




Psalms

The Book of Praises

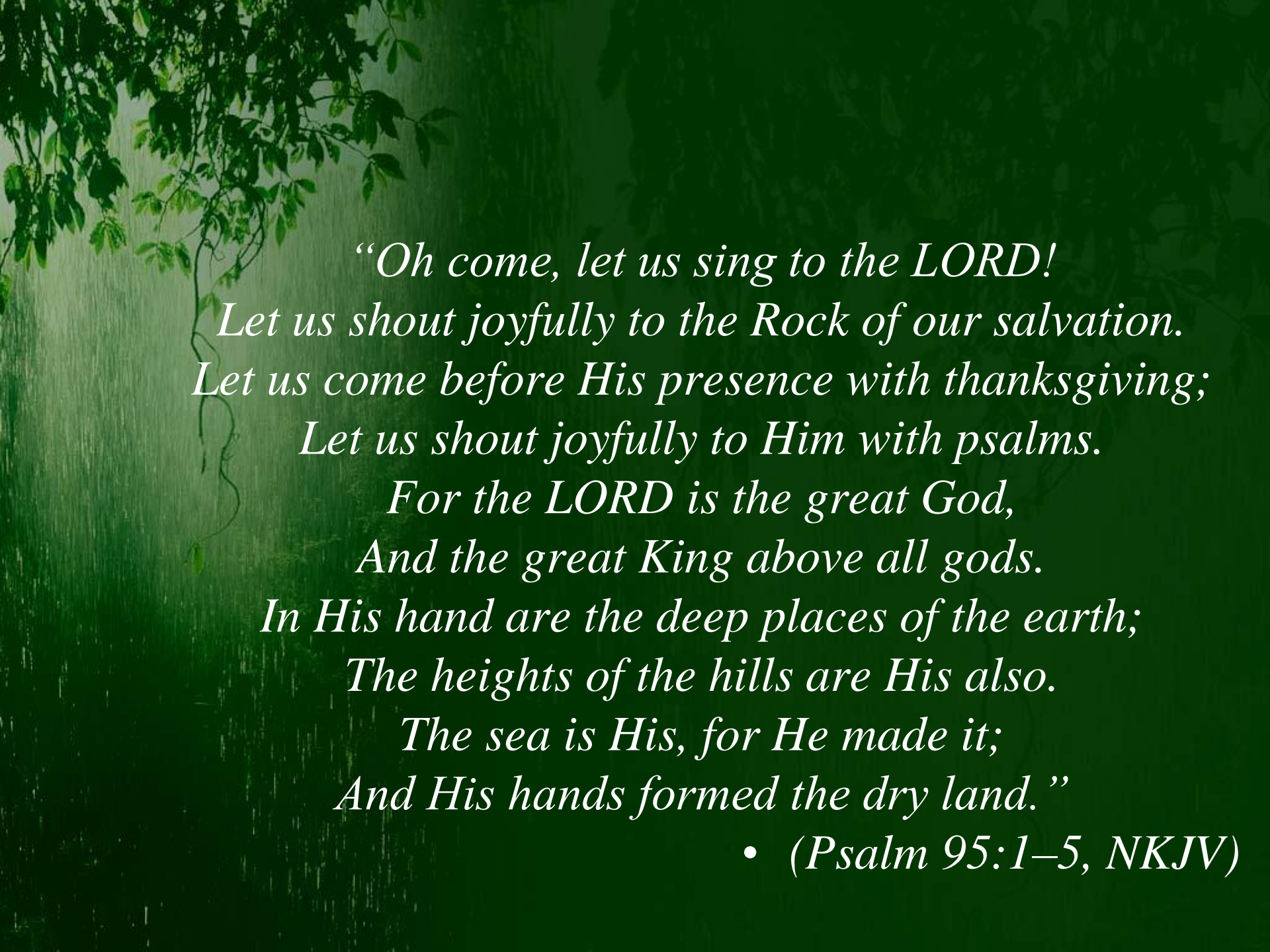
Lesson 2

Psalms Praising God's Glory,
Omnipotence, and Majesty



*“Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD my God, You are very great:
You are clothed with honor and majesty,
Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment,
Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain.”*

(Psalm 104:1–2, NKJV)



*“Oh come, let us sing to the LORD!
Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving;
Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.
For the LORD is the great God,
And the great King above all gods.
In His hand are the deep places of the earth;
The heights of the hills are His also.
The sea is His, for He made it;
And His hands formed the dry land.”*

• (Psalm 95:1–5, NKJV)

Psalms of Praise

Characteristics of God:

- In control of everything
- Created all things and us
- Judges righteously
- Protects His own
- Has great power
- Is far above any gods
- He reigns over all
- His speech is powerful
- His plans are sure and they foil those of men
- He inspires confidence in us

Summary of these Psalms:

God is the ...

- King of Glory (24)
- God of Power (29)
- Sovereign Lord (33)
- One Who Reigns Eternally (93)
- Great God, our Maker (95)
- Righteous Judge (96)
- The Most High God (97)
- God of Providence (104)



Lessons for Today

- Praise should come from within and should be offered from a pure heart
- Observe all that God has done and praise Him for this
 - Doesn't happen automatically
 - Requires effort on our part to reflect on these things
- See an exuberance on the part of the psalmist that should also be ours

Psalm 24

“A Song at the Return of the Ark to Its Place”

- Possibly written when the ark of the covenant was returned to Jerusalem (2 Sam. 6:12ff)
- Tone – Joyful Exuberance
- Outline
 - The Lord's rule over the world established by creation (vv. 1-2)
 - The conditions upon which men may come before the Lord (vv. 3-6)
 - The coming of the Lord to His holy place (vv. 7-10)

Psalm 24

- *V. 7 – “Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.”*

1. Who is regarded as worthy to worship God in Ps. 24?

- One with clean hands and a pure heart; not living in the practice of sin, but always trying to do what is right (Ps. 15).
 - Hands are often put for what one does – so, one not tainted by foul deeds
- One who doesn't worship idols
- One who speaks the truth
- Typical characteristics necessary
- Cf. Matt. 5:23-24

Psalm 24

- V. 5 - Blessing and Righteousness
- Vv. 1-2 - dispels any notion that God's presence can be localized to such a place as the tabernacle

Summary

- Joyous, exuberant tone
- See the high honor that we should give to the Lord
- We should praise Him for His awesome power
- Also, learn an important lesson about praising God.
 - We should not attempt to offer praise if we ourselves have not first purified our hearts

Psalm 29

- A psalm of David

2. What perhaps had David watched that inspired this Psalm (esp. v. 3)?

- A thunderstorm
 - Are they not fascinating?
-
- Might title this psalm “The Glory of the Lord in Thunder”

Psalm 29

"The Glory of God in the Storm"

- Outline
 - A summons to the “mighty ones” to praise the Lord (vv. 1-2)
 - The voice of the Lord expressed in thunder and lightning (vv. 3-9)
 - The Lord has always been in control of such things, as He still is, for the good of His people (vv. 10-11)

Psalm 29

- Notice all that His voice does:
 - “thunders” – can almost hear the thunderstorm
 - over many waters – heard everywhere – expansive
 - powerful and majestic – authority and worthy of praise
 - breaks, splinters – can see the lightning bolt
 - trees exploding and flying – like a calf
 - divides flame of fire – again picture of lightning
 - shakes – as thunder does
 - “Strips the forests bare” – leaves often stripped from trees after a storm
- The Lord has always been in control of such things, as He still is, for the good of His people (vv. 10-11)

Psalm 29

3. The fact that God is in control of everything gives us what? (see 29:11) How can you draw on that from day to day?

- Confidence; strength to His people
- Under the protection of the One who has such power, His people have nothing to fear
- A beautiful psalm, rich in imagery
- Important lesson on giving praise to God for His works
 - Must first observe all that God has done
 - Doesn't happen automatically - requires our attention to such things

Psalm 29

To the tune “Jesus Calls Us”

Tell of God, you sons of heaven;
Tell His glory and His might;
Offer Him the glory due Him;
Come in garments pure and bright.

Hear His voice upon the waters,
Thundering in majesty;
With His voice He breaks the cedars,
And He shatters every tree.

Psalm 29

To the tune “Jesus Calls Us”

Lo! He makes the mountains tremble;
At His voice the lightnings flame
While the wilderness is shaken
And His servants praise His name.

In the flood the Lord is reigning;
His dominion does not cease;
He will strengthen all His People;
He will bless His own with peace.

Psalm 33

“A Psalm of Praise for the People of God”

- Author and occasion unknown
- Outline
 - Introduction - A summons to praise the Lord (vv. 1-3)
 - A special reason for praise - what God is, and what He has done, understood in the broadest sense (vv. 4-9)
 - He makes the counsel of the heathen of none effect (vv. 10-11)
 - A reflection upon Israel's happy lot in having the Lord as God (v. 12)
 - God's sovereign rule and control of all things (vv. 13-17)

Psalm 33

5. Does the Lord know the heart and works of every man?
(Ps. 33) Give a verse.

- Yes. He considers (understands) all their works (v. 15)
- V. 13-14 – He looks from heaven; he sees all
 - God knows each individually – understands all their works
- V. 16-17 - Can't hide behind your horse or your great army
 - If God is not on your side, nothing can save you
 - It is a vain hope

Psalm 33

“A Psalm of Praise for the People of God”

- Author and occasion unknown
- Outline
 - Introduction - A summons to praise the Lord (vv. 1-3)
 - A special reason for praise - what God is, and what He has done, understood in the broadest sense (vv. 4-9)
 - He makes the counsel of the heathen of none effect (vv. 10-11)
 - A reflection upon Israel's happy lot in having the Lord as God (v. 12)
 - God's sovereign rule and control of all things (vv. 13-17)
 - Particularly, of those who fear Him (vv. 18-19)
 - Conclusion - therefore, we wait on Him to bless us (vv. 20-22)

Psalm 33

4. What does Ps. 33 say about the power of God?
- His very words and breath produced the heavens; controls the waters
 - His counsel makes the plans of men of no effect
 - Knows every man's heart for He made them
 - Protection of the righteous against those who fight them

Psalm 104

“The Creator’s Marvelous Greatness”

- Everything is alive and vibrant
- God is the benevolent keeper of the garden extending His hand to provide and care for all
- Author possibly David or Solomon
- Parallels to Days of Creation:
 - 1st day - v. 2a - light
 - 2nd day - vv. 2b-4 - divided heavens above from waters beneath
 - 3rd day - vv. 5-12 - land and sea; vv. 13-18 - vegetation (and incidental attention to the 6th day - animals as they are fed by that vegetation)
 - 4th day - vv. 19-23 - sun, moon, and stars
 - 5th day - vv. 24-26 - sea creatures
 - Vv. 27-30 - God's relation to all living creatures

Psalm 93

“The Lord is King”

- Author and date unknown - may fit well with the time immediately after the exile
- 6. How does the 93rd Psalm inspire confidence in us?
 - Whatever might change, God’s reign is sure (v. 2)
 - Strength – crashing of the sea upon rocks – stands firm
- Outline
 - The Lord's kingship is eternal (vv. 1-2)
 - He maintains His rule over every power which would assail Him (vv. 3-4)
 - His testimonies and His house are enduring (v. 5)

Psalms 95-97

- Psalm 95 - The True Praise of God
- Psalm 96 - Praise the Lord, the King
- Psalm 97 - The Nature of the Lord's Kingship



Lessons for Today

- Praise should come from within and should be offered from a pure heart
- Observe all that God has done and praise Him for this
 - Doesn't happen automatically
 - Requires effort on our part to reflect on these things
- See an exuberance on the part of the psalmists that should also be ours

