

PSALMS 99 and 100

In this psalm, Yahweh is acknowledged in his peculiar covenant relation to Israel, his chosen people. In the first paragraph, he is "great in Zion." In the second, he is "Yahweh our God." In the third, the great examples of this covenant relationship are cited from Israel's ancient history.

Psalm 99

- 1 YAHWEH reigns, let the peoples tremble;
He is enthroned *above* the cherubim, let the earth shake!
- 2 YAHWEH is great in Zion, and He is exalted above all the peoples.
- 3 Let them praise Your great and awesome name; holy is He.

- 4 The strength of the King loves justice; You have established equity;
You have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.
- 5 Exalt YAHWEH our God and worship at His footstool; holy is He.

- 6 Moses and Aaron were among His priests,
and Samuel was among those who called on His name;
they called upon YAHWEH and He answered them.
- 7 He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;
they kept His testimonies and the statute that He gave them.
- 8 O YAHWEH our God, You answered them;
You were a forgiving God to them, and yet an avenger of their *evil* deeds.
- 9 Exalt YAHWEH our God and worship at His holy hill, for holy is YAHWEH our God.

Psalm 100 concludes the group of psalms beginning with Psalm 91. Common to all of them is a mild sublimity and a sunny cheerfulness. Also, according to Delitzsch, the use of the figure of speech called anadiplosis is prominent. This is where a word from the latter part of a preceding clause or sentence is repeated in the first part of the succeeding clause or sentence, and usually with a change or extension of meaning.

This is the only psalm that bears the inscription "A Psalm of Thanksgiving." It is ablaze with grateful adoration and for this reason has been a favorite with God's people ever since it was written. "Let us sing the Old Hundredth" had been one of the everyday expressions of the Christian Church in times past. It is a shame that not many would even know what this expression means in our day. The King James Version of verse one is that with which we are mostly familiar, "*Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.*" No doubt many can recall memorizing this psalm in Sunday School. The New American Standard is used

below.

Psalm 100
A Psalm of Thanksgiving.

- 1 Shout joyfully to YAHWEH, all the earth.
- 2 Serve YAHWEH with gladness; come before Him with joyful singing.
- 3 Know that YAHWEH Himself is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; *we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.*
- 4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving *and* His courts with praise.
Give thanks to Him, bless His name.
- 5 For YAHWEH is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting
and His faithfulness to all generations.

PRAYER

O great God, whose name is Yahweh, you are King of heaven and earth and you sit unmoved amid the great convulsions and revolutions of the world. You laugh at the puny efforts of sinful men who challenge your authority. Give us, your disciples, a full apprehension of your sanctity and perfections, of your name and nature. You have created us out of nothing, redeemed us from misery and death, even though we rebelled against you. We are being sanctified daily through the Holy Spirit in order that we may be presented before the Father blameless, washed in the blood-bought robe of righteousness of your dear Son, Jesus our Redeemer. Grant that we may walk in your commandments. Be our guide and defense, for we are the sheep of your pasture. Protect us from the snares of Satan, deliver us from the corruptions of our sinful nature, and receive us into the fold of everlasting rest, where you, O God, reign in the unity of the blessed Trinity, to whom be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.