

SBC – Feb. 15, 2026
Psalm 99:1-11 (NKJV)
“Praise our Holy LORD”

This Psalm has no title, but the theme is God’s Holiness. This theme is connected with God’s rule, specifically how various expressions of His holiness reflect His rule.

Slide # 1

Psalm 99

“Praise our Holy LORD”

- vv. 1-3 - Declaration of the LORD’s GREATNESS
- vv. 4-5 – Description of the LORD’s RULE
- vv. 6-9 – The LORD’s Holy Dealings with Israel

Psalm 99 (NKJV)

1 The LORD reigns; Let the peoples tremble! He dwells between the cherubim; Let the earth be moved!

The LORD reigns. That is always true always! God sovereignly rules over the whole of His creation in every facet at all times.

LORD here is YHWH which is found 7 times in the Psalm. YHWH is often called the covenant name of God as it is closely associated with His covenant commitment to Israel.

YHWH represents the personal, covenant-making, covenant-keeping God of relationship as established with Israel.

Slide # 2

Exodus 3:14–15 (NKJV)

14 And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘**I AM** has sent me to you.’ ”

15 Moreover God said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘The **LORD** God **of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob**, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.’ ”

Thus, God, as the eternal, never-changing One Who simply IS, has forever connected Himself relationally to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, with whom He made an everlasting commitment, and to their descendants.

Slide # 3

The Package of Exodus 3:14-15

I AM
LORD (YHWH)
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

Slide # 4

Exodus 6:3 (NKJV)

3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but **by My name LORD I was not known to them.**

Exodus 6:6–7 (NKJV)

6 Therefore say to the children of Israel: **'I am the LORD;** I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.

7 I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that **I am the LORD your God** who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

Here in Exodus, God officially revealed His covenant relationship with the nation of Israel in connection with His name YHWH. It is this relationship by which God is to be known to all generations (Ex. 3:15). The name YHWH was the special name of Israel's God, distinguishing Him from all other deities of the Gentiles.

YHWH is very closely related to "I AM" and simply means "He is" or "The One Who Is." He is the eternal, unchanging God Who simply is. Now apply this unchanging reality to His covenant relationship with Israel and you will see how important it is.

If God can break His covenant with Israel then He is no longer YHWH, He is no longer the God of Israel, He is no longer unchanging, He is no longer the God of the Bible. That is why I say it is high blasphemy to say God is done with Israel.

The Jews considered the Name YHWH to be especially sacred. It was therefore treated with extreme reverence. They would not even quote it out loud, often replacing YHWH with the name Adonai (Lord). The use of YHWH in the OT highlights His faithfulness to His people, Israel. YHWH (the covenant God of Israel) reigns! As He showed Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4 He rules in the kingdom of men. Three times this emphasis is brought out in Daniel 4 (v. 17, 25, 26).

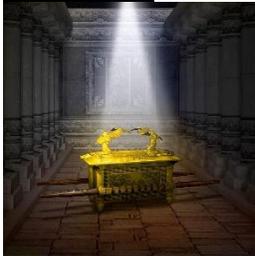
Because YHWH reigns, “**Let the peoples tremble!**” That is tremble in awe and holy reverence of Him (cf. Isa. 6:4).

“Saints quiver with devout emotion, and sinners quiver with terror when the rule of [YHWH] is fully perceived and felt.”

– **Charles Spurgeon**

“**He dwells between the cherubim.**” The cherubim were two angelic-like figures who hovered over the ark of the covenant in the Holy of Holies. This represented the most holy presence of God. They are thought to picture guarding the holy presence of God (cf. 1 Kg. 6:23-28).

Slide # 5



Because the ark of the covenant was the central symbol of God’s presence with His people, Israel, its mysteries remained appropriately veiled within the inner sanctuary of the living God.

– **Holman Christian Study Bible**

Verse one concludes with, “Let the earth be moved!” Let the peoples tremble – let the earth be moved. Everything trembles in awe of the greatness of Israel’s God YHWH.

He’s the great, great of the Bible
 He’s the great, great God of all power
 He’s the great God Who can shake the world
 He’s the great God of the hour!

Let the whole world be moved in awe of Him!

2 The LORD is great in Zion, And He is high above all the peoples.

The LORD (YHWH) is great everywhere, but He has uniquely displayed His greatness in relation to His presence in Zion.

The word Zion literally means "fortification". Zion is essentially synonymous with Jerusalem and is called "the city of David" as well as "the city of God". Zion, in effect, is OLD Jerusalem in the historical sense of the word. It refers to the south-eastern hill of Jerusalem. This is where David built his royal palace and later where Solomon built the temple (cf. 1 Kings 8:1; 2 Kings 1; Kings 19:21; 1 Kings 19:31; 1 Chronicles 11:5; Ps. 2:6; 48:2, 11-12; 132:13). Zion signifies the epicenter of God's rule and presence on earth. So, Zion at core refers to the temple mount, but is also used in reference to the entire city of Jerusalem (cf. Isa. 40:9), etc. Context determines the exact nuance in view, but most generally Zion refers to Jerusalem, and more specifically to the Temple Mount.

God LOVES Zion more than any other place!

Slide # 6

Psalm 87:2–3 (NKJV)

2 The LORD loves the gates of Zion More than all the dwellings of Jacob.

3 Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God! Selah

As LORD, He is incomparably high above all peoples! Worship begins with recognizing God as the One who is over all. He is the supreme being. He is the highest power over all others.

3 Let them praise Your great and awesome name— He is holy.

As the One over all the peoples, they are called upon to praise His great and awesome name – that is His person. And then the statement “He is holy.”

Holy denotes that God is absolutely unique. He is set apart from all others. There is none other like Him. He is one of a kind! He has no equal or peer. He is incomparable. He alone is eternal, infinite, all-knowing, all-powerful, ever-present, never changing. These are incommunicable attributes shared by no other. You can't measure God on man's chart! He is immeasurable!

God's holiness is a part of everything He is and does. God's power is a *holy power*. God's love is a *holy love*. God's wisdom is a *holy wisdom*. Holiness is not an aspect of God's personality; it is the essence of His entire Being. – **David Guzik**

Indeed, He is GREAT and AWESOME in being the HOLY God that He is.

4 The King's strength also loves justice; You have established equity; You have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

As the HOLY KING Who reigns over all, He is all-powerful, but He also loves justice. He has established equity, which means "fairness." And He has thus dealt with Jacob in this way. God's ways are always right – even if we can't always understand.

God's great strength, in theory, if He were a different kind of god, could potentially be used for evil. If He was an all-powerful God, but evil, who was not about justice and righteousness, what could we do about it? NOTHING!

How wonderful that in God are wed the wonderful realities of strength and justice. He loves justice and in the end He will set everything right! That is **comforting** in a world that knows very little about godly justice. The world talks justice but it does so through the lens of the flesh and this resembles nothing of grace.

"The Lord our God demolishes every system of injustice, and right alone is made to stand." – **Charles Spurgeon**

5 Exalt the LORD our God, And worship at His footstool— He is holy.

Exalt YHWH our God. Lift Him high! Make much of Him and His greatness!

Worship at His footstool. This figure emphasizes His surpassing greatness over people. A footstool is under or beneath someone. They hover over it.

Various things in the Bible are referred to as God's footstool, such as the ark of the covenant, (1 Chron. 28:2); Jerusalem (Lam. 2:1); the entire earth as a whole (Isa. 66:1).

He has mentioned Zion in verse 2, so in view here is probably the ark of the covenant located in the tabernacle and later the temple in Jerusalem.

Again, for the second time, we have the emphasis that “He is holy” and thus worthy of our WORSHIP!

Slide # 7

“The Bible calls God holy more than anything else, more than sovereign, more than just, more than merciful or loving. In fact, ‘holy’ is the only epithet of God that is repeated three times for emphasis, like this: ‘Holy, holy, holy’ (Isa. 6:3; Rev. 4:8).”

– **James Montgomery Boice**

6 Moses and Aaron were among His priests, And Samuel was among those who called upon His name; They called upon the LORD, and He answered them.

How wonderful that while yes God is transcendent, He is also relational. His people can know Him. We can communicate with Him. We can call upon Him, and He answers. He is a God of relationship. He is a personal God! We can talk to Him! We can interact with Him!

Here the writer lists 3 great examples of this very reality from the OT.

Moses and Samuel (strictly speaking) were not official priests, but they did provide a priest-like service in that they mediated and interceded for God’s people. Samuel was the last of the judges and the first in the office of prophet (cf. 2 Sam. 7:15-17; 12:19-25).

These three heroes represent the believing portion of the nation of Israel, and that what was true of them was true of all God’s faithful covenant people. – **William MacDonald**

Calling on the name of the Lord is indicative of faith! It is because of faith that we call on the Lord for help, starting with salvation. Repeatedly the Bible affirms that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Slide # 8

Joel 2:32 (NKJV)

32 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. ...

Acts 2:21 (NKJV)

21 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.'

Romans 10:13 (NKJV)

13 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

Calling on the name of the Lord is indicative of true faith. This is what God's people do and we have three prominent examples of this as seen in Moses, Aaron, and Samuel.

As they called on God, He answered them! This is what God does for His people. He answers prayer! We all know this reality! We see it continually! God is holy, but He is also a prayer-answering God!

James chided the believers, saying, "You do not have because you do not ask." (Ja. 4:2)

Slide # 9

Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV)

20 Now to Him who can do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

1 John 5:14–15 (NKJV)

14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

The problem is that many times we don't really know how to pray, in terms of what is really BEST in view of eternity. So God has given us the Holy Spirit to help us in this.

Slide # 10

Romans 8:26 (NKJV)

26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

I think if we are sincerely praying from our hearts the Spirit will steer our prayers where they need to go. Even if we don't understand God is still working through our prayers. Isn't that neat?

7 He spoke to them in the cloudy pillar; They kept His testimonies and the ordinance He gave them.

In the OT God communicated to His people via the medium of a “cloudy pillar” (cf. Ex. 13:21-22; 33:9-10; Num. 12:5; Deut. 31:15). God at times spoke audible in reference to this cloudy pillar, and at other times He directed them by the movement of this cloud.

Slide # 11

Exodus 13:21–22 (NKJV)

21 And the LORD went before them by day in a **pillar of cloud** to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.

22 He did not take away the **pillar of cloud** by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people.

God’s testimonies and His ordinance are different ways of referring to God’s Word. His testimonies are revealed truths, laws, and promises. His ordinance was His authoritative command.

People like Moses, Aaron, and Samuel, (reflective of those who truly are God’s people who call on the name of the LORD) generally kept God’s Word. They were people of the Word. They took God’s Word seriously, lived by it, and shared it with the people.

8 You answered them, O LORD our God; You were to them God-Who-Forgives, Though You took vengeance on their deeds.

In the case of Moses, Aaron, and Samuel, God answered their prayers in sparing the people.

For example, after the idolatrous incident of the golden calf interceded and prayed for the people and God answered his prayer in sparing the people. Yet, at the same time God said there would be ongoing consequences (cf. Ex. 32:31-35; 33:12-14). He was the God-Who-Forgives and yet at the same time the avenger of their deeds.

When the people sinfully demanded a king Samuel prayed for them and God answered and yet there were lingering consequences (cf. 1 Sam. 12:18-25).

It isn't clear if the ones referred to here are the *priests* mentioned in [Psalm 99:6](#) (Moses, Aaron, and Samuel) or if it is referring to the people they prayed for (Israel as a whole). Most commentators regard **their deeds** as referring to Israel's deeds, but it is also true that Moses, Aaron, and Samuel were each disciplined by God in some way. – **David Guzik**

The point is they knew the reality of God's forgiveness as God's people, and yet there were lingering consequences because of what they had done.

Moses was forgiven and yet could not go into the Promised Land. David was forgiven of his great sin of adultery/murder and yet the consequences dogged him for life.

Slide # 12

2 Samuel 12:13–14 (NKJV)

13 So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "**The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.**

14 However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die."

2 Samuel 12:10 (NKJV)

10 Now therefore, **the sword shall never depart from your house**, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.'

It is often said: "You can choose to sin, but you can't choose the consequences." (cf. Deut. 3:27)

He speaks to us from His Word (Ex. 33:9; Num. 12:5; 1 Sam. 3:3), hears our prayers and answers, disciplines us when we sin, and forgives us when we confess (1 Jn. 1:9). – **Warren Weirsbe**

Note it carefully, even of those of whom it says, "They kept his testimonies", even so, they were still in need of the God-Who-Forgives. And even though He forgives, we are continually reminded of His absolute holiness. You just can't sin with immunity in terms of consequences.

Throughout the history of His people, God has been faithful both in forgiveness and in the matter of discipline in perfect keeping with His holiness.

9 Exalt the LORD our God, And worship at His holy hill; For the LORD our God is holy.

Appropriately, the Psalm ends with a call to worship at His holy hill, which for Jews in the OT was Mount Zion, which was the Temple Mount.

And yet again, for the third time in this short Psalm, we have the statement that the LORD is holy!

God in His holiness is so GREAT that we should worship Him! (vv. 1-3)

God in His holiness is perfect in His attributes of power and justice, which should cause us to worship. (vv. 4-5)

God in His holiness has faithfully led His people throughout time, which should cause us to worship. (vv. 6-9)

- In Isaiah 6:3, the seraphim cried out, “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts.”
- In Revelation 4:8, the four living creatures cry out, “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.”
- In Psalm 99, the writer says three times “**He is holy**” as seen in verses 3, 5, and 9.

This [threefold emphasis on “He is holy”]...seems to be a [kind] of *chorus* which was sung in a very solemn manner at the conclusion of each of these parts. His *holiness* – the immaculate purity of his nature, was the reason why he should be exalted, praised, and worshipped.” - **Adam Clarke**

God’s holiness is a call to worship! Our LORD reigns, He is to be exalted, for Who He is and for what He does. And holiness defines all that He is and all that He does!

Exalt the LORD our God and worship, for the LORD our God is holy!