

A NEW YEARS EVE SERMON - FOR 2014
"EXALT AND WORSHIP GOD - FOR HE IS HOLY"
PSALM 99

INTRO: As we come together in the sanctuary of the Lord on this last night of 2014, and as we anticipate the New Year of 2015, we would do well to focus on the priority **GOD HAS FOR US IN REFERENCE TO HIMSELF**. That priority has nothing to do with NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS or TURNING OVER NEW LEAVES, but rather taking a **GOOD LOOK AT THE GREATNESS OF GOD AND THEN RESPONDING PROPERLY**.

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UNDERSTANDING PSALM 99

Psalm 99 is really a CALL TO WORSHIP GOD as is the case with many Psalms. But the particular focus on why God is to be worshipped is twofold here:

1) FOR WHO HE IS: Vss. 1-5

-God is the ONLY GOD who reigns from the position of HOLINESS, RIGHTEOUSNESS AND EQUITY.

2) FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE: VSS. 6-9

-When called upon in prayer, God HEARS AND ANSWERS. Aaron, Moses and Samuel, in their leadership prayed to God and He answered and forgave Israel for their sins, even though He did chasten them for their evil "inventions." (Vs. 8)

NOTE: WE ARE GATHERED HERE TO WORSHIP GOD TONIGHT FOR THE SAME REASONS ISRAEL WAS CALLED UPON TO WORSHIP HIM. 1) FOR WHO HE IS, AND 2) FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE. LET'S DO SO!

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OUR APPROACH TO THE PSALM

For our study of the Psalm let's consider a twofold approach: 1) THE CONTENT OF THE PSALM AND 2) THE CHALLENGE OF THE PSALM

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I. THE CONTENT OF THE PSALM

Psalm 99 is a clear DISCOURSE on WHO GOD IS!

A. He is the God Who Reigns - Vs. 1

1. He Reigns the Universe in the Present

a. Allows the Activity of Satan

b. Allows the Free Will of Mankind

2. He Reigns in the Universe in the Future

a. Satan will be Bound and Destroyed

b. Mankind will be Totally Submitted

B. He is the God Who is Great - Vs. 2

1. He is Great AMONG those who Trust Him.

a. In the OT it was Zion - Israel.

b. In the NT it is the Church - Believers

2. He is Great ABOVE those who Reject Him

C. He is the God of Holiness

1. The Prominence of God's Holiness

a. He is SEPARATE from All Other "Gods."

b. He is SEPARATE from All Sin.

c. He is SEPARATE from all Sinners.

2. The Progression of God's Holiness

GOD WANTS TO BE KNOWN BY HIS HOLINESS AND REVEAL HIS HOLINESS TO HIS PEOPLE.

a. His Name is Holy - Vs. 3: "It (His Name) is Holy"

A GENERAL FACT. (Known throughout the Scripture)

b. His Person is Holy - Vs. 5: "He is Holy"

A DIVINE FACT. (Because of His SINLESS NATURE)

c. His Relationship is Holy - Vs. 9 "Our God is Holy"

A PERSONAL FACT (He is NOT ASHAMED to be called ours)

ILLUSTRATION:

II. THE CALL OF THE PSALM

A. To Exalt God - Vss. 5,9: To Lift Up His Name Always!

1. Talk about Him.
2. Share Him.
3. Recognize Him.
4. Give Him Credit

B. To Worship God - Vss. 5,9: To Ascribe Worth to Him!

1. At His Footstool - Vs.5
 - a. Every King in the OT had a FOOTSTOOL on their throne.
 - b. God's Footstool is the Earth - Isaiah 66:1

GOD IS THE KING ABOVE ALL KINGS AND ALL THE EARTH IS UNDER HIS AUTHORITY.

2. At His Holy Hill - Vs. 9
 - a. In OT times this referred to the Temple in Jerusalem.
 - b. In Eternity this will refer to His Actual Presence.
 - c. In the Present, it refers to our bodies as believers as we are the Temple of God and can therefore worship Him

anywhere we are.

1 Corinthians 6:19,20

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION: As we approach 2015 let's make a determination to GROW in our UNDERSTANDING of the REALITY OF WHO GOD IS and increase our EXALTATION AND WORSHIP OF HIM.