

- Last week we looked at Deuteronomy 32 as an introduction to the wisdom literature because we noted that even though it was written by Moses to encourage the Israelites not to forsake God, it was very similar in composition, theme and form to many of the Psalms.
- Here the writer, David, explains the subject of the Psalm first - that the Lord reigns and is firmly in charge of the earth. God's unchanging nature is emphasized. (Psalms 93:1-3)
- We know that God is always the same. We sing a song "Hold to God's Unchanging Hand." One of my Dad's favorite signs he saw on a church building was "find yourself away from God? Guess who moved." It is comforting to know God is always the same. (Hebrews 13:8)
- David compares God to flood waters. Despite flood waters being powerful and noisy, God is much mightier than they. (Psalms 93:3-4)
- The writer closes by emphasizing that the testimonies of the Lord are sure and that holiness will endure forever. (Psalms 93:5)
- This is a very common theme in many of the Psalms. We sing a song called "The Law of the Lord" which contains a line that "the testimonies of the Lord are pure making wise the simple."
- Psalm 8 is written by David to the Chief Musician.
- He opens the Psalm by explaining that the Lord's name is excellent and much higher than anything on earth. (Psalms 8:1)
- The opening is the basis for a song we sing today called "O Lord Our Lord."
- He mentions that God increases in strength while his enemies decrease in strength. (Psalms 8:2)
- David writes that when he considers all the heavenly bodies God created, he wonders "what is man, that thou art mindful of him?" (Psalms 8:3-4)
- In an unbroken thought, David explains that God made man just a little bit lower than angels. (Psalms 8:5)
- The Hebrew writer picks up on this very important concept and reiterates it. (Hebrew 2:7)
- David explains that God has caused man to have dominion over all the earth, including animals of the air and water. (Psalms 8:6-8)
- David ends the Psalm with the same words he used to begin them. (Psalms 8:9)
- The writer opens Psalms 150 by explaining that the Lord is to be praised. (Psalms 150:1-2)
- The Hebrew word for praise is Hallelujah, especially in songs. This is where our songs "Hallelujah Praise Jehovah" and "Praise Him, Praise Him" come from.
- Then the writer is very specific about the ways to praise God. He specifically mentions the use of the harp, trumpet, cymbals, and dance. (Psalms 150:2-5)
- Instruments are all over the Old Testament, but they are not found in New Testament at all (except in the book of Revelation). This is significant because everywhere we read of worship in the New Testament, there is never any mention of instruments of music. They are all over the OT but conspicuously absent in the NT. It is interesting that they are mentioned again in Revelation since in heaven things will be different.
- The writer closes by saying that every breath we have should be used for praise. (Psalm 150:6)

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Psalms 93, 8 and 150

page 2 of 2

Questions:

1. What does David say is the subject of Psalm 93?
2. Why is the significance of David saying that God's nature is unchanged?
3. Why does David compare God to floodwaters?
4. Why does David say the testimonies of the Lord are sure?
5. Who is Psalm 8 written to?
6. Who is man made a little lower than?
7. What does David say God has dominion over in Psalm 8?
8. What musical instruments does David say we should use to praise God?
9. What book of the New Testament mentions instruments?
10. Why is it significant that there no other NT books which mention instruments?

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