

Psalm 97

¹ The LORD reigns! He is the God of heaven and earth, and His name is Jesus Christ, the Messiah¹. Let the earth rejoice, and let all of the people of the islands be glad.

What the ancients felt He was like

² The LORD resides in dark thunderclouds, and His throne is established and maintained by righteousness and doing what is good and just. ³⁻⁵ Fire in the form of lightning illumines the sky. It not only causes the people of the world to tremble, but it strikes His adversaries burning them to a crisp on the spot. Just the presence of the LORD of the whole earth causes massive earthquakes to move mountains from their place. ⁶ The heavenly bodies declare His power and goodness, and everyone has seen it even if they don't recognize it. ⁷ Everyone who serves idols and brags about it should be ashamed. ⁸ The people of Israel heard all of this, and they were glad. They rejoiced in God's decrees on their behalf and the fact that His decrees are aimed at their enemies' downfall. ⁹ LORD, You are God Most High over all of the earth, and all other so-called gods are merely cheap imitations.

How believers should respond

¹⁰ We who know Jesus Christ as personal savior should acquire and maintain a biblical fear of the LORD so that we hate evil as much as the LORD hates evil. It is the right thing to do because He preserves His saints and protects them from the destructive hand of Satan and wicked men. ¹¹ The light of the truth is poured out upon His saints like seeds are sown in the field, and gladness is bestowed upon those who do what is right in the sight of the LORD. ¹² All of you who have been born again by faith in the finished work of Christ should be glad for your salvation and thank His holy name. That is the kind of sacrifice that brings Him great pleasure.

¹ Since Christ said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me," the name "Jesus Christ, the Messiah" has been used.