

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

PSALMS 96-102

Abraham Lincoln was entertaining a White House guest. The man tried to praise the president. He said, “Back in my home state folks say the welfare of the nation depends on God and Abraham Lincoln.”

Lincoln humbly responded, “Well, they’re half right.”

Later in his presidency, Lincoln commented, “Without divine assistance I cannot succeed. With it I cannot fail.” Abraham Lincoln understood that ultimately God was on the throne. His will and reign would prevail.

This is the lesson taught in tonight’s psalms. Psalms 93 and 95-100 are called “**The Royal Psalms.**” They speak of God’s reign over all the earth.

This morning we talked about the sin of man and its devastating effects. *Yet despite man’s fall, God still reigns...* That’s our theme tonight!

PSALM NINETY-SIX has an interesting structure.

It’s divided into three stanzas each beginning with a three-fold call...

Verses 1-2 start the psalm, “Sing... Sing... Sing...” Verses 7-8 instruct, “Give... Give... Give...” And verses 11-12 declare, “Let... Let... Let...”

Psalms 96 is similar to 1Chronicles 16:22-33 - the psalm David wrote when he brought the Ark of the Covenant up to the city of Jerusalem.

Verse 1 begins, “Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless His name; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.”

When you come to church a little out of it... you're tired or down... and it's easy to just mouth the words and go through the motions... *remember Psalm 96 and sing, sing, sing...*

Dig deep, cut loose, and *sing, sing, sing* - God is worthy to be praised.

Notice too, we sing *a new song*, but the lyrics are about *the old story* - “The good news of His salvation.” Here's the goal of our praise – don't let the old story get old. Sing it day after day, but in a new and fresh way.

Verse 3 tells us, “Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.” A primary purpose of praise is to bring pleasure to God, but praise is also a tool for evangelism. Don't just praise God in church – among *His people* – declare His glory among *all peoples*.

When you praise God among the nations you let them know there's something in this sinful world still worth getting excited about.

When an unbeliever walks into Calvary let's not get timid in our praise. Let's not shy away. He needs to know we're excited about our God.

“For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods.” Notice the balanced response to God's greatness... He's to be *praised* and *feared* – *rejoice* and *revere* – we *lift up* and *bow down*.

“For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD

made the heavens.” Understand the truth, Jehovah of the Hebrews and Jesus His Son is the one true God – all others are worthless idols... **“Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.”**

“Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples, give to the LORD glory and strength. Give to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts.” The limits of our *worship* are limits of His *worth*. **“Give to the LORD the glory due His name.”** We never praise God enough!

Notice the progression to our praise - singing is a start... giving comes next... You start with the *lips*. You give it a *rip*, and make a joyful noise. But then you reach for the *hip* and pull out your wallet.

You give - you **“bring an offering.”** You put some meat on the bone. You put your money where you’re mouth is. You back up you lyrics with some tangible proof of your allegiance. *You hit the high notes when you give.*

“Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth.” What matters in true worship isn’t just a beautiful voice, but the beauty of holiness – a life that’s sold-out and set-apart for Jesus.

“Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns; the world also is firmly established, it shall not be moved; He shall judge the peoples righteously.”

Here’s what the nations need to remember – the sin wreaks havoc – still **“The LORD reigns...”** Before President Obama became our new president the Lord reigned. After he’s gone the Lord will still reign.

“Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and all its fullness; let the field be joyful, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice before the LORD.” *“Let the heavens... let the earth... let the sea... let the field...”* Let them all rejoice in God.

And why? “For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with His truth.”

Jesus is coming back to planet Earth. He came the first time to *redeem our soul*. He comes the next time to *restore our planet...* Romans 8, tells us that all creation groans in anticipation of the Lord’s return...

Nature’s instability and randomness is the result of sin. Because of the fall Mother Nature has gone hormonal. She suffers from perpetual PMS.

The world is not what God created. But when He returns He’ll right the wrongs, remove the curse, and restored the earth to its original ideal.

So “let, let, let - give, give, give -sing, sing, sing...” and why the triune call? We have a three in One God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

PSALM NINETY-SEVEN is another of **The Royal Psalms**. It’s divided into two parts – God is the **Reigning One** and **Righteous One**. Verses 1-9 depict Him as the ruler over **nations** and **nature**.

“The LORD reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of

isles be glad!” Let both the Earth’s mainland and its islands rejoice.

“Clouds and darkness surround Him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.” His glory is shrouded in clouds and darkness, but His standards are clearly seen. They’re righteous and just.

“A fire goes before Him, and burns up His enemies round about.

His lightnings light the world; the earth sees and trembles. The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. The heavens declare His righteousness, and all the peoples see His glory.”

All the Royal Psalms ultimately point to the Second Coming of Jesus – when He returns He establishes His throne on the Earth.

Prior to His return the Bible predicts signs in the heavens – cataclysmic events will rock the planet. When the 7th bowl of judgment is poured out Revelation says the mountains will be no more. Psalm 97 is fulfilled.

This Psalm reminds me of the new High School teacher.

The summer before he started, he suffered a major auto accident, and reported to school the first day with his upper torso in a cast. Of course, the students didn’t realize a plaster cast was under the teacher’s shirt.

On the first day, the teacher opened the window to let in the stiff breeze. The wind was so strong it started flapping the teacher’s tie.

It didn't faze the new teacher. He walked to his desk, grabbed the stapler, and tacked his tie to his chest with a couple of staples. Wow!

Talk about making an impression! No one was ever tempted to mess with the new guy. Any teacher who staples his tie to his chest is a tough teacher!... And this is the conclusion we should draw from Psalm 97.

You don't mess around with God. Respect Him, reverence Him.

And put away your stupid idols. Verse 7, **“Let all be put to shame who serve carved images, who boast of idols. Worship Him, all you gods.”**

Remember when the Philistines captured the Ark of God and brought it into the Temple of their god, they placed the Ark before the fish-god, Dagon – as if the true God were paying homage to a Philistine idol.

The next morning they found their idol on his face before the Ark. The next morning it fell again, and its head and hands were broken off.

In the end the idol of the Philistines bowed to the one true God.

“Zion hears and is glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoice because of Your judgments, O LORD. For You, LORD, are most high above all the earth; You are exalted far above all gods. You who love the LORD, hate evil!” This goes hand in hand. To love God is to hate evil.

If you say you love God, yet still love your sin - you're a hypocrite.

Verse 10, “(God) preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked. Light is sown for the righteous...” What a great thought... “Light is sown...” - clarity becomes a way of life.

You start to see life and circumstances from God’s perspective.

“And gladness (is sown) for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.”

When the Angel Gabriel visited Mary to inform her that the Holy Spirit had overshadowed her, and she would mother the Messiah – she immediately left for Jerusalem to visit her cousin Elizabeth.

When Mary arrived, she expressed the joy of her heart in a song called, “Mary’s Magnificat.” Read her song in Luke 1 and you’ll find some amazing parallels with **PSALM NINETY-EIGHT**... Perhaps Mary was meditating on this psalm as she journeyed from Nazareth to Elizabeth’s house.

The psalm opens with the command to “Oh, sing to the LORD a new song!” God wants fresh, passionate praise - not stale repetition. “Sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things...” Our praise should be as current as the wonderful ways God works in our lives.

“His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.

The LORD has made known His salvation; His

righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations. He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth; break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.” On Sunday morning our praise is planned, but sometimes praise happens spontaneously – it breaks out.

Our hearts should be so overjoyed at times we just break out in praise.

“Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of a psalm, with trumpets and the sound of a horn; shout joyfully before the LORD, the King.” Again this is another of “The Royal Psalms.”

Verse 7 “Let the sea roar, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell in it; let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills be joyful together before the LORD, for He is coming to judge the earth.” Notice the psalmist’s figure language. Rivers clapping and hills rejoicing...

The psalms are poetry, and they employ poetic devices. One of which is the personification of nature. Rivers don’t have literal hands that clap – but the idea is that the coming of the Lord will relieve all nature.

Psalms 98 ends with a description of the King’s judgment... “With righteousness He shall judge the world, and the peoples with equity.”

PSALM NINETY-NINE begins with the reminder that it is

also another of “The Royal Psalms...” “The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble!”

In 17th century England a religious movement sprung up known as the “Quakers.” The name came from the practice of physically trembling and shaking under the Spirit’s power. We all should quake in fear of God.

When the Lord reigns in us He tends to shake things up.

And God is “He dwells between the cherubim; let the earth be moved!”

God's throne is in heaven, between the cherubim or angels. This is why the Ark had two angels affixed to the mercy seat. It was a replica of God’s heavenly throne. His throne is sure, whereas the earth is movable.

“The LORD is great in Zion, and He is high above all the peoples. Let them praise Your great and awesome name - He is holy.” The Old Testament Jews so revered God they lost His name.

Out of respect for God’s holiness they refused to write down God’s full name. They wrote only the consonants – YHWH - the tetragrammaton.

Over time they forgot the vowels between the consonants. Later Jews added vowels for another name for God – “Adonai” means “Lord.” Today God is called “Yahweh,” or the Anglicized form, “Jehovah.”

It’s sad the Jews *packed away* the name rather than *praising* the name.

The Jews misunderstood how you reverence someone. You

sing their praise – you don't grow silent and clam up. As we're told in verse 3, "Let them praise Your great and awesome name - He is holy."

"The King's strength also loves justice; You have established equity; You have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His footstool - He is holy."

The Jews understood the Temple in Jerusalem didn't confine or contain God. He fills the heavens. He isn't limited to 90' x 30' – a 2700 SF house.

The Temple was merely "His footstool" - where He rested His feet.

"Moses and Aaron were among His priests, and Samuel was among those who called upon His name; they called upon the LORD, and He answered them." Here are three examples of praying men – Moses, Aaron, and Samuel. Go back in Scripture and study their prayers.

"He spoke to them in the cloudy pillar; they kept His testimonies and the ordinance He gave them. You answered them, O LORD our God; You were to them God-Who-Forgives, though You took vengeance on their deeds." I love this name for God - "the God Who Forgives." Evidently, the Lord is known for His mercy and grace and forgiveness.

But notice, though God forgives the sin, He doesn't always eliminate the consequence of the sin. Notice again verse 8, He was "to them God-Who-Forgives, though You took

vengeance on their deeds.”

It's been said, “God will forgive your sins, but your body won't.” Vile and destructive habits take their toll. Even forgiven sin has its fallout.

Out on a western ranch a father lived with his wild and rambunctious son. Every time the boy got into trouble the dad drove a nail in a hitching post in front of the house. Over the years the wooden post filled with nails.

Eventually the son was charged with a crime and thrown into prison.

From his jail cell the young man wondered if his dad would ever forgive him. After his release he returned home, and the first thing his father did was take him out to that nail-covered post. One by one his dad pulled out the nails. The boy cried at the father's vivid example of forgiveness.

But when the last nail was removed the dad asked his son to look at closely at the post. The nails were gone, but now it was covered with scars. The same happens with sin. Yes, God forgives fully and freely, but our sin still leaves scars that can never be completely removed.

Verse 9 wraps up Psalm 99, “Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.” He's in class by Himself!

PSALM ONE HUNDRED is entitled, “A Psalm of Thanksgiving.”

The sure evidence of a true Christian is *the attitude of gratitude!*

If you've truly tasted the goodness and grace of God there will be a *gladness not a grimness*. You'll be thankful, and you won't be timid in expressing that thanks. Psalm 100 springs from a thankful heart!

“Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves...”

There is no such thing as *a self-made man*.

There are only two types of people – thankful people *who give the credit to God* – or arrogant people *who steal the credit from God*.

In an old movie titled, *“Shenandoah,”* Jimmy Stewart plays a Virginia farmer who sits down at the family dinner table. He prays a graceless “grace.” And though most people wouldn't be crude enough to pray it out-loud, it's probably close to what a lot of people really think...

He prays, **“Lord, we cleared this land, we ploughed it, sowed it, and harvested it, and we cooked the harvest. It wouldn't be here – we wouldn't be eating it – if we hadn't done it all ourselves. We worked dog bone hard for every crumb and morsel, but we thank you just the same anyway Lord for this food we're about to eat. Amen”**. That's the attitude of a lot of folks. They'll say thanks, but deep inside they feel the credit belongs to them.

The psalmist takes the opposite attitude. Any good he's done – anything noble he's become - is the product of God's mercy.

Paul said to the Corinthians in 1Corinthians 15:10, “By the grace of God I am what I am...” The writer of Psalm 100 would have agreed.

He adds, “We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.” Sheep are notoriously dumb. They need the shepherd to lead them. Sheep wander off and the shepherd has to track them down and bring them home.

Notice, we're “the sheep of His pasture.” God is pleased when we hang out and graze in His pasture – *in the Word, prayer, church, fellowship...* It's when we wander off into other pastures that we get into trouble.

Verses 4-5 encourage us, “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.” Psalm 100 begins “all lands” and ends “all generations.” People of all ages and in all places need give God thanks.

A pastor, fresh out seminary, was preaching his inaugural sermon when his mind went blank. The seminary taught their students that if this ever happened just repeat a previous point and it'd get you back on track.

So the man shouted, “Behold, I come quickly!”

It didn't work, so he tried again, “Behold, I come quickly!”

Finally he said it with such force, “Behold I come quickly!” - He leaned too far and knocked over the pulpit into the front row. The pastor fell right into the lap of this little old lady. He was so embarrassed and apologetic.

The lady responded, "Don't worry Sonny, it wasn't YOUR fault. I should have gotten out of the way. You warned me 3 times you were coming!"

The moral of the story, “Always take heed to a warning.”

This is what David does in **PSALM ONE HUNDRED AND ONE.**

David wanted to bring the Ark of God up to Jerusalem. The Ark was God’s sacred seat - His throne on the earth. David wanted it to be center stage in the life of the nation. But David went about it the wrong way...

He put it on an ox-drawn cart. God had the Ark built with eyelets where poles could be inserted and it carried by men. It was a protective design.

When David’s cart hit a bump and the Ark slid, a man name Uzzah stuck out his hand to brace it – *and he was struck down dead.* Unholy hands were to ever touch the Holy Ark. It was an extreme lesson.

And David took it to heart. David learned two truths from the tragedy.

First, *God anoints men not machines.* His presence is to be carried in the hearts of men not carted on the latest technology. EM Bounds once said, “Man is looking for better methods. God is looking for better men.”

And second, David learned *a good deed can be done a wrong way*. It is not enough to simply serve God - there is a way He wants to be served.

David's negligence had a cost a man his life. Psalm 101 is David's commitment to never let a similar catastrophe happen again.

Verse 1 "I will sing of mercy and justice; to You, O LORD, I will sing praises. I will behave wisely in a perfect way. Oh, when will You come to me?" After the accident David's first instinct was to forget the whole idea of handling the Ark. He took it aside to the house of Obed-Edom.

But after great prayer and meditation God revealed to him his mistake.

Now he vows to walk wisely, and adopt not just *motives*, but *methods* pleasing to God. Proverbs 9:10 declares, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom." David was *glib with God* – now he gets serious.

He continues, "I will walk within my house with a perfect heart."

Notice, where does David's commitment to God begin? At home!

The family is the "hothouse of human relationships."

Life makes up its mind at home. Does your faith in God make you a better husband, or wife, or son, or daughter? Howard Hendricks use to say, "If your Christianity doesn't work at home, don't export it."

In verse 3 David vows, "I will set nothing wicked before my

eyes...”

How relevant to us today... on the internet, or on cable television, or at the magazine rack... I have vowed to set nothing wicked before my eyes.

Here's where you fight the war against lust. Once it creeps into your heart it's often too late. That's why you fight it out “before your eyes.”

If it doesn't get through the eyes it can't penetrate into the heart.

And notice the Hebrew word translated, “wicked”. It means “worthless” not just wicked. Some material is not evil, per se' – it's just worthless – it's a trivial pursuit – a distraction - a waste of time. Seconds and minutes and hours are a gift from God. We're to be good stewards of our time.

Steer clear of both the *wicked stuff* and the *worthless stuff*.

David says, “I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me. A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will not know wickedness.

Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, Him I will destroy; the one who has a haughty look and a proud heart, Him I will not endure. My eyes shall be on the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me; he who walks in a perfect way, he shall serve me. He who works deceit shall not dwell within my house; he who tells lies shall not continue in my presence.”

Notice, David is concerned about the people around him. He's going to avoid the unfaithful and the gossip and the proud and deceitful – and he's going to hang-out with the faithful... “Early I will destroy all the wicked of the land, that I

may cut off all the evildoers from the city of the LORD.”

As king his responsibility is to rid the land of evildoers.

PSALM ONE HUNDRED AND TWO is not only *poetry*, but *prophecy*.

It predicts events happening in Israel today. Psalm 102 is “a psalm for modern times.” It’s entitled, “A Prayer of the afflicted, when he is overwhelmed and pours out his complaint before the LORD.”

“Hear my prayer, O LORD, and let my cry come to You. Do not hide Your face from me in the day of my trouble; incline Your ear to me; in the day that I call, answer me speedily. For my days are consumed like smoke, and my bones are burned like a hearth.

My heart is stricken and withered like grass, so that I forget to eat my bread. Because of the sound of my groaning my bones cling to my skin.

I am like a pelican of the wilderness; I am like an owl of the desert. I lie awake, and am like a sparrow alone on the housetop.” In other words, I’m out of my element. Pelicans are usually seen along the seashore. Find a pelican in the wilderness and it means a violent storm blew it inland.

At the writing of this psalm this may have been what happened to Israel. Some believe this psalm was written by Daniel, living in exile in Babylon – after the destruction of the city and the Jews deportation.

They’re now away from their land and Temple – out of their natural habitat. They’ve been blown far, far from home by a

violent storm.

Verse 8 “My enemies reproach me all day long, those who deride me swear an oath against me. For I have eaten ashes like bread, and mingled my drink with weeping, because of Your indignation and Your wrath; for You have lifted me up and cast me away.

My days are like a shadow that lengthens, and I wither away like grass.

But You, O LORD, shall endure forever, and the remembrance of Your name to all generations. You will arise and have mercy on Zion; for the time to favor her, yes, the set time, has come.”

God has set times for the Israel! Daniel 9 predicts the exact day Jesus would present Himself to the nation. On April 6, 32 AD Messiah rode the donkey down the Mount of Olives to the cheers of the crowd.

Daniel said that afterwards the Messiah would be “cut off” - or die a violent death. A final seven year period of history will bring about the culmination of all God's plans, and His salvation to Israel.

In Romans 11:25 God cuts Israel from the vine to graft in the Gentiles, but when the fullness of Gentiles comes in - the last Gentile gets saved - God will graft Israel in again! His timetable with Israel will start back up.

The first 11 verses of Psalm 102 describe the psalmist’s predicament. He’s cast out of his land, abandoned, punished, and tasted God’s wrath.

This has been the experience of the Jew for the last 2000 years. When the leadership of Israel rejected their Messiah, God's judgment followed.

In 70 AD Rome sacked Jerusalem and scattered the Jews among the Gentiles – where they've lived until the 20th century. In our lifetime God brought back the Jews to their land. He's reestablished Israel.

Verse 13 predicts “the set time” will come again. I believe God's prophetic time clock restarted with the rebirth of the nation Israel.

Verse 14 continues, “For Your servants take pleasure in her stones, and show favor to her dust.” At the turn of the 20th century when the Jews began to return to what was called “Palestine” - it was an unwanted and forsaken tract of land. There was nothing there but stones and dust.

In fact, the British offered the Jews other parcels. At one time, 6000 square miles in British East Africa were on the table, but the Jews “took pleasure” in their ancient home of Judah and Samaria. They desired the land of the Bible – the land God promised to their forefathers.

Zionist leader, Theodor Herzl, said, “There is a land without a people. There is a people without a land. Give the land without a people to the people without a land.” Israelis take pleasure in their stones and dust.

“So the nations shall fear the name of the LORD, and all the kings of the earth Your glory.” In 1917 British Foreign Secretary, Lord Balfour, issued [The Balfour Declaration](#) declaring Great Britain's intention of establishing a Jewish

state in the land of Palestine.

Beforehand, the Arabs didn't care about the land. Not until the Jews returned and developed the desert into an oasis and fertile fields. Only then did the Palestinians start to foster claims of ownership.

Of course the British put off their promises to the Jews, and it wasn't until after the Holocaust that pressure mounted to form a Jewish state.

On November 19, 1947 the UN voted to allow a Jewish state. On May 15, 1948 the British commissioner returned to England. And at 4:00 PM – for the first time in 2000 years - Israel became an independent nation.

Immediately, the Arabs declared a jihad or "*holy war.*"

John Philips recounts the odds against the Jews, "Arabs outnumbered Jews 40 to 1 in troops, 100 to 1 in people, 1000 to 1 in military equipment, and 5000 to 1 in land mass. Experts predicted Haifa to be captured by May 20 - Tel Aviv and Jerusalem by May 25. The situation seemed hopeless."

But by the middle of 1949 - Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria all signed cease fires with Israel. The Israelis won a decisive victory...

Since that time they've fought more battles: The 1956 Sinai War - The 1967 Six Day War (*that liberated Jerusalem, and regained the Temple Mount*) - The 1973 Yom Kippur (*that won the Golan Heights*)...

For a time whenever the Arabs launched a jihad the Israelis took more territory. Israel lives under a constant threat, but God is building up Zion.

Verse 16 is an interesting prophecy, “For the LORD shall build up Zion; He shall appear in His glory.” *What happens when the Lord builds Zion?*

He returns in glory! I believe since 1948 we’ve been living on borrowed time. The Lord Jesus could return for His Church any day!

“He shall regard the prayer of the destitute, and shall not despise their prayer. This will be written for the generation to come, that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD.” Psalm 102 is a prophecy for a people not yet created! That’s not Israel. At the time of the writing of this psalm the Church is the people not yet created. We’ll see God build up Zion.

Verse 19 “For He looked down from the height of His sanctuary; from heaven the LORD viewed the earth, to hear the groaning of the prisoner, to release those appointed to death, to declare the name of the LORD in Zion, and His praise in Jerusalem, when the peoples are gathered together, and the kingdoms, to serve the LORD.” The psalmist predicts the day when the Jews will re-gather in Jerusalem.

He weakened my strength in the way; He shortened my days.

I said, “O my God, do not take me away in the midst of my days; Your years are throughout all generations.” Don’t cut my life short.

“Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You will endure; yes, they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak

You will change them, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will have no end. The children of Your servants will continue, and their descendants will be established before You." God will outlast the universe He created.

The heavens "will grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will change them..." Revelation tells us, God will create a new heaven and new earth.

Peter says the present order will one day melt with a fervent heat. Hebrews says, everything that can be shaken will be shaken.

We live on a disposable planet. The universe has an expiration date.

The heavens will change, but in verse 27 the psalmist says of the Lord, "You are the same..." Our God is immutable. The Lord never changes.