



Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church

The Sermon on the Mount - Part 1 • God's Majesty • Psalm 93:1-5 • 06/10/2018

Main Point

“Majesty” describes God’s sovereign rule over the universe, which inspires us to worship Him.

Introduction

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

What do you think makes the British royal family so fascinating, especially to people in America?

How would you describe God’s majesty to another person?

One of the reasons the royal family is so fascinating to Americans is because we are not governed by a king or queen. We may not be citizens of an earthly kingdom, but, as Christians, we are citizens of a heavenly one, and God rules that kingdom with majesty. When we talk about God’s majesty, we are referring to His regal, lofty, or stately dignity; His supreme greatness as the ruler over all creation.

Understanding

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| Have a volunteer read Psalm 93.

What does this psalmist tell us about God in this passage?

What are some of the important aspects of God’s reign, based on this psalm?

Think back over the characteristics of God from our study—power, presence, knowledge, sovereignty, holiness, truthfulness, righteousness, justice, love, mercy, faithfulness, goodness.

Why is it important that God rule the universe with each of these characteristics?

Pick one of these character traits. How would you feel about a ruler who lacked that trait?

In Psalm 93, the psalmist praises God for His majesty—His rule over all of creation. According to the psalmist, God rules from His heavenly throne in strength (v. 1), for all eternity (v. 2), and in holiness (v. 5). As we have seen throughout our study on the nature of God, He is perfect in all He is and all He does. How comforting that the ruler of the universe is perfect and unchanging. This fact can inspire us to worship. In Revelation 4, John had a vision of heavenly worship. In his vision, He saw God in all His majesty, seated on His heavenly throne.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ REVELATION 4:1-5.

Which images or phrases stand out to you in these opening verses of Revelation 4?

What is the figure on the throne like? What do we learn about God from these verses?

John struggled to describe what he saw. Can you relate? What aspect of God or your relationship with Him do you have the hardest time putting into words?

John saw a door standing open in heaven, allowing him a glimpse of the heavenly throne room. The voice John heard was that of Jesus Himself, inviting him to catch a glimpse of God's glory. As John entered, he saw a heavenly throne. The concept of a throne room conveys the idea of God's kingship, majesty, and holiness. Like Isaiah, John saw "the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted" (Isa. 6:1). John did not describe God; rather, he described the majesty surrounding Him. God's majesty surpasses description.

How can our recognition of God's greatness and majesty motivate us to worship Him?

What feelings do you associate with being in God's presence? Describe a time when you were especially aware of His presence.

| HAVE ANOTHER VOLUNTEER READ REVELATION 4:6-11.

Look at the heavenly creatures' song in verse 8. What specific aspects of God's nature did they praise?

How might our attitude and actions toward God be different if we constantly reminded ourselves of His holiness and majesty?

We are commanded and privileged to worship God now, but it is something that we will get to do for eternity. Why practice worship now when we'll be doing it for eternity in the new heaven and earth?

What response does God elicit from the elders (v. 10)? What do these actions symbolize?

The heavenly creatures sing God's holiness in His presence throughout all time. The creatures repeated "holy" three times. The repetition communicates that God is utterly other than anything or anyone. Additionally, these angels drew attention to God's power ("Almighty") and His eternal quality ("who was,

and is, and is to come”). The elders fall down before the throne as subjects who worship their sovereign. In their unceasing worship the elders present their crowns before the throne—an obvious reference that God’s power and majesty are greater than theirs. We will spend eternity worshiping God in His presence, but worshiping Him today draws us closer to Him and gives us the opportunity to point others to Him too.

Application

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

How have you experienced God’s majesty in your life? What does being in the presence of a holy, majestic God lead you to do?

How does experiencing God’s presence, as John did, help you surrender to God in your spiritual walk? In your prayer life?

What stances and postures toward God in worship have you seen in the passages that you want to imitate in your life?

What will be your biggest takeaway from our study on the nature of God?

Pray

Ask God to reveal His majesty in a powerful way to your group. Pray that in response to God’s majesty, we would be humble, repentant, and filled with worship and that your group would grow together by encouraging one another to live in awe of the majesty and holiness of God.

Commentary

| Psalm 93

93:1-2. The Hebrew word for reigns is a verb form implying completed action or an established condition. Reference to the beginning and eternity means Yahweh’s kingship is timeless. On robed in majesty, see note at 104:1 (cp. Isa 51:9; 59:17). The Lord established (“measured, regulated”) the world, and the order of the cosmos is not subject to disruptions. To be shaken often occurs in texts that describe the impotence of false gods (Isa 54:10). The term reinforces the reliability of the Lord’s character and His commitment to creation (Ps 96:10; 99:1; 104:5).

93:3-4. The psalmist personified primeval forces that threatened creation and then demonstrated the Lord’s sovereignty over them. On on high, compare 7:7; 68:16; 144:7.

93:5. God’s testimonies or decrees are as stable as His throne and the earth (19:8; 25:10; 99:7; 132:12; Dt 4:45; 6:17,20). Beauty refers to a suitable adornment (Sg 1:10).