

SERIES TITLE: Acceptable Worship

PART 4: POWERFUL

TEXT: PSALM 96

INTRODUCTION.

When is worship acceptable? The only way we can discover this is to see how Scripture defines it. As David Peterson writes, “We cannot simply determine for ourselves what is honoring to God.” We need a biblical and theological perspective. Of the ways God has revealed himself—creation, Conscience, Christ—he has given us objective truth in the written Word. Through these 7 weeks, we will consider a minute portion of what the Bible declares or demonstrates about worship. This is a crucial subject for every single follower of Jesus. Why? As Erwin Lutzer stated: “If we haven’t learned to be worshippers, it really doesn’t matter how well we do anything else.” May we become the kind of worshippers that God the Father seeks.

DISCUSSION.

What characteristics come to mind when you think about something/someone being powerful?

EXAMINATION.

Vv.1-3

- Why a new song?
- What is the content of the song?
- Who is the song for?

Vv.4-6

- Does this mean there are other gods? Why or why not?
- What do the heavens say about the Lord?
- What does the sanctuary reveal about the Lord?

Vv.7-9

- What does it mean to “ascribe”?
- Why is trembling involved?

Vv.10-13

- In what sense does the Lord reign in the present tense?
- Why would the heavens, earth, fields, and forests all rejoice at the Lord's coming?
- How will the Lord judge the world?

APPLICATION.

- Based on this Psalm, what should our worship singing be like?
- What does it mean to declare his glory among the nations? And how could our church do it more effectively?
- If you have ever trembled before the Lord, what prompted it?
- How much do you consider and appreciate the promise of the coming judgment of the Lord? And how does it/should it impact your worship?
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?