

THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS

PSALM 96

“The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth” (Jn. 1:14)

PSALM 96

- Glory = brilliance or radiance
Vs. 6 “splendor and majesty”
- Glory=a demonstration of God’s attributes or characteristics of his nature
Vs. 3 “Declare his glory among the nations,
His marvelous deeds among the nations”

A. GOD IS THE DELIVERER WHO RESCUES

(96:2 “proclaim his salvation day after day”)

The exodus from Egypt

Ex. 15:11 “Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?”

B. GOD IS THE CREATOR WHO SUSTAINS

(96:5 “the Lord made the heavens”)

Ps. 19:1 “The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of his hands.”

- Bitter water becomes sweet (15: 22-25)
- Bread will come down from heaven (16:4). The people “will see the glory of the Lord” (16:7)

C. GOD IS THE DWELLER AMONG HIS PEOPLE

(96:6 “strength & glory are in his sanctuary”)

Ex. 24 The people at Mt. Sinai

- “the glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai” (vv. 15-16)
- “To the Israelites the glory of the Lord looked like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain. Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights” (v. 17)

C. GOD IS THE DWELLER AMONG HIS PEOPLE

(96:6 “strength & glory are in his sanctuary”)

Ex. 29 The Tent of the Meeting

- God declares, “There I will meet you and speak to you; there also I will meet with the Israelites, and the place will be consecrated by my glory” (vv. 42-43)
- “Then I will dwell among the Israelites and be their God” (v. 45)

D. GOD IS THE RULER WHO JUDGES

(96:10 “The Lord reigns...he will judge the peoples”)

- God judges with equity or fairness (v. 10)
- God judges with righteousness and truth (v. 13)

THE GLORY OF GOD REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST

1. Jesus is the Savior who rescues us

“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified” (12:23)

THE GLORY OF GOD REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST

2. Jesus is the Creator who sustains us

- “For by him all things were created” and “in him all things hold together” (Col. 1:16-17)
- “This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He thus, revealed his glory” (John 2:11)
- “Not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these (lilies)” (Matthew 6:29)

THE GLORY OF GOD REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST

2. Jesus is the Abider who dwells with us

- To bear fruit. “This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit” (John 15:8)
- To be transformed. “We...are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit” (2 Corinthians 3:18)

THE GLORY OF GOD REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST

2. Jesus is the Ruler who judges

- Mt. 16:27 “The Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.”
- Mt. 25:31. “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.” He will “separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats”.

OUR RESPONSE

1. We worship the Lord with praise (vs. 1-2, 9)

OUR RESPONSE

2. We humble ourselves before the Lord

- “he is to be feared” = shown reverence for who God is (v. 4)
- “tremble before him” for he is holy (v. 9)

We submit and obey the Lord out of reverence for God

OUR RESPONSE

3. We declare God's glory (vs. 3)

- With our mouths
- With our lives