PSALMS
Chapter 93

[1] The LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and is armed with strength. The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved. [2] Your throne was established long ago; you are from all eternity. [3] The seas have lifted up, O LORD, the seas have lifted up their voice; the seas have lifted up their pounding waves. [4] Mightier than the thunder of the great waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea— the LORD on high is mighty. [5] Your statutes stand firm; holiness adorns your house for endless days, O LORD.

Ps 93 A hymn to the eternal, universal and invincible reign of the Lord, a theme it shares with Ps 47; 94–100. Together they offer a majestic confession of faith in and hope for the kingdom of God on earth. These hymns were composed for the liturgy of a high religious festival in which the kingship of the Lord—over the cosmic order, over the nations and in a special sense over Israel—was annually celebrated (see introduction to Ps 47). And implicitly, where not explicitly, the Lord's kingship is hailed in contrast to the claims of all other gods; he is "the great King above all gods" (95:3). Ps 93–100 may all have been composed by temple personnel and spoken by them in the liturgy. They probably date from the preexilic era. Structurally, the psalm has two short stanzas (vv. 1–2, 3–4) and a conclusion (v. 5). (CSB)

Many religions celebrated the enthronement of their gods. Here, the writer affirms that the Lord has always reigned and will do so forever. This confident confession celebrates God's almighty and eternal reign over even the most chaotic powers of creation. The fall Festival of Booths or Tabernacles may have used this psalm. Cf 47; 95–99. (TLSB)

> Format: Vv 1–2, God's power over the world; vv 3–4, God's rule over destructive forces; v 5, praise for God's holiness. (TLSB)

93:1–2 The Lord's reign, by which the creation order has been and will be secure throughout the ages, is from eternity (see Ge 1:1). Though Israel as a nation has come late on the scene, her God has been King since before the creation of the world. (CSB)

world. All creation. *throne*. God's power and rule. The psalm focuses on the Lord's everlasting reign. The repetition of themes (robed, belt, throne) here and in vv 3–4 (floods, waters, waves) emphasize, much like exclamation marks, the Lord's eternal and unshakable sovereignty. (TLSB)

93:1 *The* LORD *reigns.* The ultimate truth, and first article, in Israel's creed (see 96:10; 97:1; 99:1; see also Zec 14:9 and note). (CSB)

robed … belt. Magnificent clothes worn only by a king, which depict God's strength and splendor. (TLSB)

93:3–4 Since his founding of the world, the Lord has shown himself to be mightier than all the forces of disorder that threaten his kingdom. (CSB)

Imagery of waves pounding against rocks or a flood relentlessly attacking whatever is in its path. Even these destructive forces are no match for God's power (cf Mk 4:35–41). (TLSB)

93:3 *seas.* Reference is to the primeval chaotic waters, tamed and assigned a place by the Lord's creative word (see 33:7; 104:7–9; Ge 1:6–10; Job 38:8–11). Implicitly they symbolize all that opposes the coming of the Lord's kingdom (see 65:6–7; 74:13–14 and notes). (CSB)

93:4 The thunder of the chaotic waters is no match for the thunder of the Lord's ordering word (see 104:7). (CSB)

To the ancient people the power of the sea was terrifying. Even for us today few things are more awesome than a storm at sea. God's power over the sea is therefore a fitting symbol of his power over all creation. (PBC)

93:5 *statutes.* He whose indisputable rule has made the world secure has given his people life directives that are stable and reliable (see 19:7)—and that they must honor (see 95:8–11). (CSB)

God's promises, warnings, and commands by which He reveals Himself. (TLSB)

The physical world is established and stable only because God's throne is established in heaven. (PBC)

your house. His earthly temple—but also the heavenly. (CSB)

God's holy presence adorns the temple, making it beautiful. Since His holiness is everlasting, that holiness now adorns the Church today (1Co 3:17) and heaven itself. It also calls those who worship to holiness: "You shall be holy, for I the LORD Your God am holy" (Lv 19:2). (TLSB)

for endless days. Qualifies both clauses. (CSB)

Ps 93 The Lord reigns! Yet a storm may still crash into a church. The members may come back to see destruction, not beauty. Does the Lord reign? Indeed, He does. Many years ago, Jesus spoke, and a deadly storm was silenced. Wind and waves were calmed in an instant. Such is God's power. And more! By His resurrection, He rules over our lives now and forever. • Lord, despite the evil we see and the destruction around us, lead us to confess that Your words are trustworthy. Amen. (TLSB)