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Psalm 99

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Bible
at Home

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Psalm 99.

Topics.

- The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.
- The king loves justice equity and righteousness in Israel.
- Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he.
- Exalt God and worship at his holy mountain; for the LORD is holy.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION

Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

BOOK FOUR (PSALM 90-106)

PSALM 99:1-2

1

The LORD is Great in Zion; He is Exalted Over all the Peoples.

- **Psalm 99:1-2:** The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! ²The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.

The cherubim: the word cherub comes from the Hebrew word (*k^eruwb*) and means an imaginary figure (cherubim's is the plural of cherub). Perhaps there are angels called cherubs, but based upon the many verses that speak of cherubs it appears that the word cherub is a title that is applied to God's mighty power and to God's omnipresence (symbolised by Him riding on a cherub and flying swiftly on the wings of the wind). But since the title cherub in (Ezekiel 28:14) is also applied to the king of Tyre means it can also apply to a man or nation with great power or to something that is far above the ordinary in beauty, authority and influence. The vast variety of paintings of cherubim's in the history of art most likely stem from Ezekiel's fantastic, unique and unusual or exaggerated descriptions of the cherubim in (Ezek. 1:4-28) (Ezek. 10:3-22).

Zion comes from the Hebrew word (*Tsiyown*) and refers to the mountain the city of Jerusalem is built upon. It carries the idea of a permanent capital mountain of Jerusalem in the sense of being readily seen and easily visible and noticed as an important sign (i.e., a significant and historic sign and guiding pillar). Though Mount Zion is not distinguished for its elevation or grandeur and though it had nothing in itself to claim attention or to excite wonder, it was the most exalted and honoured above all mountains because it was selected as the place where God was to be worshipped and the place where God's city and God's temple is built and God's worship is established. From Mount Zion came the Messiah the Christ attended by a multitude of angels celebrating his birth and on Mount Zion the Messiah the Christ came into his own temple as Malachi in the following verse prophesied concerning him.

- Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. (Mal. 3:1).

Added to all this royal glory, multitudes of angels ministered to the Lord in his temptation, at his resurrection and accompanied him in his ascension all from Mount Zion. As exalted as Mount Zion is it cannot boast in any fame or glory of itself, its glory comes from being the honoured mountain God chose to build His Holy city upon and is the mountain that the Messiah the Christ the Saviour of the world died and rose again from. The real strength is not in Mount Zion itself, but in the LORD, who is the head of the thousands of chariots and the heavenly host surrounding it and as such is the protector of his chosen dwelling-place.

PSALM 99:3-4

The King Loves Justice Equity and Righteousness in Israel.

- **Psalm 99:3-4:** Let them praise your great and awesome name! Holy is he! ⁴The King in his might loves justice. You have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

The foundation of God's throne, are justice and righteousness and its pillars are:

- Holiness and love.
- Mercy and longsuffering.
- Joy and peace.

These pillars embrace honesty, moral virtue, integrity truthfulness, fairness for all and kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control (Gal. 5:22). These are the foundation and pillars of God's throne which means that all who belong to His Kingdom should do all they can to make them the foundation and pillars of their life.

2

PSALM 99:5-8

Exalt the LORD our God; Worship at His Footstool! Holy is He.

- **Psalm 99:5-8:** Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he! ⁶Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called upon his name. They called to the LORD, and he answered them. ⁷In the pillar of the cloud he spoke to them; they kept his testimonies and the statute that he gave them. ⁸O LORD our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

Here we read that God answered the prayers of Moses, Aaron and Samuel all faithful men of the LORD, and forgave their wrongdoings, but though they were forgiven they still suffered the consequences of their sin. These verses shine a spotlight on the truth that just because a person is a priest or great prophet of the LORD and God speaks to them, answers their prayers and they keep His ceremonial rites, holy days, sacrifices and religious customs does not mean they are exempt from the consequences of their sin. No matter how much we love God and He loves us when we sin, we will not escape the consequences attached to that sin.

A simple example of this would be a married Christian woman who sadly has an affair and falls pregnant; she may be absolutely broken before God and repent as David did. God will forgive and love her, just as he did with David, but she will still have the baby and suffer the emotional damage and hurt it has caused everyone who is close to her.

Exalt God and Worship at His Holy Mountain; for the LORD is Holy.

- **Psalm 99:9:** Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy!

This of course is a call for all Israel to attend the appointed feast days and the Sabbaths at the Temple of the LORD in the city of Jerusalem on Mount Zion, but by extension it can be seen as a universal call for all the faithful to worship God in their local church, in the homes of the faithful or at any gathering on any day where the faithful gather to fellowship in the name of Christ. Today the Holy Mountain of God signifies the global body of Christ and true worship is not dependent upon being upon the mountain of Zion or in the local church since true worship is in the heart and can be expressed before God in the home on our own or in a church of thousands.

This is because the God we worship does not count numbers, but what is in the heart so it matters not if we worship before Him with thousands of brothers and sisters in Christ or on our own, of course there is an added dimension of beauty for all who join together with others who have a heartfelt love and devotion toward Christ and worship him together, but no faithful brother or sister in Christ who cannot attend such worship services should ever think God considers their worship as less than those who have the joy of worshipping with others.

Not everyone in the global body of Christ is called to be a minister, preacher, pastor, Sunday school teacher, singer or musician a counsellor or evangelist, but all who love the Lord are called to exalt and worship him whether they are in a congregation of thousands, a local congregation or on their own because all worship that flows up from an honest heart before God is heard in heaven.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
