

January 12, 2025

“The Lord is Majestic”
Lesson 2

Psalm 93

Intro

How do we describe things we have never experienced? We can use our imaginations to compare what we have experienced to what we have not. We can gain an idea, an approximate, of the new thing by comparing it to the old one. That’s what Psalm 93, today’s study passage, does. We have not seen God’s glory and power directly, but the writer compares God’s glory to things we have experienced, knowing that He is greater than these things used.

Two literary devices are used in this psalm. The first is *personification*. This is frequently used in giving non-human things human qualities, like saying that the sun “kissed” the day. God is not limited to human limitations, especially our physical characteristics. So we don’t know exactly what God looks like or how he moves. So we use what we know, human physical qualities, to describe how God looks and works. The other device is *parallelism*. This device builds an image by repeating the essence of an idea back-to-back, but usually using similar meaning words. This device is used frequently in Hebrew poetry, like the Psalms.

Psalm 93 is one of a group referred to as “kingship psalms”, from 93-100, with Psalm 94 sometimes being left out. These kings could be human ones, or sometimes like today, God Himself.

Psalm 93

1. vs. 1: When the word “Lord” is written with “ord” in small capitals, it means “Yahweh”--God

This is the name God gave for Himself when asked by Moses in Ex. 3:14

The name literally means, “I am who I am” or “I will be what I will be”

Both convey the idea of God’s reliability—He is always Himself

He is not fickle or changeable like pagan gods

Speaking of God’s clothing is personifying Him

A human king would wear a robe of fine linen or royal colors

God here is clothed in “majesty” and “strength”

These are descriptions of His character, not His “clothing”

God’s authority in all things rests on Himself, not on any trappings of human power styles

God established the world (Earth) and all of creation by His mouth, speaking things into being

Everything is held together in place and solid by His decree

When God made everything, Genesis records Him saying of it, “It is good”

He continues to care for His creation, keeping it “firm and secure”

2. vs. 2: A throne is a symbol of the king’s authority

This verse says that God’s throne has been “from all eternity”

There has never been a time when God was not King (over all He created)

Earthly kings had a beginning, a time when they were “enthroned” as kings

They also had a time when their reigns ended, when they died
God's kingship, His throne, has always been, and will always be

3. vs. 3: The writer here begins an analogy which will be finished in vs. 4

He begins by talking about the waves and waters in a storm

He says they are "lifted up", their voices (the noise they make) is "lifted up"

He says they have "pounding waves"

Our text thinks these are not sea waves, but waters in creeks during a flood time

The sudden growth of waters during floods can look/sound like the images used here

4. vs. 4: The writer finishes his analogy by first using two more water images

He writes about the "thunder of the great waters" and the "breakers of the sea"

Both of these are images of power and strength, and overwhelming force

Yet with all the power they possess, God is greater / stronger than that power

"Mightier than the thunder...", "Mightier than the breakers..."

Humans are familiar with the power and awesomeness of fierce waters

God is the creator of those waters, so He is definitely more powerful than them

Jesus demonstrated his Godliness by stilling the storms and the waves, like these

The verse finishes with a statement of truth: "The Lord on high is mighty."

5. vs. 5: This verse highlights God's consistency; his laws govern all of creation

He created the waters, and they do only that which He has created them to do

This is true of human life as well; God's laws were created to make an ordered world

Unlike natural elements, though, humans can choose to disobey God's laws

God's laws are not like those of men; they are not alterable to favor one over another

God's word is "firm", like a huge stone which cannot be moved, even by floods

Two previous images indicated the idea of a king: a robe (vs.1) and a throne (vs. 2)

Now the image of the king's "house" is introduced, another image of a king

The king's house must be filled with splendor, items indicating his wealth and power

Think of Solomon's house, or the temple he built for God

Both were physical structures that inspired awe in those who saw them

In his temple dedication, Solomon noted that God's primary residence wasn't the temple

The writer here indicates the same, saying God's house is adorned with *holiness*

His holiness is one of God's core attributes

God's house, like His reign and power, continue "for endless days", for eternity

Application: God is described in this psalm as a king, but a king beyond any human king. He has powerful authority over all He created. He has majesty, and reigns forever. Just as the psalmist has done here, we too are to praise and worship God for His greatness. We express our submission to His authority by following his teaching and example, living according to His great love as reveal in and by Jesus. We acknowledge His power by relying on Him to provide for us and protect us. This is how we honor our King.

Prayer: Father God, we acknowledge Your awesomeness. You are majestic in strength and holiness. We are so blessed because you care for us and help us. We put our trust in You alone, because Your words are true. Strengthen and guide us to live under Your reign so others may also know You as the true King. In Jesus' name, Amen.