

Quarter one: The Book of Psalms

Lesson 3—The Lord Reigns

Tuesday: God Is the Judge

January 16, 2024

- **Last Week:** “Teach Us to Pray”
 - Praying the Psalms, especially in hard times
- **This Week:** “The Lord Reigns”
 - The sovereignty of God over all

Memory Text: “The Lord reigns, He is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed in majesty and armed with strength; indeed, the world is established, firm and secure.” (Ps 93:1, NIV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** The Lord Has Made Us (James)
 - Ps 8 & 100; God as Creator & worthy of our trust
- 2. **Monday:** The Lord Reigns (Daniel)
 - Ps 97 - God as our Ruler; even though all don't acknowledge or follow Him
- 3. **Tuesday:** God is the Judge (Jill)
 - Ps 75 – investigative & executive judgments in the Psalms
- 4. **Wednesday:** Ever Mindful of His Covenant (SQ)
 - Ps 105 - How to experience the judgment with peace & assurance
- 5. **Thursday:** Your Testimonies are Very Sure (John D)
 - The validity & surety of the law of God

Tuesday: God is the Judge

Psalm 75

- Investigative & executive judgment in the Psalms
 - Think of Daniel & Revelation for judgment
 - Found in the Psalms
- God is our Judge
 - Ps 98:9 – “For He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world, and the peoples with equity.”
 - He judges with righteousness & equity
 - Ps 97:2 – “Clouds and darkness surround Him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.”
 - Ps 9:4 – “For You have maintained my right and my cause; You sat on the throne judging in righteousness.”
 - God is
 - Love; righteous / holy; also just & fair

- Investigative Judgment: God examines, prior to passing judgment
 - Found especially in Daniel
 - Numerous passages in Psalms describe God’s work of legal investigation (or covenant lawsuit)

- **Investigative Judgment in Psalms** (prefigure the Investigative Judgment in Dan 7)
 - **1. Looking down indicates investigation**
 - Ps 14:2 – “The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God.”
 - Judicial investigation from the heavenly sanctuary
 - God “looks down”
 - God investigates, or seeks to see who follows Him
 - **2. God investigates from His heavenly sanctuary**
 - Ps 102:19 – “For He looked down from the height of His sanctuary, from heaven the Lord viewed the earth.”
 - God investigates from His heavenly sanctuary
 - Investigative judgment takes place from His heavenly sanctuary
 - **3. God investigates before pronouncing judgment**
 - Ps 11:4, 5 – “The Lord is in His holy temple, the Lord’s throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men. (5) The Lord **tests** the righteous, but the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates.”
 - Tests = investigates
 - Same word as Ps 139:23, 24 – “Search me, O God, and know my heart; **Try me** and know my anxieties; and see if there
 - Same word as Jer 17:10 – “I, the Lord, search the heart, I **test** the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.”
 - Again, God investigates before pronouncing judgment
 - The Tower of Babel - Gen 11:5 – “But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.”
 - This “coming down” is for a legal verdict
 - God investigated the case, before pronouncing judgment
 - **4. Some judgment determines guilt**
 - Ps 52:2, 3 – “God looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are nay who understand, who seek God. (3) Every one of them has turned aside; they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one.”
 - Investigation that determines our guilt (Isa 64)
 - **5. Some judgment brings joy**
 - Ps 76:8, 9 – “You caused judgment to be heard from heaven; the earth feared and was still, (9) When God arose to judgment, to deliver all the oppressed of the earth. Selah.”
 - God arose to judgment to deliver His people (the oppressed)

- Dan 7 – judgment was in favor of the saints
- Executive Judgment (final phase of the judgment)
 - Description in Revelation 20 – Executive or Great White Throne Judgment
 - Find elements in Psalm 75
- **Executive Judgment in Psalms (Psalm 75)**
 - **1. Executive judgment is intense & destructive**
 - Ps 75:8a – “For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is fully mixed, and He pours it out...”
 - Reminds of 3rd angels message & destruction of wicked: Rev 14:10 – “he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.”
 - **2. Executive judgment is for the wicked**
 - Ps 75:8a – “For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is fully mixed, and He pours it out; surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the earth drain and drink down.”
 - **3. Executive judgment is final & irreversible**
 - Ps 75:4, 5, 10a – “I said to the boastful, ‘Do not deal boastfully,’ and to the wicked, ‘Do not lift up the horn. (5) Do not lift up your horn on high; do not speak with a stiff neck’... (10) All the horns of the wicked I will also cut off...”
 - Cutting off the horns of the wicked shows the end of their power & dominion
 - Final & irreversible
 - Ps 97:3 – “A fire goes before Him, and burns up His enemies round about.”
 - Reminds of Rev 20 – wicked were judged according to their works; & then cast into the lake of fire.
 - Vs 14b – “...this is the second death.”
 - **4. Righteous are delivered from the wicked, sealed & safe**
 - Ps 75:10 – “All the horns of the wicked I will also cut off, but the horns of the righteous shall be exalted.”
 - Ps 97:10 – “You who love the Lord, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked.”
 - Reminds of Rev 20 – righteous are already safe in the city, the New Jerusalem
 - **5. There is an appointed time for this judgment**
 - Ps 75:2 – “When I choose the proper time, I will judge uprightly.”
 - NIV = appointed time
 - 1 Cor 15 – tells us this judgment comes at the end