

Psalm 93: God's Majesty



Psalm 93 (92) (Mode 5. 5..6..1 / 1...6 / 6...5)

This is a hymn to the Lord, reigning supreme over the powers of chaos. It may be from the time of the end of the Babylonian Exile, celebrating God's victorious reign over the gods and political powers of Babylon. It may have been composed to be sung on the occasion of a New Year re-enactment of God's act of creation.

The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed.

The Lord is robed with might.

The Lord is girded with power.

‘Deck yourself with majesty and dignity;
clothe yourself with glory and splendour’(Job 40:10).

‘The Lord will take his zeal as his whole armour, and will arm all creation to repel his enemies; he will put on righteousness as a breastplate, and wear impartial justice as a helmet; he will take holiness as an invincible shield, and sharpen stern wrath for a sword, and creation will join with him to fight against his frenzied foes’

(Wisdom 5:17-20).

‘Then the moon will be abashed, and the sun ashamed; for the Lord of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and before his elders he will manifest his glory’(Isaiah 24:23).

‘How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns’(Isaiah 52:7).

‘The shields of the earth belong to God;
he is highly exalted’(Psalm 47:9)

‘The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice;
let the many coast lands be glad!’(Psalm 97:1).

‘The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble!
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim;
let the earth quake!’(Psalm 99:1).

The world you established, not to be moved.
Your throne has stood firm from of old.
From all eternity, O Lord, you are.

‘Say among the nations, “The Lord is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved”’(Psalm 96:10).

‘By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might. You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples’(Psalm 65:6-7).

‘Thus says the Lord, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar – The Lord of hosts is his name: If this fixed order were ever to cease from my presence, says the Lord, then also the offspring of Israel would cease to be a nation before me forever’(Jeremiah 31:35-36).

Lord, the torrents swell,
the waters roar.

Hear the crashing of their waves.

More majestic than the roar of mighty waters,
more glorious than the surging of the sea
the Lord is glorious on high.

‘Was your wrath against the rivers, Lord? Or your anger against the rivers, or your rage against the sea, when you drove your horses, your chariots to victory? You came forth to save your people, to save your anointed. You crushed the head of the wicked house, laying it bare from foundation to roof’(Habakkuk 3:8, 13).

Truly your decrees are to be trusted.

Holiness is fitting to your house,

O Lord, until the end of time.

As Christians we reflect on the reign of God through the power and glory of the risen Christ

‘What is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come’(Ephesians 1:19-21).

‘We give you thanks, Lord God Almighty, who are and who were, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign’(Revelation 11:17).

‘Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more’(Revelation 21:1).

‘A windstorm arose on the sea, so great
that the boat was being swamped by the waves;
but he was asleep. And they went and woke him up, saying,
“Lord, save us! We are perishing!” And he said to them,
“Why are you afraid, you of little faith?”
Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea;
and there was a dead calm. They were amazed, saying,
“What sort of man is this,
that even the winds and the sea obey him?”

(Matthew 8:24-27; compare Matthew 14:24-33)