



International Bible Lesson
Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Reasons for Confidence and Courage

January 8, 2017

Psalms 96:1-13

“Say among the nations, ‘The LORD reigns.’ The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity” (Psalms 96:10).

When the world seems in so much turmoil, where can we find confidence and courage as we enter a new year? We can remember that no matter what happens in, among, and between nations, “The LORD reigns.” Almost 1000 years before Christ was born, the psalmist proclaimed, “among the nations, ‘The LORD reigns.’” Satan still has power to wreak havoc and tempt people to do evil; still we must proclaim, “The LORD reigns.” Because the LORD reigns, no matter how many earthquakes, floods, or tornadoes occur, or how the earth may be changing, “The world is firmly established.” Nothing will interrupt the course of nature without the LORD’s permission or power: “it cannot be moved.” In spite of what we may hear about the future, the writers of the Psalms give us many reasons to rejoice before the LORD; not only us, but “all creation.” Furthermore, the writer of Psalms 96 looks forward to the time when Jesus Christ will return and judge the people of the earth with equity; that is, without regard to someone’s wealth, race, power, or poverty. When Jesus comes again, those who have unfairly treated and oppressed others will not evade justice through the favoritism of friends, because “He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness” (Psalms 96:13). Despite the appearance that people float abandoned in a godless and unfair world, those who have trusted in the LORD will find the LORD faithful to them; they will receive justice and mercy and live forever under God’s eternal and perfect reign over the heavens and the earth.

Thinking Further

1. What are some reasons someone might give today for singing a new song to the Lord?
2. In what ways does Psalm 96 show God’s concern for everyone?
3. Name one marvelous deed of God from the Old Testament and from the New Testament.
4. Give one or more reasons why God is worthy of praise.
5. How can Psalm 96:10 give you confidence and courage when facing an unknown future?

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