


PSALM 93

GOD, MY EXCEEDING JOY
 A JOYFUL JOURNEY THRU THE PSALMS

July 24, 2022 – THE KING OF THE COSMOS

- I. **GENRE: Hymn for the Divine King**
 - A. Ps 93 extols Yahweh as the ultimate king of all the world. His reign is ageless, and His rule is indomitable.
 - B. While the song is short (the **12th** shortest in the Pss), it is not short on significance. It includes:
 1. A **shout** of acclamation
 2. A description of Yahweh in battle regalia
 3. An depiction of His enemies crashing & splashing uselessly against Him
 4. A reflection on the implications of serving such a great & faithful King.
 - C. Other Divine King hymns include Pss 94-100, and Pss 29 & 47.

- II. **SETTING**
 - A. **AUTHOR:** Unknown.
 - B. **BACKGROUND**
 1. No historical events are mentioned, but the psalm seems to have been written when the Temple was operating (v. 5).
 - a. The 1st temple’s construction began around 970 B.C., and it was destroyed in 586 B.C.
 - b. While it might have been written in the 2nd temple period (beginning c. 516 BC), the poetry of the psalm suggests an earlier time.
 - C. **USAGE**
 1. There is no historical or liturgical heading to the psalm. The opening few words, “The LORD reigns,” are sometimes thought to be a heading, but they fit neatly into the poem’s structure.

<p>PSALM 93 © 2022 M. Scott Bashior</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">ROYAL ACCLAMATION: ANNOUNCEMENT OF YAHWEH’S KINGSHIP VV. 1-2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">IMAGINATIVE PRAISE: CELEBRATION OF YAHWEH’S SUPREMACY VV. 3-4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COVENANTAL PRAISE: ACCLAIM FOR YAHWEH’S GREAT FAITHFULNESS V. 5</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Ovation of Praise for Yahweh’s Kingship V. 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Acclamation of His Majesty v. 1a</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Praise for His Glorious Strength vv. 1b</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Praise for His Stabilizing Power v. 1c</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prayer of Praise for Yahweh’s Everlasting Kingship v. 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Three-Phrased Description of Surging Forces v. 3-4b</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Three-Phrased Celebration of Yahweh’s Supremacy v. 4c</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Praise for Yahweh’s Stabilizing Word: The Rule of His People Celebrated v. 5a</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Praise for Yahweh’s Holy Temple: The Holiness of His People Inspired v. 5b</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Acknowledgement of Yahweh’s Everlasting Rule v. 5c</p>
<p>Purpose: Yahweh, the King of heaven, is the indomitable ruler of the world of men who overcomes whatever powers surge against Him. His personal rule of His people is as a secure as is His sovereign control, and He is worthy of their holiness and trust.</p> <p>Genre: Hymn for the Divine King Author: Unknown Date: Perhaps 1st temple period, c. 970 BC – c. 586 BC Note: The waves of vv. 3-4 may represent cosmic powers or international forces.</p>		

2. After the exile, this psalm was scheduled to be read every Friday, the day before Sabbath. Psalm 92 came to be read each Sabbath.
3. Sabbath Day association may correspond to Yahweh's domination of the waters in the creation week (Genesis 1:2, 9-10) & the imagery of Ps 93:3-4.

D. PLACEMENT

1. Pss 91-100 are all "orphan" psalms, having no author listed.
2. Pss 90:1, 91:1, 92:12-14, and 93:5 all refer to God's presence, whether as a refuge of His people or His dwelling among them in His sanctuary.
3. Pss 92:8 & 93:4 use the same Hebrew word ("**on high**") to describe God's supremacy.
4. Pss 93-100 are often called the **Theocratic** Psalms because they praise Yahweh as the ultimate King of Israel and of all the earth.

III. STRUCTURE:

- A. Ps 93 is short, but it has two layers of structure.
- B. It oscillates between expressing praise about God (vv. 1, 4) and prayers of praise directed to God (vv. 2, 3, 5).
- C. The line of thought from acclamation about God's royal greatness (vv. 1-2), to an imaginative description of His supremacy (vv. 3-4), to the implications of His greatness for those who come into His presence (v. 5).

IV. NOTES & APPLICATION

- A. **Triple Talk.** Psalm 93 uses many triplicated expressions. Most the verses are made of three lines rather than the more common two.
- B. **Shout of Acclamation:** The opening phrase of v. 1, "The LORD reigns," is like a public cry made when a king approaches.
 1. Shouts of acclamation were often made when new kings came to power. 2 Samuel 15:10; 2 Kings 9:13.
 2. Cf. 1 Kings 1:34, 39, and the British slogan, "Long live the Queen."
 3. Unlike these earthly regents, Yahweh's rule never had a beginning or end. (93:2, 5).

- C. **Battle Regalia:** Yahweh is described wearing majestic apparel. His clothing is not described visually except that He is said to be girded with strength. This image suggests that He is outfitted for war, ready for the action for the sake of His kingdom. He faces an unusual enemy (vv. 3-4).

- D. **Watery Wonder.** The identity and actions of the waters in vv. 3-4 have been debated.

1. Do they refer to flooding rivers or ocean currents?
2. Do the waters represent something good (as in Rev. 19:6), splashing about in praise? Or do they represent something evil (as in Rev. 21:1), foaming and raging in chaotic rebellion?
3. If they represent something evil, do they refer to cosmic powers (Ps 74:12-17) or the raging of enemy nations (Ps 65:7; Isa 17:13; Jer 51:55; Ezek 26:19; Hab 3:15), or both?

- E. **Firm Foundations.** The opening and closing sections speak of the firmness resulting from God's sovereign rule.

1. The world of men is stable because He reigns (v. 1c), and His covenant relations with His people are firm due to faithfulness & holiness (v. 5).
2. The meaning of "testimonies" (v. 5) is debated. Does it refer to:
 - a. What God has revealed?
 - b. What God requires (e.g., His rules for those He rules over)?
 - c. What God guarantees in His covenant with His people?

- F. **Palatial Temple.** God's "**house**" is mentioned as a place requiring holiness. The term used elsewhere for "temple" also means "palace." Yahweh's palace is a holy temple, and those who would enjoy His reign must come before Him on His terms.

G. Applications:

1. Even when the world seems to be raging and fomenting violent rebellion against the Lord, remember that He still reigns supreme.
2. No calamity is greater than our everlasting King.
3. Holiness is the only appropriate response to a King who is so powerful, so faithful, and good to those within His realm.