<center>Psalm 96:1-13</center>

**Introduction**: Found in the fourth book of Psalms (Psalms 90-106), which focuses on the reign of God. "It is intended to direct attention away from the Davidic covenant and monarchy altogether and to place all the emphasis on the sovereignty of the supreme King, Israel's God." (Grogan)

This psalm contains 13 clear commands, plus 4 additional implied commands, for a total of 17 commands to be obeyed. Curiously it is quoted in 1st Chronicles 16:23-33, associated with bringing the ark up to Jerusalem.

Someone once described worship in this way: "To worship is to quicken the **conscience** by the **holiness** of God, to feed the **mind** with the **truth** of God, to purge the **imagination** with the **beauty** of God, to open the **heart** to the **love** of God, to devote the **will** to the **purpose** of God."

**Superscription**: none

**Jews are to honor the one True God—96:1-6**
1) What are we to do verbally?—96:1-3
   a) Israel was to **sing**—96:1-2a
      i) *¹ Sing to Yahweh a new* (fresh) *song!*
      ii) *Sing to Yahweh, all the* (inhabitants of the) *Land!*
      iii) *² Sing to Yahweh,*
      iv) *bless His name;*
   b) Israel was to **witness** to us as Gentiles—96:2b-3
      i) *announce the good news of His salvation from day to day.*
      ii) *³ Report His glory among the nations,* (and) *His wonderful works among all the peoples.*
2) Why are the Jews to do these 6 things?—96:4-6
   a) God's supremacy—96:4-5
      i) *⁴ For great is Yahweh,*
      ii) *and exceedingly praiseworthy;*
      iii) *He is to be held in awe above all gods.*
        • Why is He to be held in awe above all gods?
      (1) Negatively—*⁵ For all the gods of the* (Gentile) *peoples are deficiencies/idols*
        (a) The word for idols [elilim] sounds similar to the word for God [Elohim]
      (2) Positively: because He is the Creator—*but Yahweh made the heavens.*
        (a) His position as Creator of the world gives Him the right to address all the earth. (Motyer).
   b) God's splendor—96:6
      i) *⁶ Splendor and majesty are before Him;*
      ii) *Strength and beauty are in His holy place.*

**All creatures, like you and me, are to honor the one True God—96:7-13**

1) Commands for Gentiles to obey—96:7-10
    a) Worship with your lips—96:7-8a
        i) *⁷ Ascribe to Yahweh, O families/clans of the peoples, ascribe to Yahweh glory and strength.*
            (1) Cf. Genesis 12:3
        ii) *⁸ Ascribe to Yahweh the glory of His name;*
    b) Worship with your hands—96:8b
        i) *Bring an offering and come into His courts* (of the temple in Jerusalem!).
            (1) Cf. Ezekiel 40-46
    c) Worship with your heart—96:9
        i) *⁹ Worship Yahweh in the splendor of* (His?) *holiness;*
        ii) *tremble/writhe before Him, all the earth.*
            (1) With a deep sense on His holiness and your own unholiness
    d) Witness with your lips—96:10
        i) *¹⁰ Say among the nations, "Yahweh reigns! Indeed the world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; He judges the* (Gentile) *peoples with integrity."*
2) Commands for creation to obey—96:11
    a) Creation is to respond with joy—96:11-13a (cf. Romans 8:18-25)
        i) *¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;*
        ii) *Let the sea roar, and all its fullness;*
        iii) *¹² Let the field exult and all that is in it.*
            (1) *Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy ¹³ before Yahweh*
    b) Why should creation respond with joy?—96:13b
        i) *For He is coming*
        ii) *For He is coming to judge* (to restore undisturbed order to because He is the ruler of) *the earth.*
            (1) *He will judge the world in righteousness*
            (2) *And* (He will judge) *the peoples in trustworthiness.*

**Take-home truth**: Remember the words of promise from Isaiah 11:9: "*They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.*"