

## WHEN THE LORD GOD IS KING

### PSALM 97

Introduction:

When Israel returned to their land under Nehemiah and Ezra, they had no king. Leaders like Zerubabel and Joshua emerged, but there was no king like David or one of the sons of David. It was during this period that the Lord God gave this psalm for His people. The few exiles banded together as a restored nation were not very impressive on the world scene.

The psalm opens with the boldest declaration—“The Lord reigns” or as some translate it, “The Lord is King!” They may not have a son of David to sit on the throne of Israel, but the Lord of the covenant actually occupies the throne of the universe. The psalm declares an encouraging insight into reality in the spiritual realm, and presents a message of hope at the same time.

Conservative scholars agree that there is an eschatological message in this Psalm. The psalm looks with the eyes of a prophet and sees that in the end there will be a manifestation of the rule of God on the earth. His throne will be set up on the earth and He will govern over the affairs of humankind.

This has always been the ultimate hope of God’s people though they have expressed it in different ways. We all know that things will never be right on

earth until the rule of God is consummated. It is this hope of the coming of the kingdom that sustains us in the dark hours of man's insanity.

But what will it be like when the Lord God is King?

- I. HIS RULE DESTROYS THE WICKED. (V. 1-6)
- II. HIS RULE EXPOSES THE IDOLS OF MEN. (V. 7, 9)
- III. HIS RULE DELIGHTS HIS PEOPLE. (V. 8)
- IV. HIS RULE PRESERVES HIS PEOPLE (V. 10-12)