

## Psalm 97 <sup>1</sup>

# "The Reactions of Joy and Fear to the Reign of Yahweh, King of the Earth"

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### **A1 THE JOYFUL, YET TRAUMATIC IMPACT OF THE RIGHTEOUS REIGN OF YAHWEH, KING OF THE WHOLE EARTH 97:1-6**

**B1 The Fact of His Reign:** {1} The LORD reigns, <sup>2</sup> 97:1

**B2 The Joyful Response of Many Gentiles to His Reign 97:1**

C1 let the earth rejoice;

C2 Let the many islands be glad.

**B3 The Description of His Reign 97:2**

C1 His majestic aura: {2} Clouds and thick darkness surround Him;

C2 His ethical core values: Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.

**B4 The Traumatic Impact of His Reign 97:3-6**

C1 His Fear-Inducing Display of Fire and Light against His Adversaries 97:3-4

D1 His Enemy-Consuming Fire: {3} Fire goes before Him And burns up His adversaries round about.

D2 His Fear-Producing Lightnings: {4} His lightnings lit up the world; The earth saw and trembled.

C2 His Traumatic Effect upon the Mountains: {5} The mountains melted like wax at the presence of the LORD, At the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. 97:5

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<sup>1</sup> Enthronement: Enthronement psalms celebrate God reigning as the greatest King. Some enthronement psalms (like Psalm 99) explicitly state that He reigns on earth, even from Mt. Zion. Psalm 97:1a says, "The LORD reigns!" Ps 97:2b says, "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne!" According to Allen P. Ross, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary [TBKC]* (comments on Psalm 93), enthronement psalms are ... "prophetic pictures of the consummation of the ages when the Lord will establish His righteous millennial rule on earth through the Messiah." Enthronement psalms include 47, 93, 95, 96, 97, 98, and 99.

<sup>2</sup> 97:1 - reigns: 4427 malak – "reigns as king." In this psalm Yahweh could conceivably reign from heaven (97:1-2). Ultimately, from the rest of Scripture, we know He will reign from earth, with Jerusalem as His Capital (Isa. 2:1-4; 25:6-10a; 66:10-16; Zech. 14:3-9; Luke 1:30-33; Rev. 20:4-9; 21:1-3, 22-24; 22:1-5).

C3 The Declaration of the Heavens – Yahweh's Righteousness and Glory!  
97:6

D1 {6} The heavens declare His righteousness,

D2 Transition to Part Two – The Glorious Effect of the Heavens upon  
All Peoples: And all the peoples have seen His glory.

**A2 JOY AND GLADNESS IN JERUSALEM AT THE RIGHTEOUS REIGN OF  
YAHWEH, LORD MOST HIGH OVER THE WHOLE EARTH 96:7-12**

**B1 Challenge and Joy Because of Yahweh's Superiority 97:7-9**

C1 A Challenge to False gods and Their Worshipers 97:7

D1 An indictment of shame: {7} Let all those be ashamed who serve  
graven images, Who boast themselves of idols;

D2 A challenge to worship the true God: Worship Him, all you gods.

C2 Joyful Reaction in Zion 97:8

D1 The reaction of joy in Jerusalem

E1 {8} Zion heard *this* and was glad,

E2 And the daughters of Judah have rejoiced

D2 The cause of joy in Jerusalem: Because of Your judgments, O  
LORD.

C3 The Absolute Superiority of Yahweh 97:9

D1 {9} For You are the LORD Most High over all the earth;

D2 You are exalted far above all gods.

**B2 Challenge and Joy Because of Yahweh's Righteousness 97:10-12**

C1 The Call to The Godly to Shun Evil 97:10

D1 The call: {10} Hate evil,

D2 The recipients of the call: you who love the LORD,

D3 The salvation of Yahweh

E1 Who preserves the souls of His godly ones;

E2 He delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

- C2 The Gladness of the Righteous 97:11-12
  - D1 The bestowal of enlightening gladness to the upright 97:11
    - E1 {11} Light is sown *like seed* for the righteous
    - E2 And gladness for the upright in heart.
  - D2 The call for gladness and thanks 97:12
    - E1 The call for gladness: {12} Be glad in the LORD, you righteous ones,
    - E2 The call for thanks: And give thanks to His holy name.

EXPANDED ANALYSIS OF PSALM 97

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