

Studies in Psalms by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Psalm 99

1/31/13

Vs. 1-3 claim for the LORD a superior place;
Vs. 4-5 mention His superior characteristics;
Vs. 6-9 show His superior "track record."

This Psalm is one of three beginning with "The LORD reigns" ([Psalm 93](#); [97](#); [99](#)). Each section ends the same: "He *is* holy" (verse 3), "He *is* holy" (verse 5), "God *is* holy" (verse 9), or He is above any and all taint from sin. Couched in language identified with Old Testament Israelites, its claim for God is true with the churches of Christ.

Verses 1-3: Jehovah ("LORD," **verse 1**) is superior ("reigns"); Gentiles ("peoples") "tremble;" "*between* the cherubim" (either over the ark of covenant, [Exodus 25:18-22](#), or Jesus as the Christians' mercy seat, a.k.a. "propitiation," [1 John 2:2](#)); and all people be impressed ("moved"). The LORD's greatness is seen in Jerusalem ("Zion," **Verse 2**), but He is also above Gentiles ("all the peoples"), for Jesus taught "true worshipers" must not now go to Samaria or Jerusalem ([John 4:21-24](#)). God deserves His "great and awesome name" (**verse 3**).

Verses 4-5: But God uses His "name" for the establishment of "justice," "equity," "righteousness" (**verse 4**) among His descendants of Jacob (or "Israel"). Jesus Christ was born of the virgin Mary, and "the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end" ([Luke 1:30-33](#)). "The house of Jacob" refers not to "children of the flesh" but "the children of the promise" ([Romans 9:6-8](#)), or Christians ([Galatians 3:24-29](#)). To "exalt" God (**verse 5**) and for us to "worship at His footstool" would widen the gap between God and His worshippers, for earth is His footstool ([Acts 7:48-49](#)).

Verses 6-9: In **verse 6**, the accurate Bible records of Moses, Aaron, and Samuel are offered as proof that "They called upon the LORD, and He answered them." That same inspired Biblical record (with no missing books!) shows that God answered (**verse 7**): Moses with Law ([Exodus 33:9](#)); Aaron with judgment ([Numbers 12:5-9](#)), and Samuel with victory ([1 Samuel 7:9](#); [12:18](#)). God forgave the sinners (**verse 8**), but punished the sins of Moses and Aaron ([Numbers 12:20](#)), and Samuel's undisciplined sons ([1 Samuel 8:1-20](#)). In Jesus Christ, God forgives sinners who repent ([Luke 5:30-32](#); [24:46-47](#); [Acts 2:38](#)), and punishes sinners' sins: "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" ([Mark 16:16](#)).

All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.



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To “exalt God” (**verse 9**) is to raise Him highest in our devotion; “His holy hill,” once Jerusalem (**2 Chronicles 3:1**), is anywhere Christians assemble to worship Him His way (**Acts 17:24-25; 18:7-8**).

Thought: as each section of this Psalm ends with “He is holy” we may praise Him who is “*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty.*”

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