



- Psalm 99



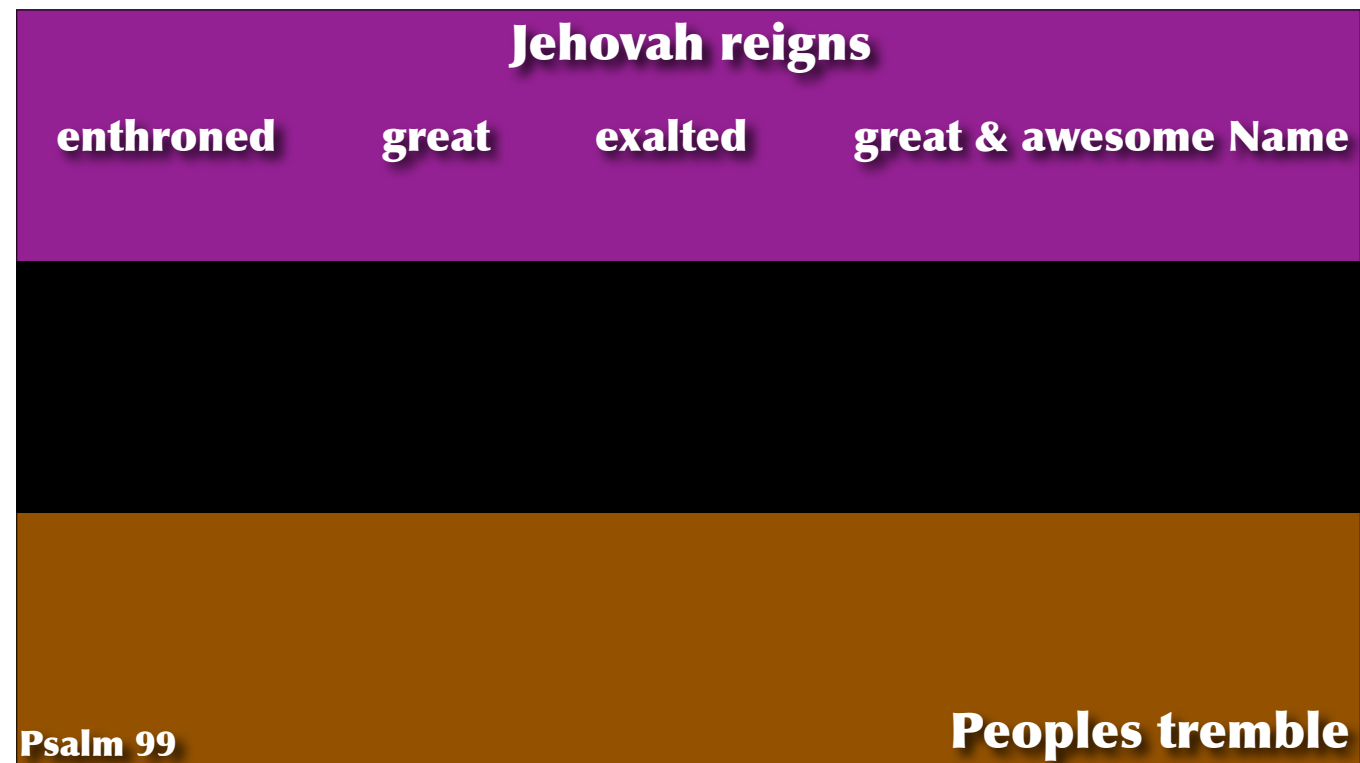
- Psalms 99:1: Jehovah reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!



- Psalms 99:1: Jehovah reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!



- Psalms 99:2: Jehovah is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.



- Psalms 99:3: Let them praise your great and awesome name! Holy is he!

Jehovah reigns

enthroned great exalted great & awesome Name

holy, holy, holy

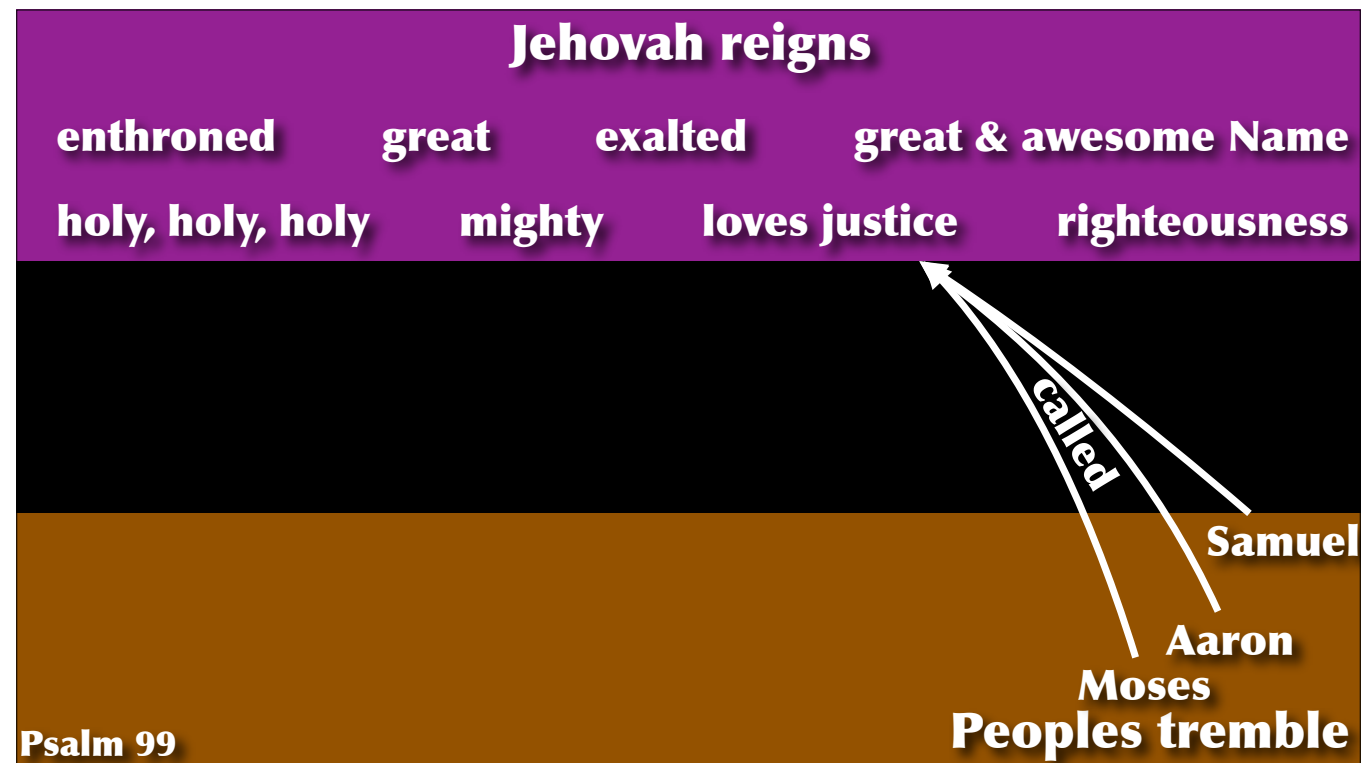
Psalm 99

Peoples tremble

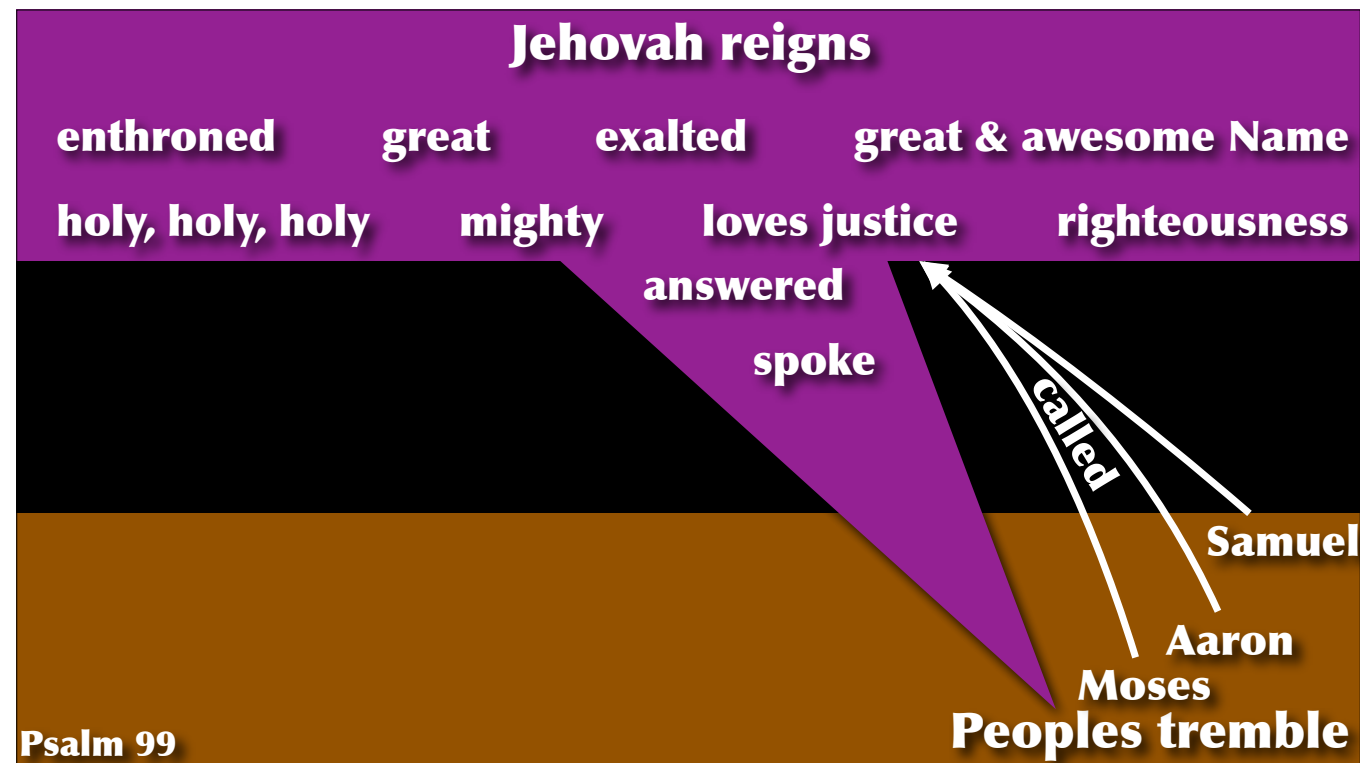
- 3, 5, Holy is he!
- 9: Jehovah our God is holy!



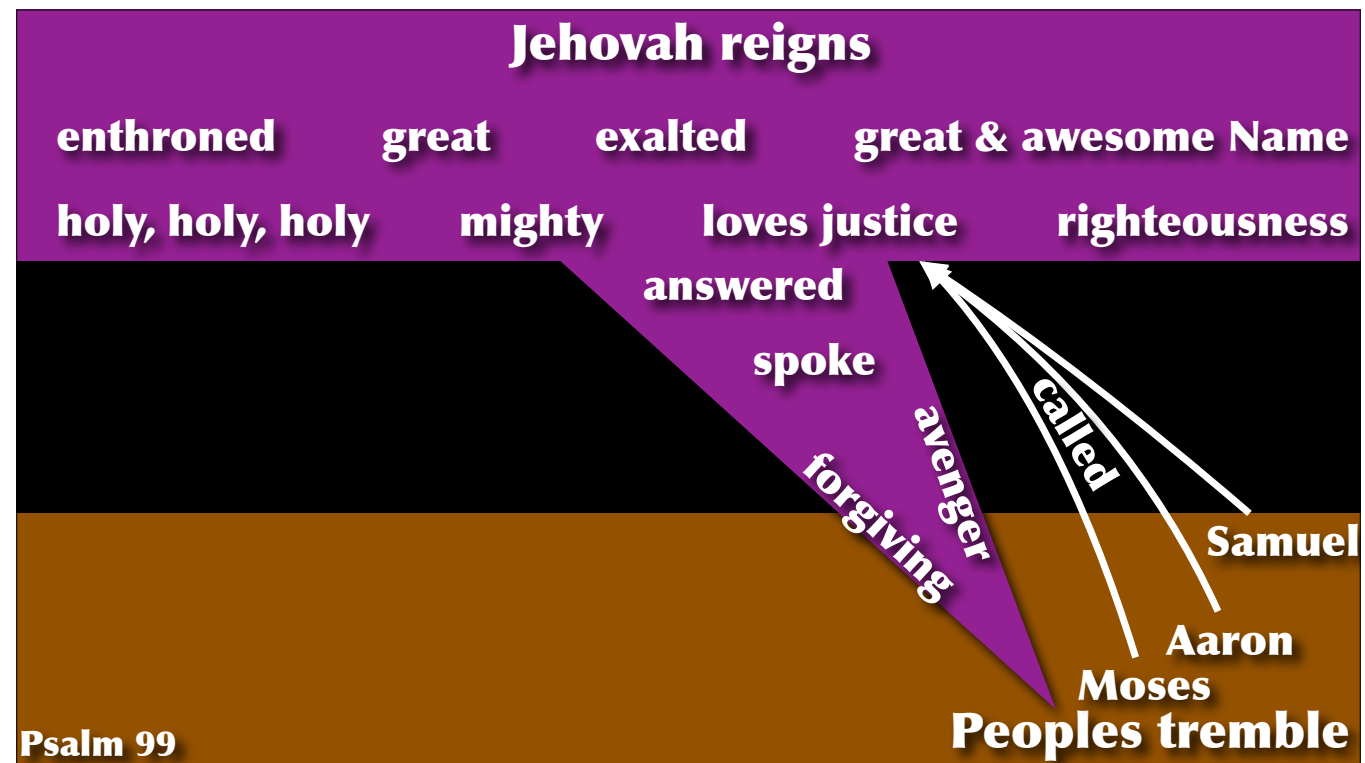
- Psalms 99:4: The King in his might loves justice. You have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.
- Look at Jehovah...
 - Is He worthy of our glory, praise, adoration?
 - Is He exalted?



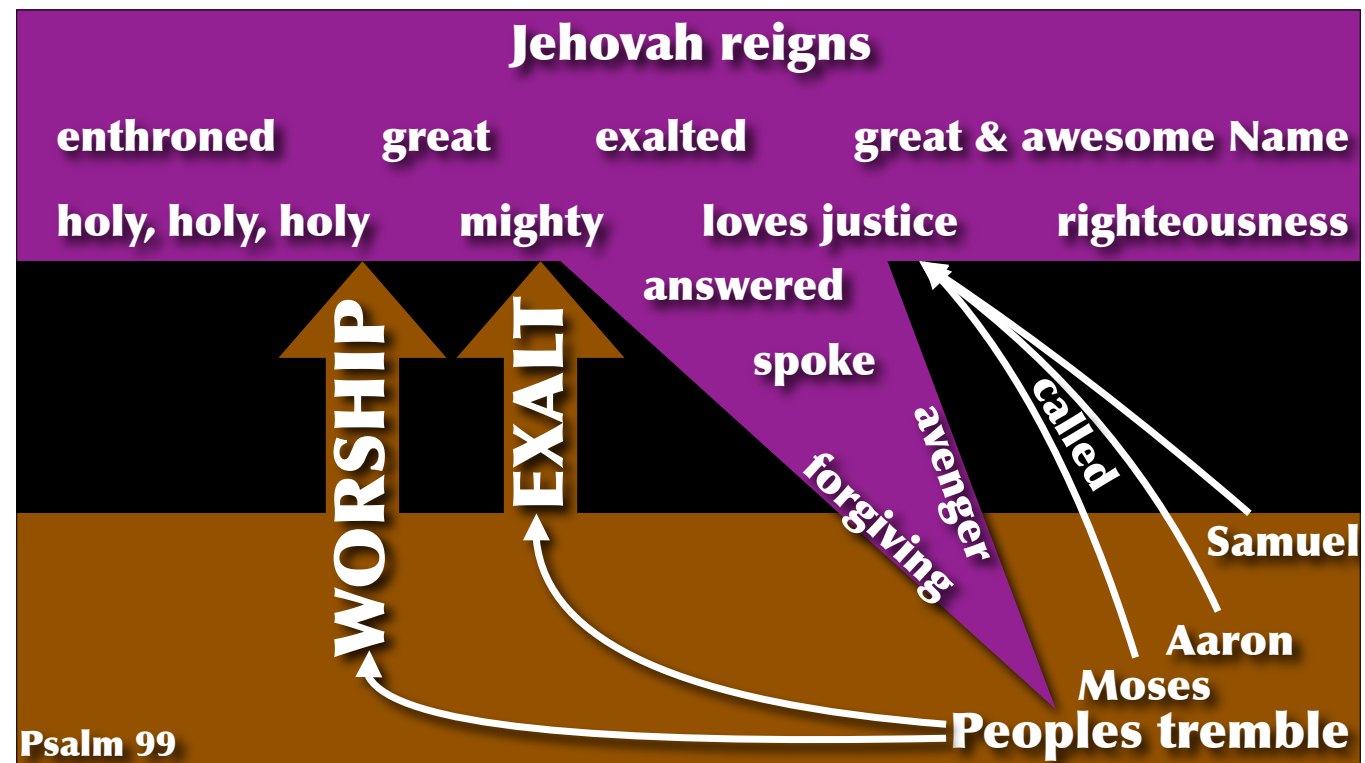
- Psalms 99:6 (ESV) 6 Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called upon his name, They called to Jehovah, and he answered them.



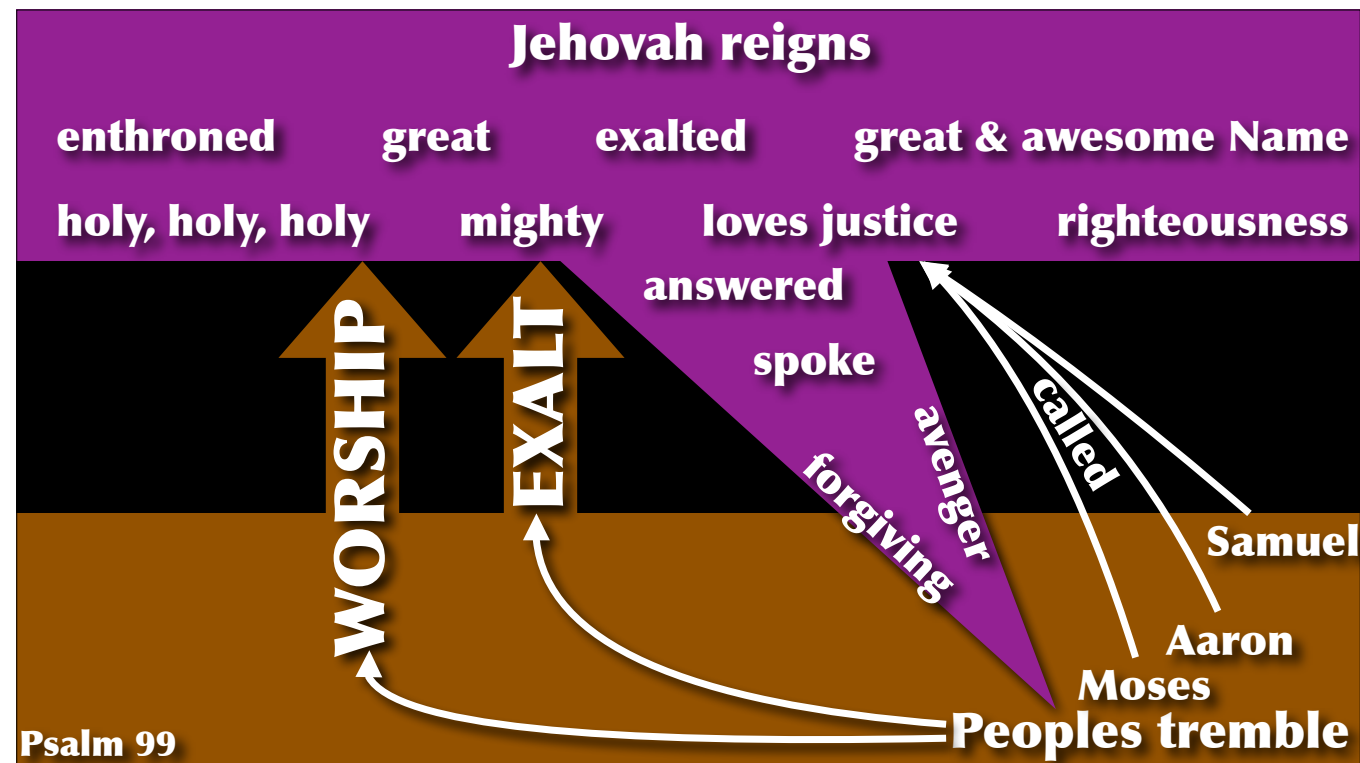
- Psalms 99:6 (ESV) 6 They called to Jehovah, and he answered them.
- Psalms 99:7 (ESV) In the pillar of the cloud he spoke to them; they kept his testimonies and the statute that he gave them.



- Psalms 99:8 (ESV) 8 O Jehovah our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings.



- Psalms 99:9: Exalt Jehovah our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for Jehovah our God is holy!



- Prayer...
 - Know Who our God Is
 - Know what He does
 - Call on Him (pray) knowing he answers
 - Exalt Him and Worship Him.

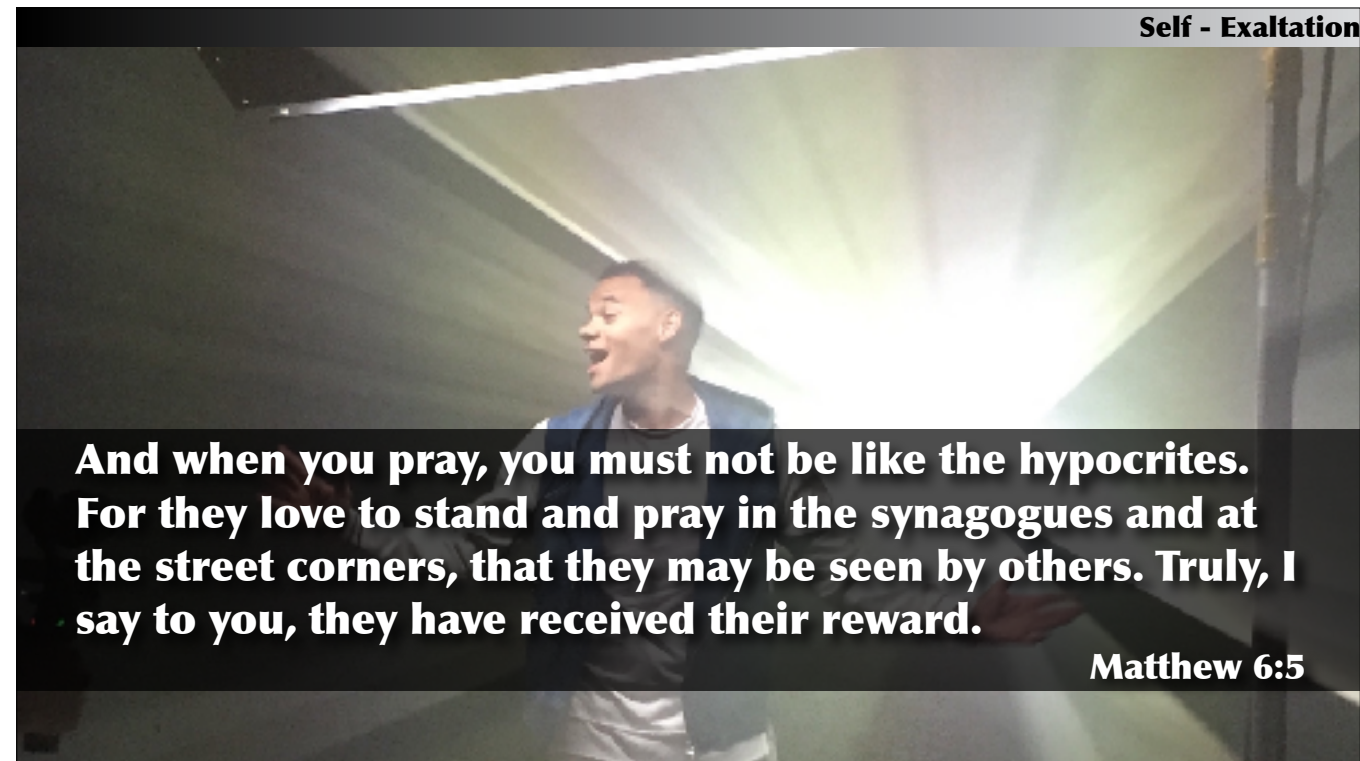
Practicing Your Righteousness

Matthew 6:5-8

- Matthew 6:5-8



- Self-Exaltation: Matthew 6:5



**And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites.
For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at
the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I
say to you, they have received their reward.**

Matthew 6:5

- Matthew 6:5: “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.



- Concentrating of attention on the one who is praying
 - Rather than on the One to whom the prayer is offered.
 - In this situation, the exaltation is of self; not worship



- The danger of being interested in myself as one who prays.
 - anxious to be known by others as one who prays
 - desire to be seen praying by others
 - ensure that others do see me praying



“They must think I’m righteous!”

- Pharisees tried to give the impression they could not wait until they got to the temple;
 - they had to stand where they were at the street corners to pray, at once,
 - blatant and obvious
 - And many people concluded that they were righteous.



- pray in secret so that everybody knows he is praying in secret.
 - If I go out of my way not to stand at the street corners I may be calling attention to myself.
 - If I make sure everyone knows I pray in secret



“What did you think of THAT prayer?”

- praying in public to have an effect upon the people present
 - rather than to approach God
 - Calling on Him
 - Exalting Him
 - Worshiping Him

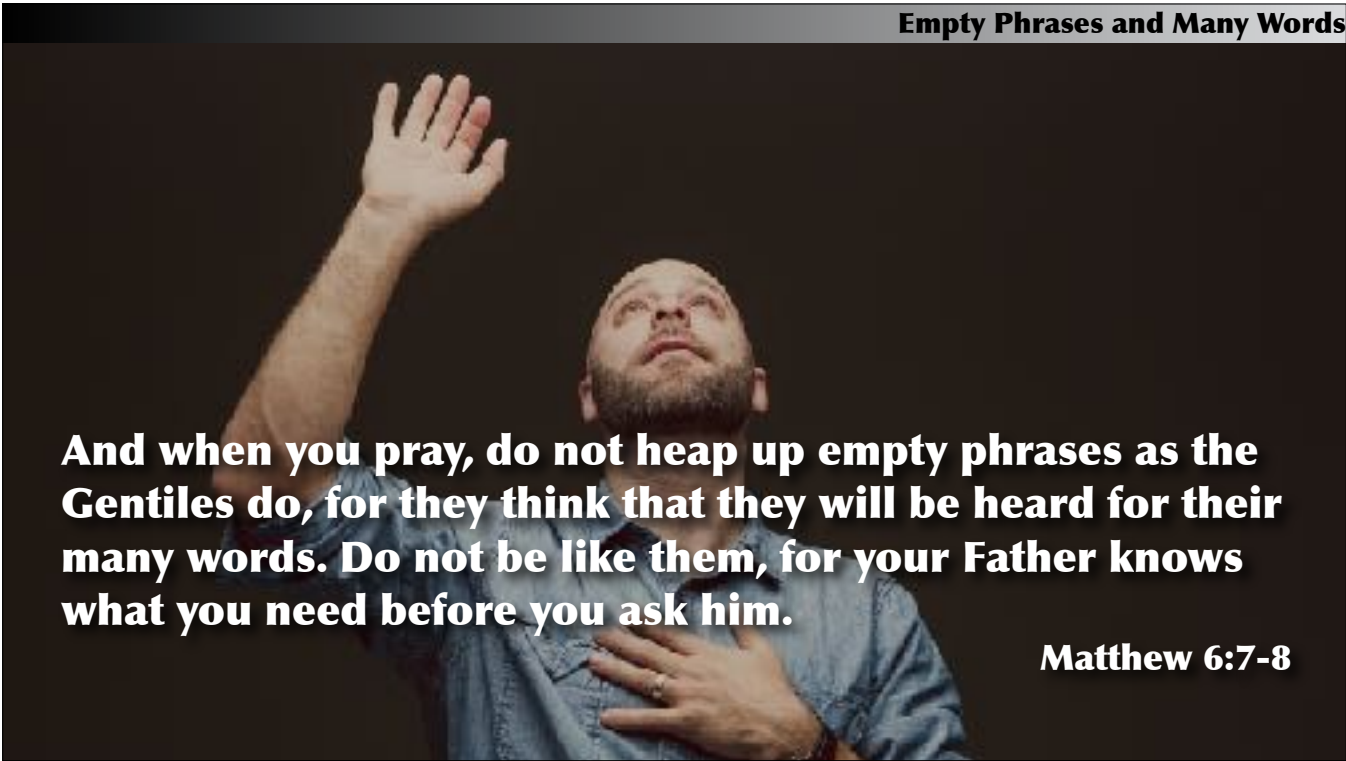


- Public prayer
 - those praying silently and the one who is uttering the words
 - no longer conscious of each other,
 - but should be carried by prayer into the very presence of God.

Empty Phrases and Many Words



- Empty phrases and Many Words



And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Matthew 6:7-8

- Matthew 6:7-8 (ESV) 7 “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Empty Phrases and Many Words



- Empty Phrases and Many Words
 - Understand that in some ways, this is still self exaltation



- This misconception utterly and horribly dishonors our God, we think so lowly of Him, cheapens Him
 - God only hears us is because we keep begging and pleading
 - he only sees righteousness as rituals repeated without meaning, without thought.



- Such a view of our Father makes Him
 - into a megalomaniac, a petty tyrant
 - Or a shallow god, who needs us to constantly feed his ego.



- Focus on the Mechanics of the prayer
 - proper form, content
 - length of time
 - right words and wording and expressions



- a set time for prayer.
 - concern is primarily to pray at a set time rather than to pray, we may as well not pray.
 - Bedtime (what if I fall asleep)
 - Meals



- spend much time in prayer (= 'saint')
 - Jesus praying all night; rising early in morning to go pray
 - Prayer was his life
 - he could not live without it.
 - not concerned about remembering the length of time.



- Matthew 26:36-46 (ESV) 36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” 37 And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” 39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” 40 And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? 41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” 42 Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” 43 And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. 44 So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. 45 Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46 Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”



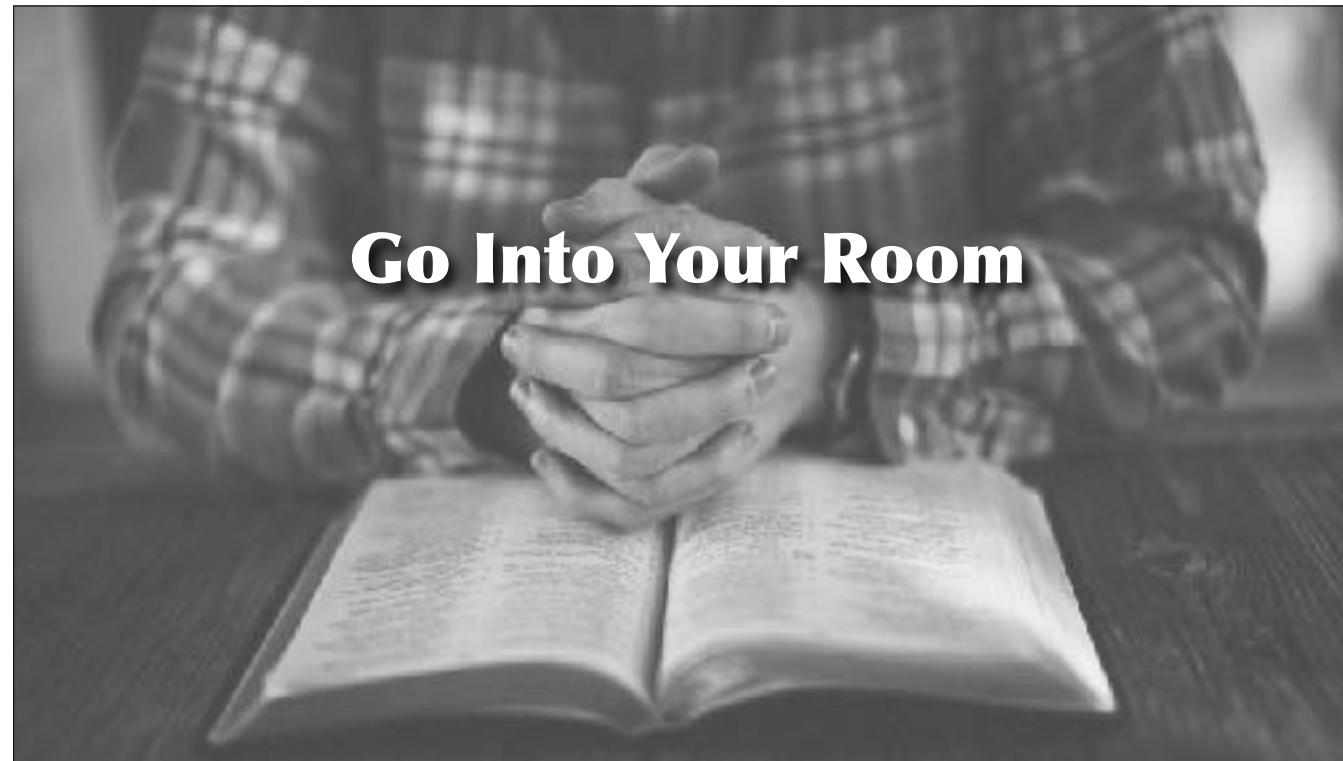
- Jesus prayed three times
- Sometimes all night.
- It's not about counting.



- 2 Corinthians 12:7-8 (ESV) 7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me.



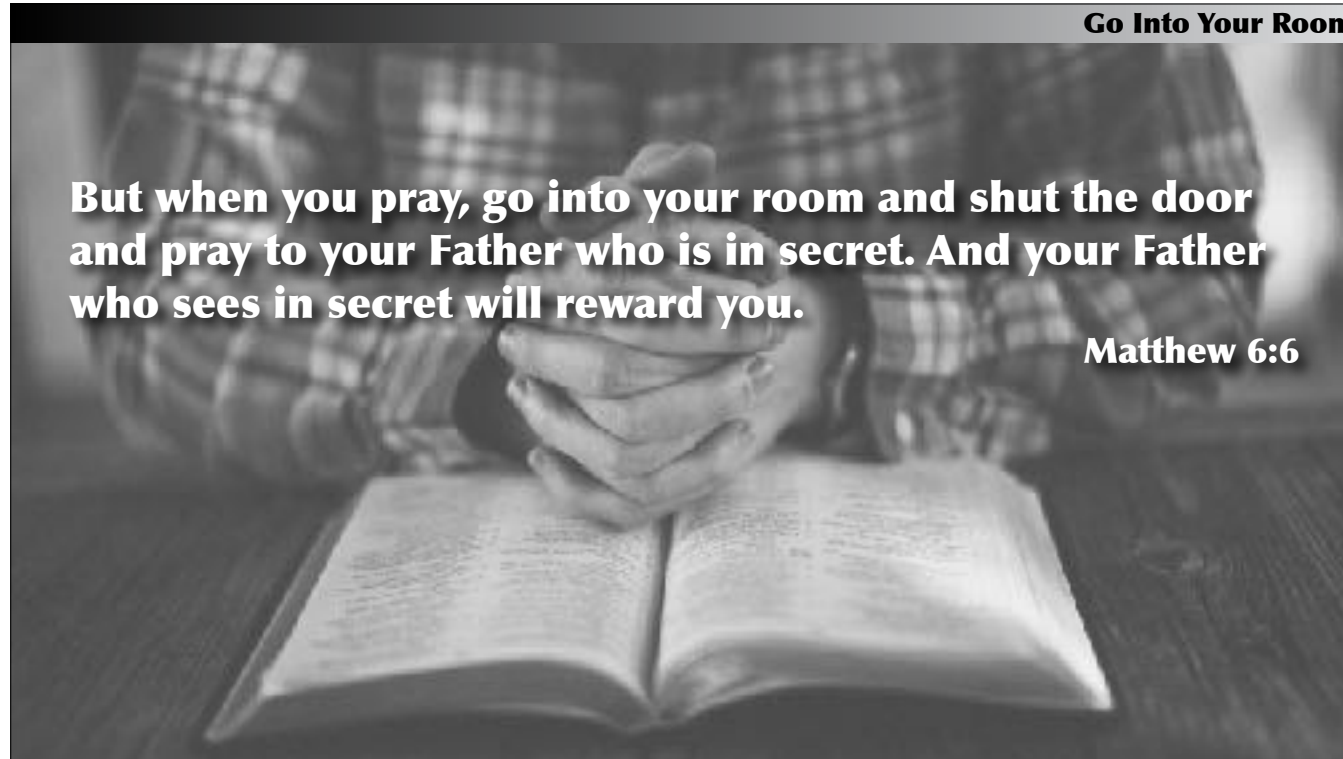
- It's not about counting, or repetition (too much or too little)
- Am I exalting God when I come before Him?
 - Paul stopped because he received an answer!!!
 - "My grace is sufficient for you."
 - For Paul to keep on praying would be to dishonor God, like a spoilt child.



- Go Into Your Room

But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:6

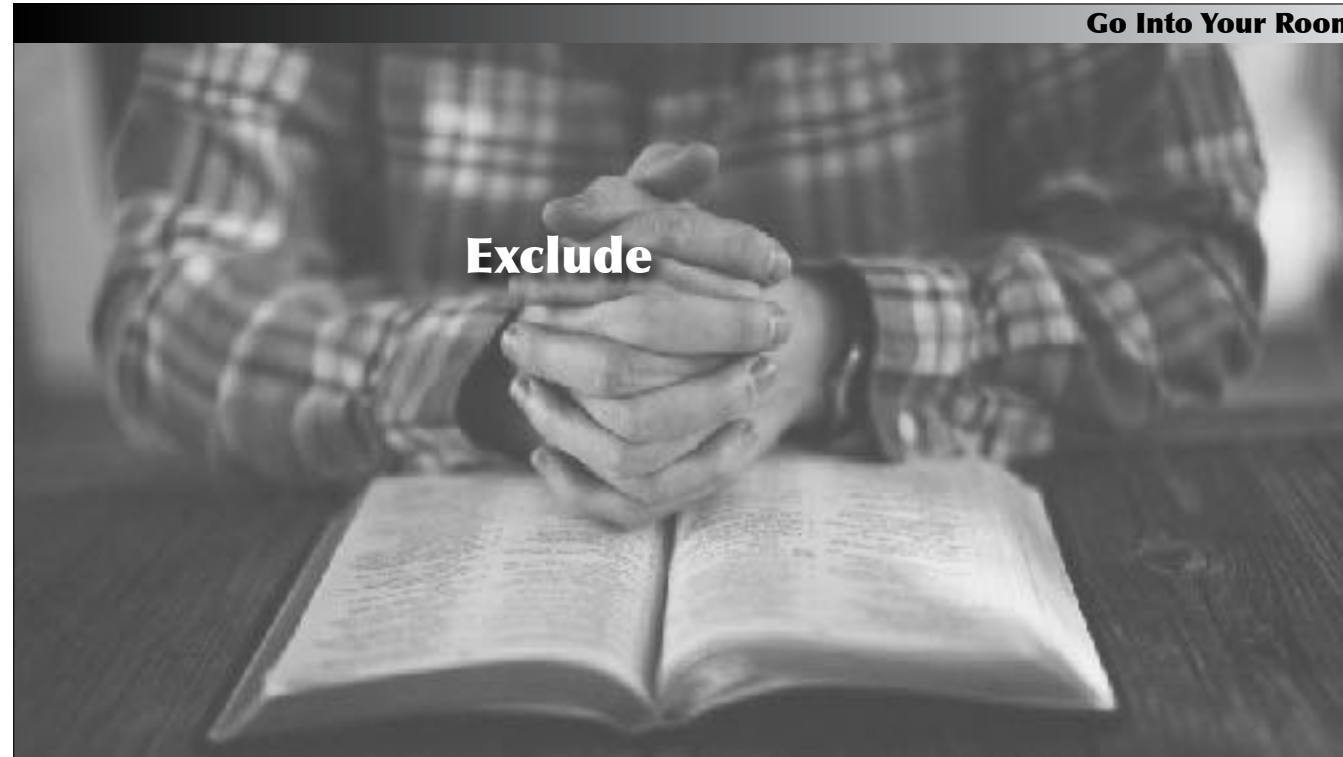


- Go into your room... pray in secret
 - Jesus didn't only pray in a secret praying room.
 - Prayed with disciples; in wilderness; alone; all night; briefly

Go Into Your Room

Exclude

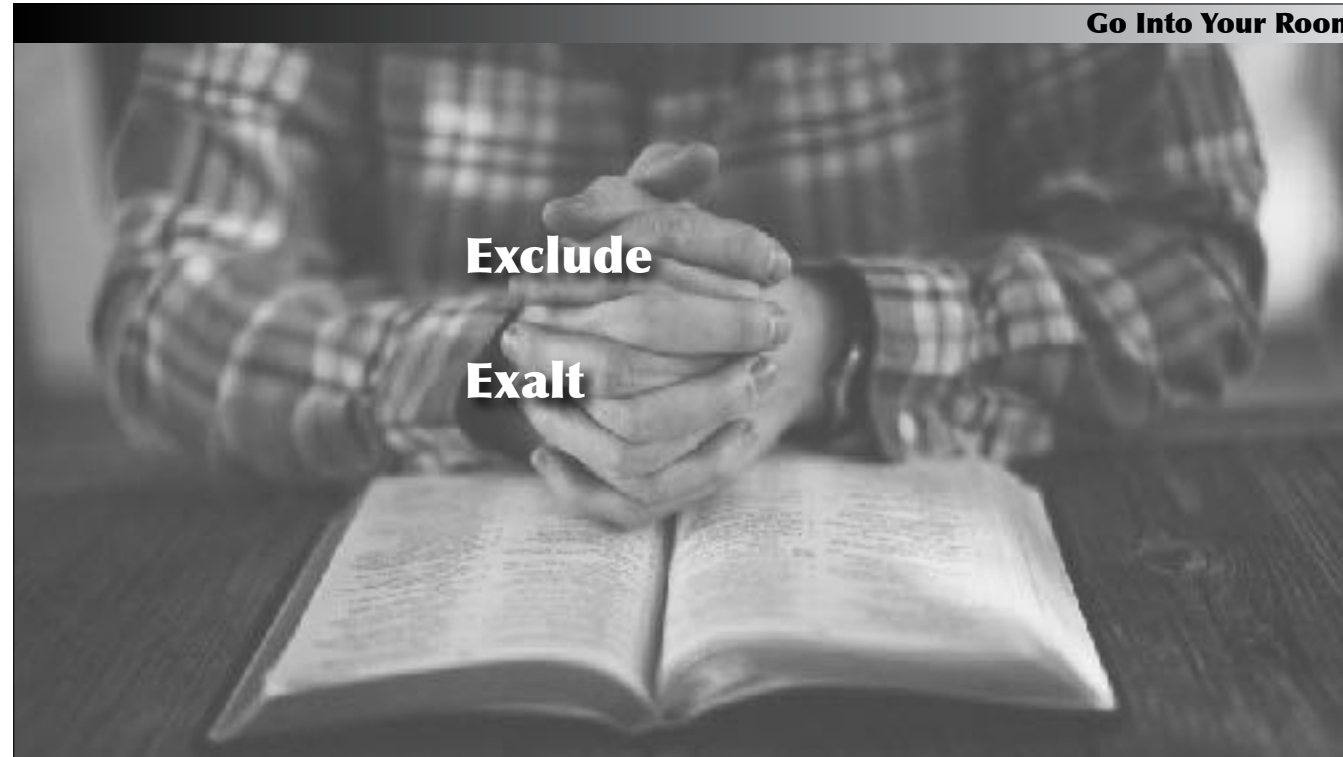
- Exclude
 - I am approaching God
 - I have to exclude certain things.



- I have to enter into that closet.
 - I shut out and forget other people
 - Need to exclude my personal judgment of the sincerity of the worship of others.
 - I exalt myself, again, when I decide that another is hypocritical, or showy, etc.
 - In such cases, I'm not thinking about exalting God!

Exclude

- I shut out and forget myself.
 - Failure: I am full of self and thinking about myself, and am priding myself on my prayer.



- Exalt God
 - we must realize that we are in the presence of God
 - Who He Is: Holy; Mighty; Exalted; Reigning
 - What He does for me: justice, righteousness, answers, forgiveness (or avenger!)
 - we must realize we are approaching God.
 - everything else would be all right.

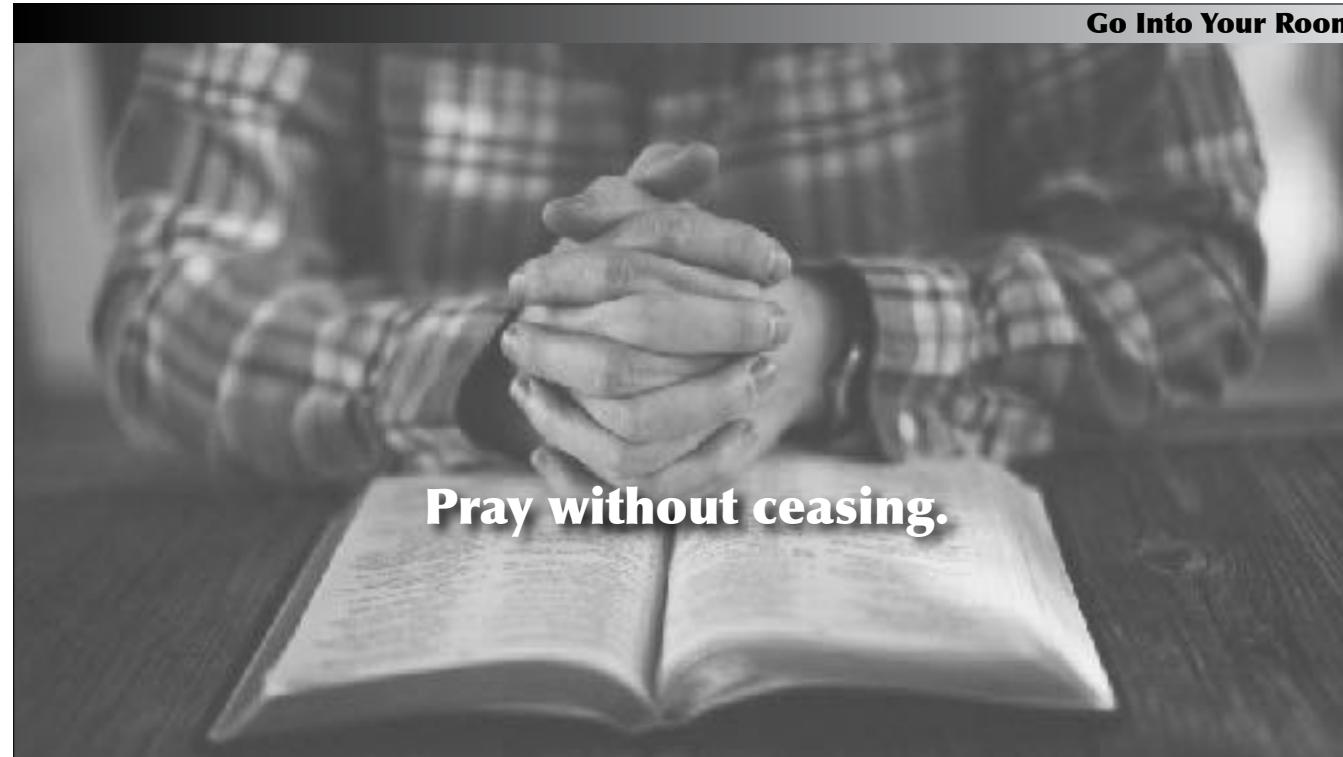
Go Into Your Room

Exclude

Exalt

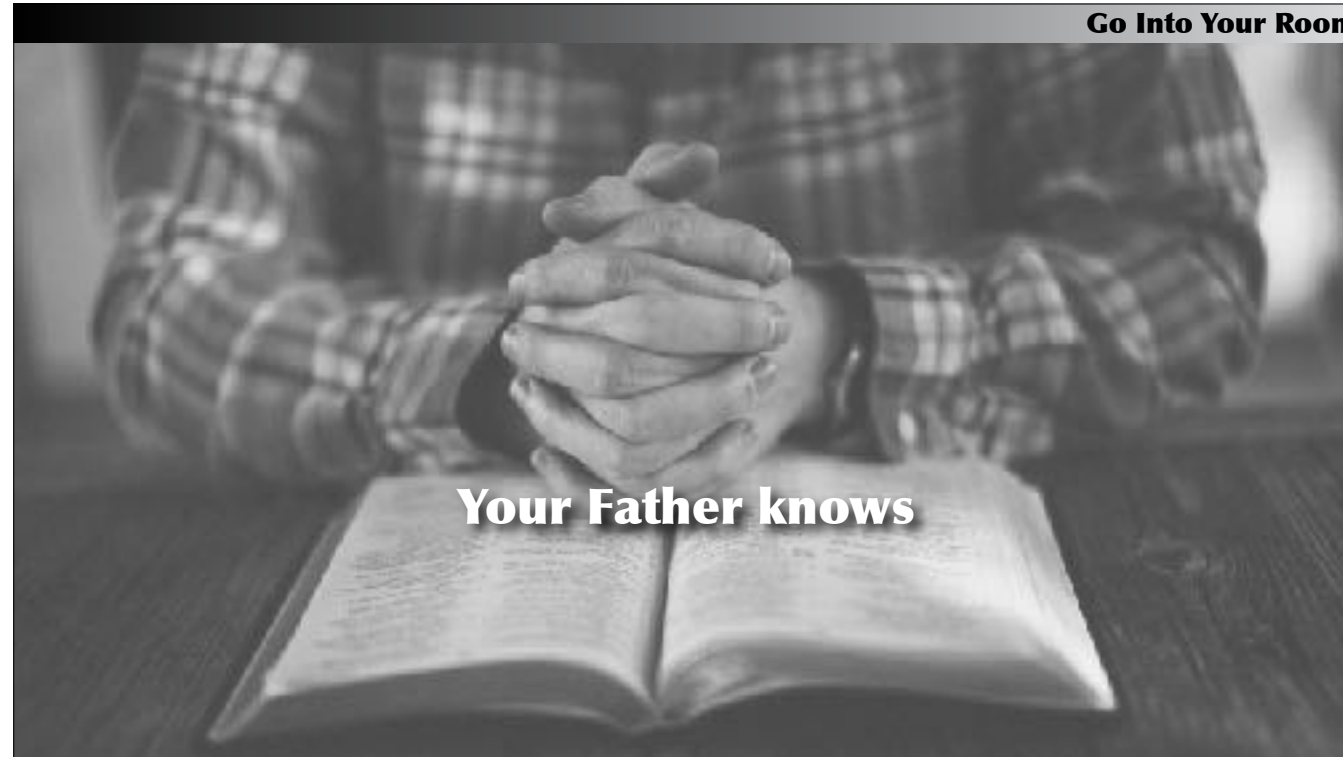
- Think noble things of God
 - God hears us because we are his children
 - He does not listen just because we keep talking and talking

Go Into Your Room



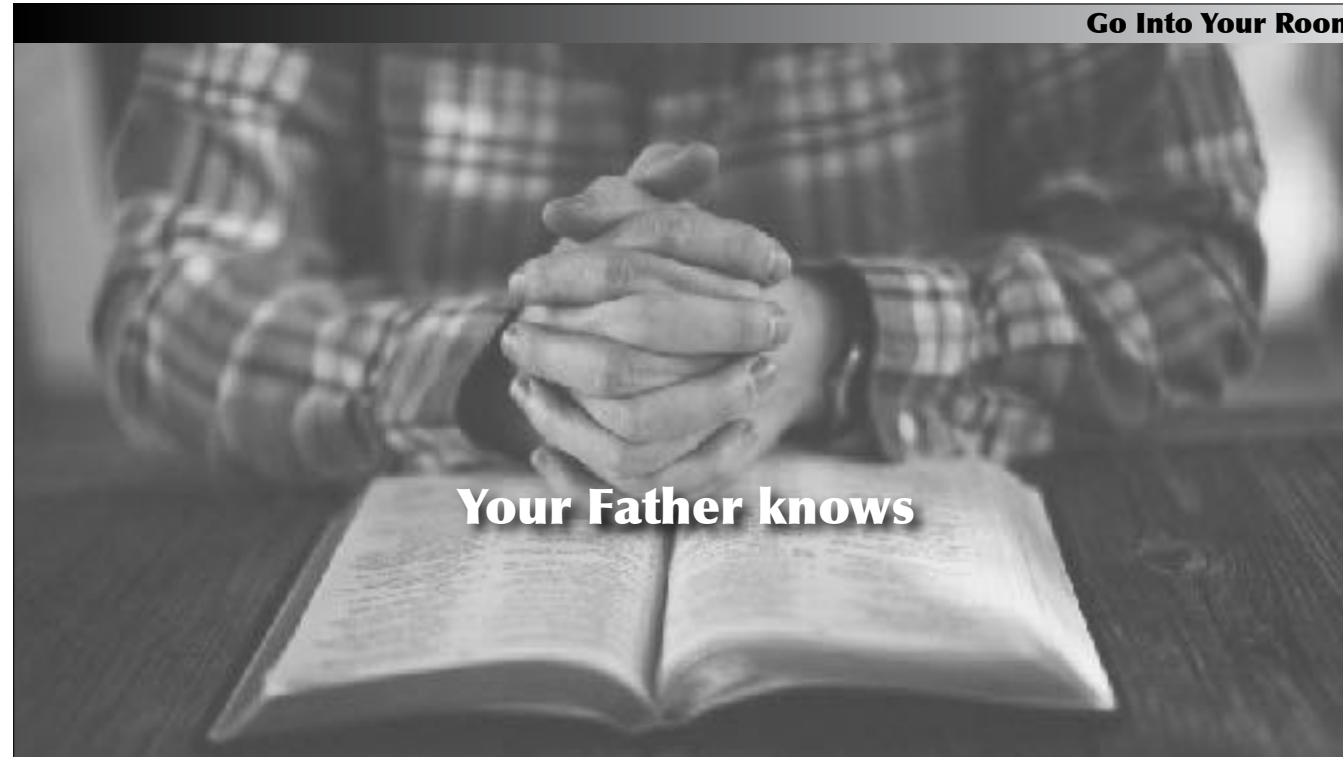
- “Pray without Ceasing”
 - does not mean mechanical repetitions
 - it does not mean believing that we shall be heard for our ‘much speaking’.

Go Into Your Room



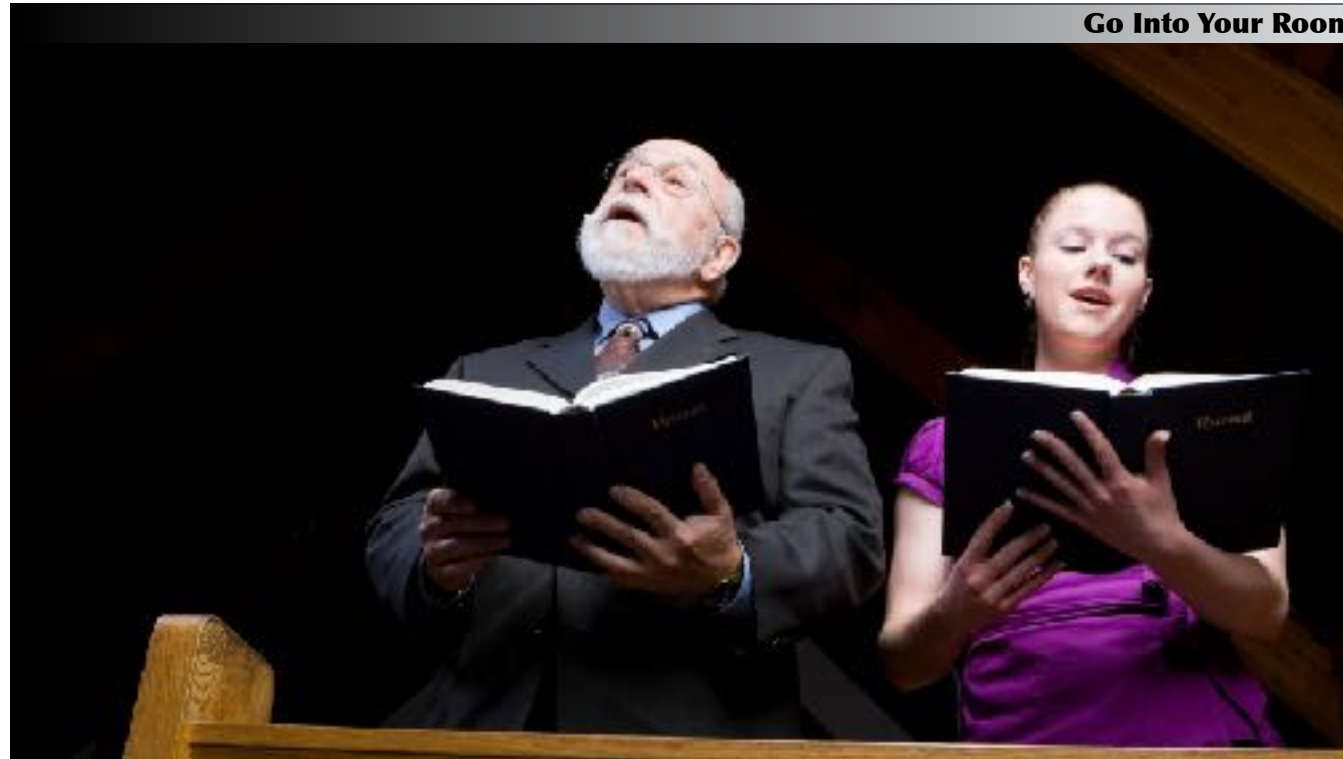
- I must get rid of this thought that God is standing between me and my desires and that which is best for me.
 - Father knows what things you have need of before you ask him

Go Into Your Room



Your Father knows

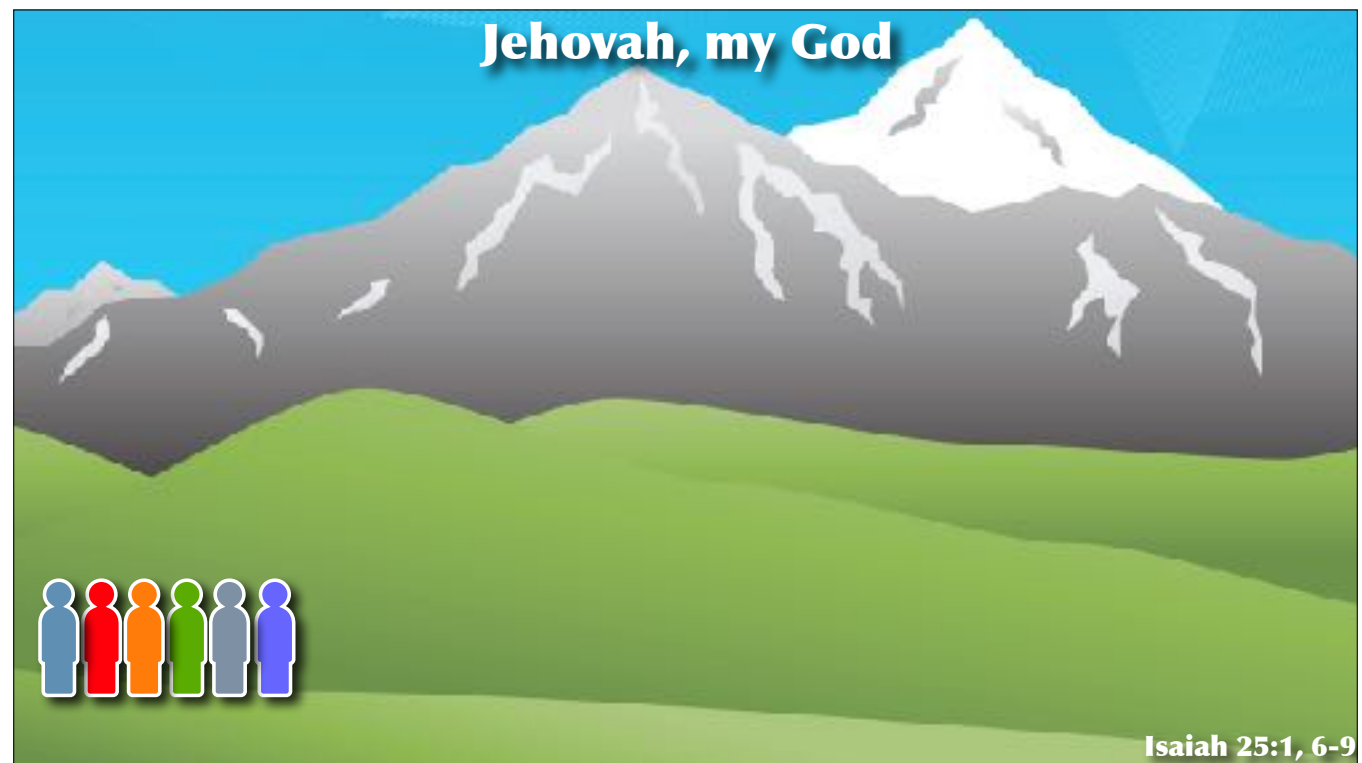
- I must see God as my Father who has purchased my ultimate good in Christ, and is waiting to bless me with His own fullness in Christ Jesus.
- Eph. 3.20 - "is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think."



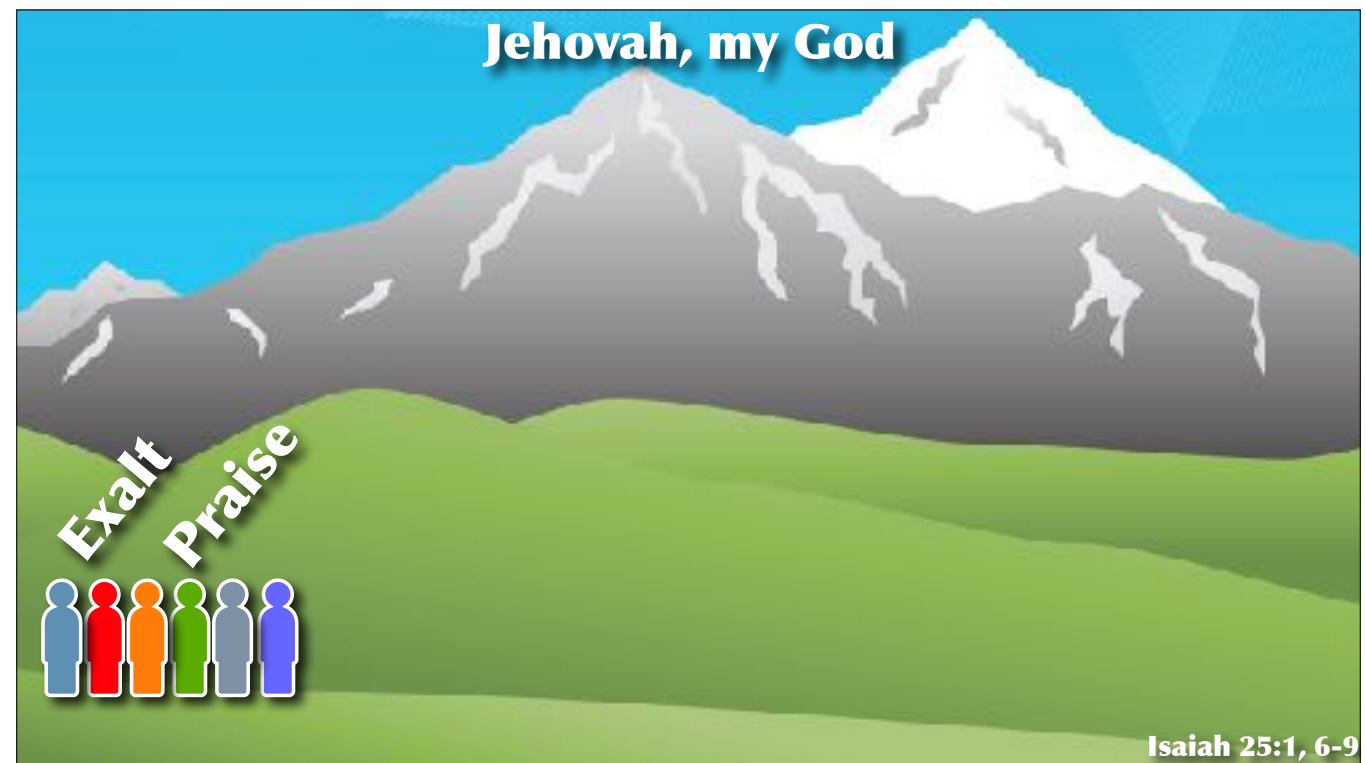
- Apply to any worship (as congregation or individual): singing
 - Good voice
 - Right notes
 - Performance
- Am I EXALTING GOD?



- I will exalt you: Isaiah 25



- Isaiah 25:1: O Jehovah, you are my God;



- Isaiah 25:1: O Jehovah, you are my God;
 - I will exalt you;
 - I will praise your name,



- Isaiah 25:1:
 - for you have done wonderful things,
 - plans formed of old,
 - faithful and sure.



- Isaiah 25:6-9: On this mountain Jehovah of hosts will make for all peoples



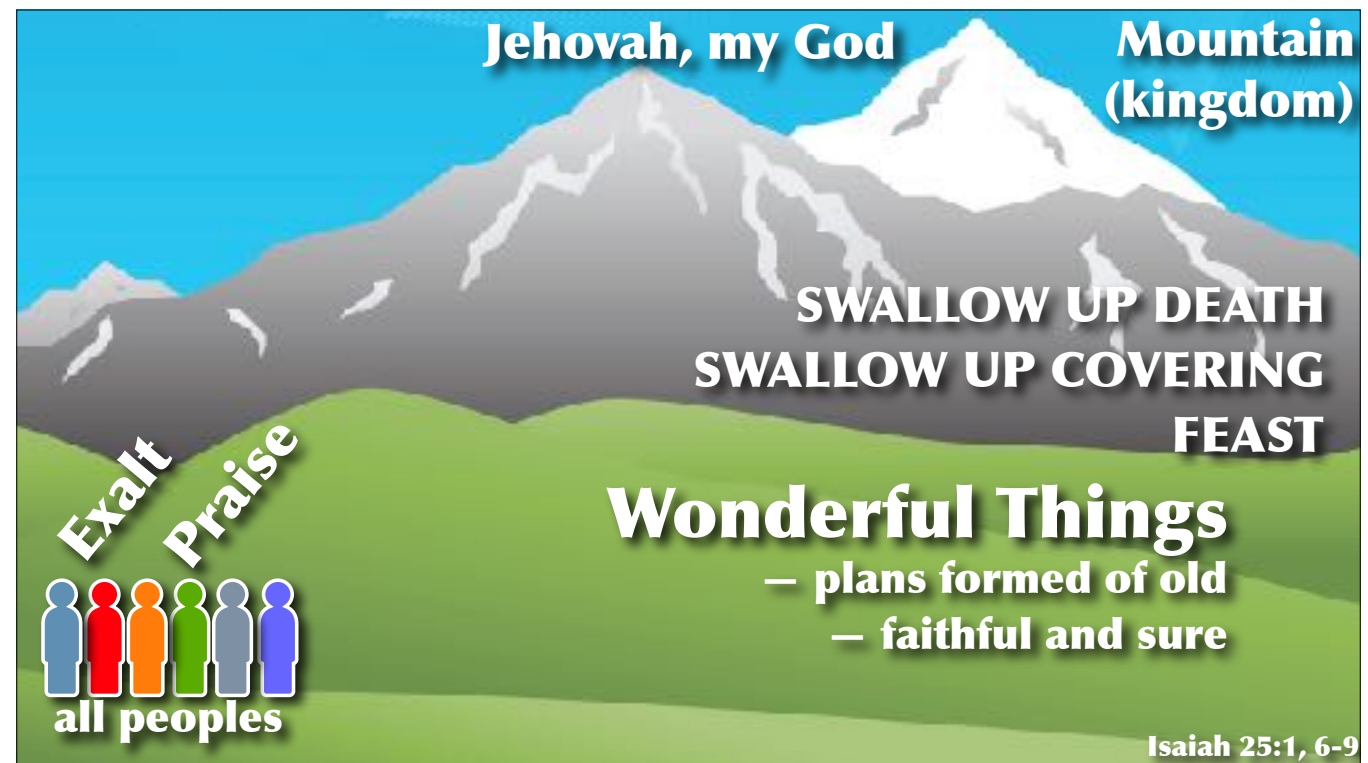
- Isaiah 25:6-9: On this mountain Jehovah of hosts will make for **all peoples**
 - 8 He will swallow up death forever; and Jehovah God will wipe away tears from **all faces**,



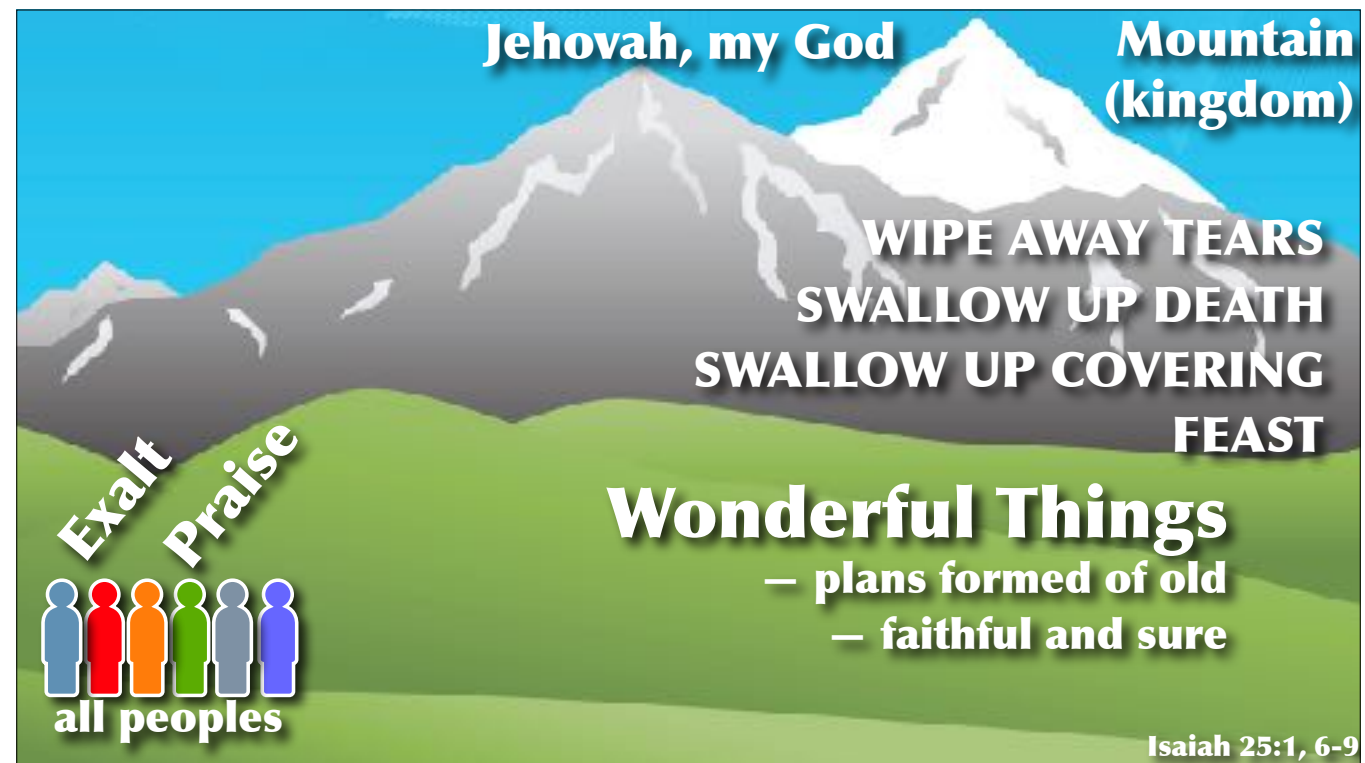
- Isaiah 25:6-9: On this mountain Jehovah of hosts will make for all peoples
 - a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.



- 7 And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations.



- 8 He will swallow up death forever;



- 8 and Jehovah God will wipe away tears from all faces,
 - and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for Jehovah has spoken.



- 9 It will be said on that day,
 - “Behold, this is our God;
 - we have waited for him,
 - that he might save us.



- This is Jehovah;
 - we have waited for him;
 - let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”



- Knowing the wonderful things our God has done for us
- Let us wait for Him
- And continually Exalt, praise, and rejoice in Him.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14



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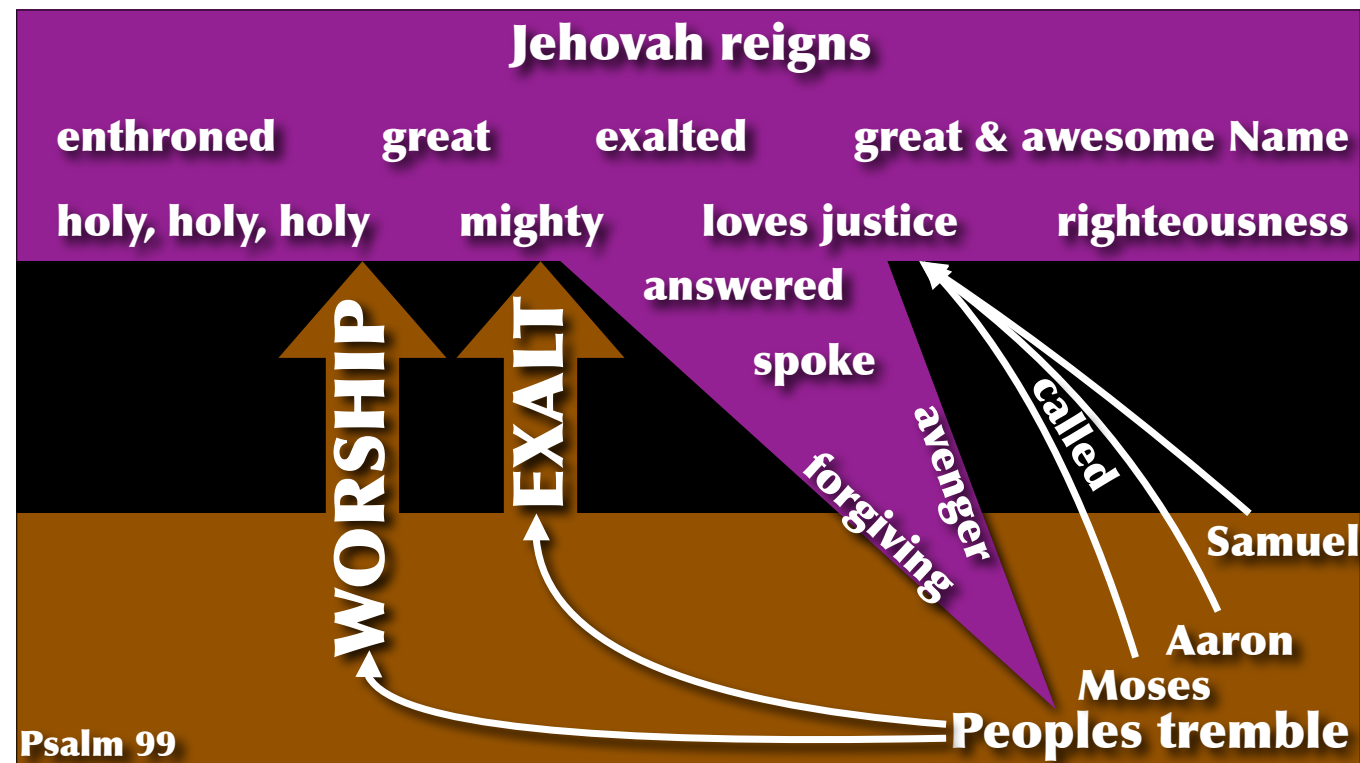
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- The purpose of giving to others is to help those who are in need.
 - It's not practicing righteousness when we give so that I exalt myself.
- The purpose of prayer is to exalt and worship our Father in Heaven.
 - It's not practicing righteousness when we pray exalting ourselves and failing to honor our Father
 -

Exalt Jehovah Our God

Matthew 6:5-8

Synopsis: Jesus' second example of practicing righteousness is about prayer. Some pray to be seen and some pray in ways that dishonor God. The purpose of prayer (any worship) is to exalt God for who is and for his wonderful deeds. Before I pray, I must be sure that I am exalting Him in all that I do.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."