

(1) *they would call upon Yahweh and He would answer them.*

iii) Yahweh's response to the prayers of the mediators—99:7-8

(1) Revelation: ⁷ *He would speak to them in the pillar of cloud;*

(a) *they kept His testimonies and the statute that He gave them.*

(2) Responded positively: ⁸ *O Yahweh our God, You answered them;*

(a) Forgiveness: *You were a forgiving God to them,*

(b) Chastening: *and yet an avenger of their evil deeds.*

(3) As Alec Motyer writes: forgiveness without chastening would make us complacent, and chastisement without forgiveness would make us despair. Forgiveness without discipline would make us spoilt children; discipline without forgiveness would break our hearts. Together they guarantee that while we can treat forgiveness as certain, we can never treat sin as negligible.

b) **Response**—99:9a

i) Honor: ⁹ *Exalt [yarum] Yahweh our God*

ii) Humility: *and worship [shahah] at His holy mountain* (in Jerusalem),

c) *for holy [qadosh] is Yahweh our God.*—99:9b

i) Set apart: distinctive or unique.
ii) Perfect: Moral purity.

4) Things we need to remember:

a) Our response to the Kingship of God is to be one of genuine and profound awe.

- b) He is holy; he is also, against all our deserving, not ashamed to be called ours. (Derek Kidner)
- c) All of this will ultimately find its fulfillment in the coming of Jesus the Messiah. When he puts down all his enemies and establishes his righteous reign, then the acclamation and praise of his greatness and his grace will be fully realized and fully appreciated. (Allan Ross)
- d) Isaiah tells us that one day all the nations will be a constant stream of people heading to Jerusalem. (Is. 2:1-4). May this day come quickly.