

6/25/23 — Psalms of Summer

Psalms 97 — “A God-Centered Worldview”

Worldview- a collection of attitudes, values, and expectations about the world around us, which inform our every thought and action.

- Explanation and interpretation of the world
- Application of this view into one's life

Different types of worldviews:

- Dualism: two opposing principles competing against one another (good/evil)
- Humanism: man is the center of everything (from, to, for)
- Fatalism: life is decided by fate and whatever it is it is and will be
- Deism: God created then stepped back and has nothing to do with it
- Synergism: joint effort between God and man each contributing their own role
- Relativism: no objective truth; what's true for me is true for me
- Pragmatism: what works best
- Positivism: just good thinking and right thinking
- Hedonism: YOLO, live it up; satisfy pleasure and decrease pain
- **Theism: one ruling God who does not share His rule with anyone or anything**

Psalms 97 gives us the right worldview lens.

The Lord reigns produces gladness which leads to giving thanks.

(The earth, the enemies, His people)

The Lord reigns: (Christian thought has to begin and end here)

- **Exclusively (97:1)**
 - “The LORD”
- **Constantly (97:1)**
 - “Reigns” eternal action
 - Didn't stop
 - Not waiting to begin
- **Actively**
 - Not passively sitting back
- **Irresistibly**
 - No power can thwart his reign
 - *Psalms 115:3 — Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases*
 - *Psalms 135:6 — Whatever the Lord pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps*
 - Does this cause you to rejoice?
 - The mere fact that the Lord reigns over every area of your life?
 - Even the bad things, he is sovereignly ruling
 - “Let the earth rejoice ... the islands be glad”
 - The very globe is glad that its Maker reigns!
 - Great Commission

- **Perfectly (97:2)**

- "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne"
- He is keeping His books and will execute flawlessly.
- *Charles Spurgeon* - "There he abides, he never departs from strict justice and right, his throne is fixed upon the rock of eternal holiness. Righteousness is his immutable attribute, and judgement marks his every act. What though we cannot see or understand what he doeth, yet we are sure that he will do no wrong to us or any of his creatures. Is not this enough to make us rejoice in him and adore him? Divine sovereignty is never tyrannical. Jehovah is an autocrat but not a despot. Absolute power is safe in the hands of him who cannot err, or act unrighteously. When the roll of the decrees, and the books of the divine providence shall be opened, no eye shall there discern one word that should be blotted out, one syllable of error, one line of injustice, one letter of unholiness. Of none but the Lord, of all can this be said."

- **Powerfully and wrathfully (97:3-5)**

- Fire goes before him (like a guard going before)
- There will be a day that His wrath will be poured out
- God is long-suffering and patient, but when time comes to pour out his wrath he will make short work of it
- His enemies will be as chaff
- The mountains that we toil and climb, they melt in his presence
- Obstacles become a clear pathway, not by his hand but his mere presence
 - We don't have to take matters into our own hands
 - God is keeping His books and will settle all accounts
 - Evil will be dealt with and it's won't take long

- **Gloriously (97:6)**

- **Supremely (97:7-9)**

- All other gods are fake
- Muhammad, Buddha, Confucius, Pharaoh, Pilate, Barabbas, Herod— all will bow the knee
 - Philippians 2:9-11 — *Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*

- **Graciously (97:10-11)**

- He saves (10a)
 - Falling more in love with Jesus = victory
 - Love for God and love for sin cannot co-exist
- He perseveres (10b)
- He delivers (10c)
- He leads (11a)
- He satisfies (11b)

97:12 — This worldview produces gladness in the Lord which leads to giving thanks unto the Lord.